



Year 8 : Oliver Twist – Script Skills 1/6

Students are to develop an awareness of how an actor utilises their vocal skills and physical skills when playing a character from a different era and location.

The Actor's Tool Kit

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



Plot

Oliver Twist is the story of a boy born outside of marriage, brought up in a brutal orphan's institution called a 'workhouse'. The workhouse is brutal, if the children misbehave, they are beaten or starves as punishment.

Escaping, from this horror to Victorian London, the boy Oliver falls in with a gang of criminal children led by a grown up called Fagin. Oliver is at last looked after, fed and clothed. The gang treat Oliver with some kindness where he has had only brutality from so-called "respectable society" - but the gang also lead Oliver into a life of crime and peril, and he is soon in trouble.

Oliver is eventually rescued from this life by a wealthy victim (who turns out to be his grandfather). The rest of the gang are not so lucky, and Oliver sees the full force of brutality unleashed on his former criminal comrades. It is a bitter but sweet lesson.

How to show tension through acting in your assessment scene

- Use of pauses and hesitation
- Stuttering or stumbling over words
- Constantly looking around
- Fidgeting with your hands
- Pacing
- Large reaction when Sykes enters
- Quick exit when the police arrive



Stage Lights

Fresnel



The fresnel (pronounced fru-nel) is a soft-edged spotlight that allows for a variable beam spread from SPOT to FLOOD. The layered concentric rings on the lens reduce the amount of glass needed to spread the light.

Ellipsoidal Reflector Spotlight



Often called just an ellipsoidal or referred to by their size (6 x 9, etc.), this is a more focused light than the fresnel. It allows for greater control and shaping the edges of the beam of light by using shutters.

PARnel



A combination of Fresnel and PARcan instruments. It is more efficient in shaping light and uses less electricity.

Follow Spot



A narrow spotlight, used to 'follow' a performer on a stage. Consists of a 'movable', high power fixture mounted on a stand, with an attendant operator.

Gel



A Color Gel is a transparent colored sheet that is used to color light and for color correction.

Automated or Moving Lights



These lights can pan and tilt remotely as well as change color. Some automated lights are now using GPS technology--an actor will wear a sensor that the light is programmed to follow at all times.

GOBO



Derived from "Go Between" or "Goes Before Optics" is a template slotted inside, or placed in front of, a lighting source, used to control the shape of emitted light.

General Wash Lights

Strip Light



Flood Light



Scoop Light



PARcan



Border Light



Floodlights, Scoops, Strip Lights, PARcans (Parabolic Aluminized Reflector), and Border Lights are all lights that provide a large wash of light but can't be focused.

Ways to learn lines

- Record them and listen to them regularly
- Ask some to test you
- Record the cue line and leave a gap
- Write them out
- Do the actions you do on stage while you are saying your lines
- Look cover, write/ say, check
- Sing them
- 5 minutes in the morning and the evening recap



Year 8 Glossary

Mime	The use of movements, gestures and facial expressions to communicate an idea without words
Posture	The position a character holds themselves in when sitting or standing
Gestures	A movement made by part of the body (e.g. arms, head) to convey a character's emotion
Mannerism	A repeated physical or vocal habit that contributes to characterisation
Pitch	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.
Pace	Pace is the speed that lines are delivered
Volume	How loud or quiet a vocal performance is. This could be a feature of a character or how a character's emotions
Intonation	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
Tone	How a line is delivered, adding emotional impact to spoken words
Accent	Can signal to the audience where a character is from, social class or status
Pauses	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

Unison	The process where actions or dialogue happen at the same time and in the same way
Canon	People moving or speaking in the same way one after the other
Thrust Stage	A stage that extends out into the audience, so that they are seated on three sides
Traverse	A long, narrow stage which runs between the audience, who face the stage on both sides
Proscenium Arch Stage	A box shaped stage which is set back from the audience so that the front end is open to them, framed by the arch itself
End on Stage	A stage which has the audience on one side if the stage, facing the action
In the Round	A style of staging where the audience is seated on all sides of the stage.
Chanting	A chant is a short, simple series of syllables or words that are spoken with the same tone. It is usually repetitive
Narration	A character who comments on the action and the plot to the audience, can be first- person (involved in the action) or third -person (set apart from the action)
Thought Tracking	When a character tells the audience their thoughts during a pause in the action
Devil and Angel	Technique where a character faces a dilemma and the audience can hear the voice of their conscience, the good angel to the right and bad angel to their left
Non-linear structure	When the events of the plot are not in chronological order.
Split Stage	When the stage is split into two different areas representing different places or times