

# Year 9 Drama Knowledge Booklet

## Spring Term Physical Theatre

**Name:**

**Class:**



# Year 9 Drama

## Physical Theatre

### Context

In Year 9 students will focus on a popular modern style of drama; Physical Theatre and build on the Physical Theatre unit of work covered in Yr8.

Physical Theatre - uses movement to add meaning to dialogue and/or express the storyline. The acting is realistic (which was covered in the previous unit of work— Realism) and specific movements are interwoven into the performance, creating a dynamic and visually spectacular production.

The students will specifically study the exercise 'Chair Duets' which was developed by the current leading practitioners of Physical Theatre; 'Frantic Assembly'.

The Chair Duets exercise is used by Frantic Assembly to devise drama performances from creating simple sequences of movement which students can then interpret leading them to develop different storylines and characters depending on how their movement sequences are interpreted. Students will vary the speed of their movements to see how this changes the meaning of their movements and leads to a different interpretation, storyline and characters.

This unit will give students an insight into Component 1 of the GCSE Drama course where students have to devise their own play and explain their journey through the devising process.

### Big Questions

1. What is the purpose of **Physical Theatre**?
2. How can **Chair Duets** add meaning to a performance?
3. What are the **roles and responsibilities** of **Actors, Directors and Designers** when **creating a Physical Theatre** performance?

### Homework Tasks

1. Read the 'Context' section above, you will be tested in lesson.

Due in Lesson 2 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read the 'Frantic Assembly' section on the next page.

Due in Lesson 4 \_\_\_\_\_

# Frantic Assembly

Frantic Assembly was formed in 1994 by Scott Graham, Steven Hoggett and Vicki Middleton.

‘None of us had any formal training and I think this meant we had a healthy disregard for the rules. We were happy to find inspiration anywhere and quickly recognised that we were capable of achieving more together than we might do apart. I think this inspired our interest in the collaboration between different artists and in the blurring of boundaries between theatre and dance.’ (Scott Graham)

Frantic Assembly primarily use movement as a starting point to devise Theatre, interpreting their movements to create storylines and characters. They also incorporate stylised movement alongside the dialogue of well established playtexts such as Shakespeare’s Othello to create a modern dynamic production.

## **Past Productions**

Fatherland

Things I Know to be True (Studied in GCSE Drama)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

Lovesong

Othello (Shakespeare)

Hymns

Heavenly

Little Dogs

# Sample Assessment - Physical Theatre

## Lesson Review /Assessment

(circle as appropriate for yourself, teacher will tick for performance score)

Rate your success on creating and developing using 'chair duets' to create a string of material.

	(3pts)	(2pts)	(1pt)		
Created 3 movements	Outstanding	Good	OK	I struggled	I struggled a lot
Linked 6 movements	Outstanding	Good	OK	I struggled	I struggled a lot
Linked 12 movements	Outstanding	Good	OK	I struggled	I struggled a lot
Performed fluently	Outstanding	Good	OK	I Struggled	I struggled a lot
Total =	/12				

### **Teacher only**

Outstanding = 3pts

Good = 2pts

OK = 1pt

Performance Total =

Devising Total =

### Performance

#### **Performed at speed with control**

Outstanding    Good    OK    Struggled    Struggled a lot

### Devising

**Responses**    Outstanding    Good    OK    Struggled    Struggled a lot

**Storyline**    Outstanding    Good    OK    Struggled    Struggled a lot

**Characters**    Outstanding    Good    OK    Struggled    Struggled a lot

### **Teacher only**

Outstanding = 3pts

Good = 2pts

OK = 1pt

Performance Total =

Devising Total =

### Performance

#### **Performed in 'slow-motion' with control**

Outstanding    Good    OK    Struggled    Struggled a lot

### Devising

**Responses**    Outstanding    Good    OK    Struggled    Struggled a lot

**Storyline**    Outstanding    Good    OK    Struggled    Struggled a lot

**Characters**    Outstanding    Good    OK    Struggled    Struggled a lot

## Additional Ideas/Notes

Use this space to draw or write any ideas you want to bring to the next lesson for your sequence of movements (This will not be marked)

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# Wider Reading / Watching

## Physical Theatre

<https://www.franticassembly.co.uk>

- Frantic Assembly Website

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB-9LERSyY8&t=30s>

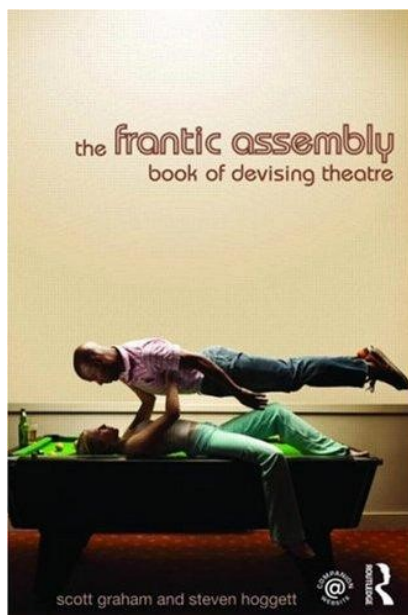
- Chair Duets Step-by-Step Instructions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLrabSNRHhg>

Frantic assembly Othello

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LC-dkYZOUVo>

Frantic assembly devising –chair duets



**FRANTIC  
ASSEMBLY**  
Podcast