

Drama

Introduction to Drama

A. Drama Key Words

Body language	Body language is communication by movement or position, particularly facial expressions, gestures and the relative positions of characters.
Facial expressions	conveys an emotion that tells us about the character and the way they react to a situation.
Gesture	a body movement that conveys meaning, think of a wagging finger to tell someone off.
Proxemics	how the actors/characters are placed on a stage. The distance or level between character/actors shows their relationships and feelings.
Levels	Using different heights onstage to create visual interest. Levels can be used to suggest status - meaning the power or authority one character has over another
Abstract	A symbolic representation of the events, situation and feelings of the Drama.
Masking	When you stand in front of other members of the cast so you are 'masking' the audiences' view of what they are doing.
Improvisation	Performance work that you create yourself and then perform. There are three main types of Improvisation: SPONTANEOUS, POLISHED and PARALLEL.
Corpsing	To lose focus and come out of role often to giggle.



C. What Makes a good Still Image?

1. Being Still
2. Facial expressions
3. Body Language
4. Proxemics (no masking)
5. Levels

B. Drama Devices

Still Image / Freeze Frame	A still image is a frozen moment on stage where the characters stay still to clearly stop the play and show the audience a moment in time. It is often used to highlight something important that has happened.
Thought-tracking	Thought-tracking helps inform an audience about a character. You see it in action when a character speaks out loud about his/her inner thoughts at a particular moment in the drama, or during a freeze frame/still-image.
Greek Chorus	A company of actors who comment (by speaking or singing in unison) on the action in a classical Greek play.
Greek Messenger	A character that comes on stage and tells other characters (and the audience) about action that has happened in the play off-stage. This was often used to inform about bloody battles that couldn't be shown on stage.
Narration	A technique whereby one or more performers speak directly to the audience to tell a story, give information, or comment on the action of the scene or the motivations of characters.
Soundscaping	Using voice and body to create the sound of an environment.
Physical Theatre	A very movement based style of theatre. Often using our bodies to represent things that aren't human
Conscience work	A device to show a character's conscience at work. It is often represented as Angels & Devils to be the good and bad thoughts.