



KS3: Pantomime Vocal Acting Skills

Students are to develop an awareness of how an actor utilises their vocal skills and when playing a character to communicate with an audience by performing a pantomime.

The Actor's Tool Kit

Vocal Acting Skills

- Pitch
- Pace
- Tone
- Accent
- Volume
- Emphasis



Social and Historical Context

Pantomime has its roots in 'Commedia dell'Arte', a 16th-century Italian entertainment which used dance, music, tumbling, acrobatics and featured a cast of mischievous stock characters. Traditionally, pantomimes take place at Christmas and are attended by a range of ages.



Careers in the Theatre



Costume Designer - The person who designs the costumes for a performance. The costume department of a theatre is often called the wardrobe

Conventions of the Genre

Pantomime Dame – Men are dressed as a ‘stereotypical female’

Audience Interaction – Actor’s break the fourth wall and address question to the audience which they answer back loudly – ‘Oh no he didn’t!’

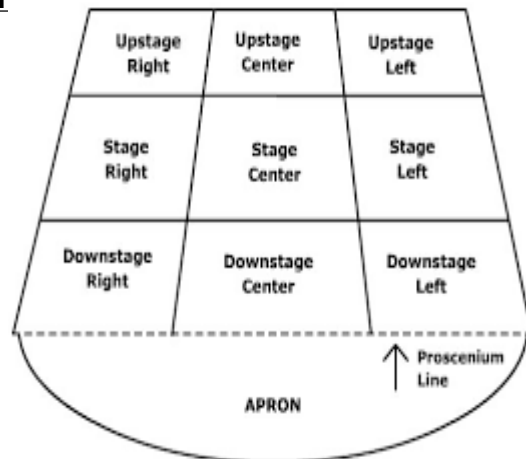
Terrible jokes - that are very predictable and make the audience groan!

Very colourful costumes and set – these are exaggerated and often become more elaborate as the play goes on.

Baddies – these are characters that the audience Boo and Hiss at, and these are often defeated as Pantomimes end happily ever after.



Stage position



Year 7 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 is expressed
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
Facial Expressions	Movement of the eyes, eyebrows and mouth, such as smiling and frowning. These movement communicate the emotional response of the character

Movement	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.
Gestures	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
Mannerism	These are small repeated gestures that help the audience to understand aspects of a character's personality.
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, frames 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 surrounds the action on four sides
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