

Year 8 Drama Knowledge Organiser – Term 1

What will I learn about this term?

- In this unit, you will be introduced to physical characterisation using stock characters from Melodrama and study Silent Movies. You will learn to communicate exaggerated and clear characters non-verbally to an audience.
- You will be practically assessed on your rehearsal work and through an end of unit recording of your Silent Movie performance using the skills you have learnt.



Key Vocabulary



The
Portsmouth Academy

Victorian Melodrama – A genre of theatre from the Victorian era (1837 – 1901). Sensational with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to appeal to the emotions.

Talking Pictures – A film with synchronized recorded sound. The first talking motion picture was released in 1927.

Slap stick – exaggerated physical activity, which is greater than normal physical comedy.

Atmospheric Music – Conveying the meaning of a scene in music.

Placard / Title Card – Filmed, printed text conveying dialogue, location or description.

Status – The importance or class of a character compared to that of another character.

Silent Movies – A film with no synchronized recorded sound (no dialogue). The silent-film era existed from the mid 1890s to the late 1920s.

Exaggerated physicality and emotions – Over the top body language and facial expressions to convey character and meaning.

Audience Awareness – An awareness of where the audience who are watching are placed.

Sepia / Black and White Film Stock – The film colour as shades.

Melodrama Plot – An exaggerated story featuring themes of status, love and murder.

Stock Characters - Immediately recognisable characters with particular personality traits.