



## KS3: The Godmother

*Students are to develop an awareness of how an actor utilises their vocal skills and physical skills when playing a character to communicate with an audience. They will experiment with the American accent.*

### The Actor's Tool Kit

- **Pitch**
- **Pace**
- **Tone**
- **Accent**
- **Volume**
- **Emphasis**
- **Facial Expressions**
- **Gestures**
- **Posture**
- **Mannerism**
- **Body Language**



### Social and Historical Context

The Roaring Twenties

'The Godmother' is set during 'the roaring twenties' period in American history. The 1920's in America saw a reaction against the harsh realities of WW1, in which there was a period of 'silliness':

The decade saw the growth of Hollywood, prohibition, gangsters and jazz music and dances such as the Charleston. The thing that aroused the most passion amongst ordinary people was **prohibition**. Prohibition was an American law (the 18th Amendment of the American constitution), that banned the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drink.

During that time, much drink was smuggled into the country, or made secretly, by gangs who became rich and powerful.

Other associated crimes also increased.



### Careers in the Theatre



**The set designer** - is responsible for the design of the set for a performance. They will work closely with the director and other designers so that there is unity between all the designs and the needs of the performance

### Help with the American Accent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qiK0DrAn1E> – American Accent in under 2 minutes!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9yLRJA6zU8> – How to approach a Brooklyn Accent

**Plot of the Play:** Spats Valetta owes Boss Lugano of the Purple Hand Gang money for booze and gambling debts. Will his secretary Velma come to his rescue?

# Year 7 Glossary

<b>Mime</b>	The use of movements, gestures and facial expressions to communicate an idea without words
<b>Posture</b>	The position a character holds themselves in when sitting or standing
<b>Gestures</b>	A movement made by part of the body (e.g. arms, head) to convey a character's emotion
<b>Mannerism</b>	A repeated physical or vocal habit that contributes to characterisation
<b>Pitch</b>	How high or low an actor's voice is. This can be used as a feature of a character or to show a character's emotional state.
<b>Pace</b>	Pace is the speed that lines are delivered
<b>Volume</b>	How loud or quiet a vocal performance is. This could be a feature of a character or how a character's emotions is expressed
<b>Intonation</b>	This is the rise and fall of a voice that created a natural pattern of speech. This can be used to create meaning, by stressing a word for emphasis
<b>Tone</b>	How a line is delivered, adding emotional impact to spoken words
<b>Accent</b>	Can signal to the audience where a character is from, social class or status
<b>Pauses</b>	Pauses can be used to create tension, can shape the delivery of an actor's lines and/or can add to the realism of a scene
<b>Facial Expressions</b>	Movement of the eyes, eyebrows and mouth, such as smiling and frowning. These movement communicate the emotional response of the character

<b>Movement</b>	The way an actor moves on stage can tell the audience about their character. Stillness can also be used to convey how a character is feeling.
<b>Gestures</b>	Gestures are movements created with parts of the body, such as the hands, arms and head. These are an effective way of conveying the character's emotions
<b>Mannerism</b>	These are small repeated gestures that help the audience to understand aspects of a character's personality.
<b>Unison</b>	The process where actions or dialogue happen at the same time and in the same way
<b>Canon</b>	People moving or speaking in the same way one after the other
<b>Thrust Stage</b>	A stage that extends out into the audience, so that they are seated on three sides
<b>Traverse</b>	A long, narrow stage which runs between the audience, who face the stage on both sides
<b>Proscenium Arch Stage</b>	A box shaped stage which is set back from the audience so that the front end is open to them, frames by the arch itself
<b>End on Stage</b>	A stage which has the audience on one side if the stage, facing the action
<b>In the Round</b>	A style of staging where the audience surrounds the action on four sides
<b>Chanting</b>	A chant is a short, simple series of syllables or words that are spoken with the same tone. It is usually repetitive
<b>Narration</b>	A character who comments on the action and the plot to the audience. can be first- person (involved in the