

Year 8 Drama Knowledge Booklet

Spring Term Physical Theatre

Name:

Class:



Year 8 Drama

Physical Theatre - Too Much Punch For Judy

This unit will introduce students to a popular style of performance - Physical Theatre; where movement is used to enhance what is spoken or express parts of the storyline.

Students will also be introduced to the play 'Too Much Punch for Judy'; based on the true story of a woman who kills her sister in a car accident due to drink driving.

Physical Theatre is becoming a very popular style of performance and is also used as an effective devising method when devising new drama.

Big Questions

1. What is physical theatre?
2. How can we use **movement** to **add meaning** to a scene?
3. What are the **roles and responsibilities** of **Directors, Actors** and **Designers** when creating a **Physical Theatre** performance?
4. How can you refine a **Physical Theatre** performance?
5. How can you evaluate a **Physical Theatre** performance?

Context

Too Much Punch for Judy tells the true story of an incident which happened on May 20th 1983.

Using only the words of those involved or closely affected (this style of writing a play is called 'Verbatim'), the play explores the aftermath of a car accident. The accident is caused by Judy when she decided to 'drink and drive'. The car crash kills Jo (Judy's sister).

The play looks at the sisters relationship with each other and their mother. It then concentrates on the actual crash and immediate aftermath, mainly through the eyes of the first witness at the scene; PC Chris Caten, (in real life a good friend of the family), who has to break the news of Joanna's death to her mother and Judy in turn; leaving the mother and daughter to deal with their loss.

Characters

Jo - Sister of Judy who is killed in the car crash

Judy - The main character and the person responsible for drinking alcohol, driving a car and ultimately killing her sister.

PC Chris Caten - Police Officer, family friend, first on the scene

Bob and Nob - Young lads who were at the party Jo and Judy were at where Judy got drunk before driving, were in the car when it crashed but survived.

Mum - Mother of Judy and Joanna

Physical Theatre

Is a form of theatre that puts emphasis on movement rather than dialogue.

Essentially Physical theatre is anything that puts the human body at the centre of the storytelling process.

As a result it is often abstract in style, using movement in a representational way, to express ideas through choreographed movement.

Often performers use very little or no dialogue at all and music will usually accompany the movements to add atmosphere or meaning to the movements.

Key Words and Definitions

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

- Hot Seating:** Questioning a character to gain more information
- Narration:** Telling a story
- Role Play:** Pretend to take on a character i.e. a teacher to create understanding of the character
- Marking the Moment:** Making a part of the performance obvious to the audience by highlighting it through still-image or slow motion
- Forum Theatre:** Stopping the performance to highlight areas of development and find more about the character and story
- Thought Tracking:** The thoughts of a character being told to the audience when others are in a still image; Mini monologue or narration of the story.
- Cross Cutting:** Cutting between two scene playing at the same time
- Vocal Skills:** Tone, pace, pitch, accent, volume
- Physical Skills:** Body language, gestures, facial expressions, actions, levels and projection
- Synchronisation:** Movements performed in time with others

Developing CHARACTER

- Voice:** Using pitch, tone, pace, pause, accent and volume to express the character's emotions.
- Body Language:** Using hand gestures, your body posture/tension to express your character's emotions/characteristics.
- Facial Expressions:** Using your face to express your character's emotions/ thoughts/ reactions.

Using REHEARSAL time effectively.

Listen to others ideas, add your own ideas.

A trial performance, run though, walk through, experiment with your ideas.

Use Forum Theatre to develop your ideas/performance.

Full run-throughs to get timings and overall feel for you performance.

Car Crash Script

(All 4 standing on the side of their chairs which are set to represent the car.)

BOB: We better be off then.

JOE: Don't go, come back to ours

NOB: You live miles away

JUDY: I've got my car

BOB: But you're drunk

JUDY: Who cares, I'm a safe driver

NOB: Not very safe when you're drunk

JOE: She's only had a bit

JUDY: Yeah, I've only had a bit, I'm fine

BOB: Are you sure?

NOB: I think it might be better I drive.

JUDY: It's my car, it's my responsibility

JOE: Come on get in, Judy's a good driver

JUDY: Cheers sis.

BOB (looks at Nob)

NOB: (Looks at Bob)

B&N (look at audience, smile, shrug shoulders and get in the car)

J&J: (Look at each other, then audience, smile and get in the car)

(Music starts, Car Crash – Physical Theatre piece)

Homework Tasks

1. Read and understand the 'Context' and 'Characters' sections of this booklet.

Due Lesson 2 _____

2. Read and understand the 'Physical Theatre' and 'Key Words and Definitions' sections of this booklet.

Due Lesson 3 _____

3. Using the Movement Record sheet on the next page, draw and annotate your movements you perform for the car crash

Due Lesson 4 _____

3. Lean your movements and lines for your assessment.

Due Lesson 6 _____

Wider Reading / Watching

GCSE Bitesize—<https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/ztfk6sg/revision/1>

PUSH videos on YouTube—<https://theatreanddance.britishcouncil.org/artists-and-companies/d/dv8-physical-theatre/>

Theatre Companies:

Frantic Assembly

Motion House

Trestle Theatre

Roles and Responsibilities of Directors, Actors and Designers.

Director

- Understand the script, research on the themes of the play and if possible work with the playwright.
- Come up with ideas and work with designers to agree lighting, sound, costumes and set.
- Work with actors in rehearsals, giving feedback.

Actor

- Research their character to understand them and learn their lines.
- Go to all the rehearsals, work with other actors and listen to the director.
- Take part in performances.

Designer

- Listen to the director and interpret the director's intentions for the play.
- Come up with ideas and work with director to agree lighting, sound, costumes and set.
- Work with carpenters, electricians, lighting technicians, stage crew, costume department to ensure their ideas are realised on stage.
- Prepare and create drawings and models of their ideas.
- Work with actors in rehearsals to ensure the set, props and costumes are used correctly, allow the actors to perform, and satisfy the director's intentions.

Movement Record Sheet

Draw a simple diagram of the chairs and annotate with where each character is sitting and the movements you perform during your performance.