

Drama Knowledge 1



Proscenium Stage



The audience is positioned in front of the stage, and the stage can be looked upon like a picture frame. The 'frame' itself is called the Proscenium Arch. This is the style of most traditional theatres.

In some proscenium theatres, the stage extends forward in front of the proscenium arch.

This is called an apron stage.

Suspension of Disbelief

The idea that when an audience is watching a play it is willing to accept that what is happening onstage is real.

Thought-Tracking — a rehearsal technique that allows the inner thoughts of a character or role to be heard out loud.

It is often used in conjunction with freeze-frame or still-image where a participant is asked to say what they are thinking at that point in time.

Vocal Skills

Volume — How loud or quiet a voice sounds in performance. Sometimes your teacher may refer to vocal projection or power.

Physical Skills

Facial expression — These communicate emotions to the audience. They tell us about the character and the way they react to a situation.

Colour Symbolism

Colour can be used in costumes, set, props and lighting to communicate a deeper meaning to the audience.

Example:

LOVE

RED

ANGER

STRENGTH

DANGER

Drama Techniques and Terminology

Narrator — A role that functions like a storyteller. They can describe the action, provide a commentary or give additional information. A narrator can be present onstage or be an offstage, or pre-recorded, voice.

Freeze-Frame — During an improvisation or the playing of a scene, the instruction, 'freeze' is called out and the performers hold their positions at that moment. It is sometimes wrongly used to mean 'still image' or 'tableau'. These are techniques used to consciously set up a 'stage picture' or a 'frozen image'.