

Drama Knowledge 5



Traverse Stage

A traverse stage is a form of theatrical stage in which the audience is on two sides of the stage, facing towards each other. It is similar to a catwalk runway used in fashion shows.

Corpsing

Corpsing is theatre slang for unintentionally laughing during a performance. In the U.S.A it is commonly referred to as breaking character.

It is believed to be called corpsing as it kills the audiences belief in the character—the character has died.

Role Reversal — a rehearsal technique used during an improvisation or rehearsal for a scene, the actors reverse the roles/characters they are portraying in order to gain a different view or understanding of their own role.

Vocal Skills

Pause - A dramatic pause is silence at a crucial moment in the play. It is usually done to heighten the tension before something is revealed. Playwrights may write short pauses like this ... within the dialogue. Longer pauses are usually written into the stage directions (pause).

Physical Skills

Levels — Levels give a stage more visual interest, and the various levels can be useful, as they allow different characters the opportunity to communicate their status/power within the scene.

Colour Symbolism

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

Example:

WARMTH

ENDURANCE

ORANGE

HEALTH

HAPPINESS

Drama Techniques and Terminology

Dramatic irony – Where the audience knows more about a situation on stage than one of the characters in the drama.

Chorus/chorus work – A group of people working collectively using vocal and movement skills to communicate thoughts, feelings and ideas. The group may work as one or may be broken down into sub-groups. In the manner of a Classical Greek Chorus, they may narrate a story, comment on the action and express an opinion.