

# Drama – Working as an ensemble



## What is an ensemble performance?

An ensemble performance is when a group of actors work together as a team to tell a story, rather than focusing on just one main character. In an ensemble, every performer plays an important role and the success of the performance depends on teamwork.

### There must be:

- Strong teamwork
- Clear storytelling
- Strong use of vocal and physical skills
- Effective use of space
- Energy and commitment

## Context-A Boy Named Sue

A Boy Named Sue is a comic poem written by Shel Silverstein and made famous by country singer Johnny Cash. It tells the story of a boy whose father gave him the name "Sue" before abandoning him. Because of the name, the boy grows up tough and angry, constantly teased and forced to fight. As a man, he sets out to find his father and confront him. When they finally meet, they fight, but the father explains that he gave him a girl's name to make sure he'd grow up strong. In the end, Sue understands, but still swears never to name his own son something like that!

## Acting Skills vs Drama Techniques

**Acting Skills** are what an actor uses to bring a character to life on stage. They are:

- VOICE
- BODY LANGUAGE
- FACIAL EXPRESSION

**Drama Techniques** are special methods or tools used during performance or rehearsal to help tell a story more effectively. They include:

- FREEZE FRAMES
- MIME
- THOUGHT TRACK
- NARRATION
- CHORUS
- MONOLOGUE
- FLASHBACK/FLASHFORWARD
- PHYSICAL THEATRE
- SLOW MOTION
- BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL
- FOLEY
- ENSEMBLE MOVEMENT

## Key Vocabulary and Drama Techniques

### Naturalistic Drama

- Creating believable characters on stage using carefully developed language of the role/ dialogue. The acting is believable or realistic story.

### Non-Naturalistic Drama

- When Drama techniques are used. Creating exaggerated characters on stage that that is usually through an exaggerated story.

### Chorus

- A technique where all the actors on stage speak together.

### Narration

- A technique where an actor/s tell the story to the audience as it goes along.

### Physical Theatre

- A technique where we create objects with our bodies eg. A wall/car/plane.

### Foley

- When a sound effect is made on stage in view of the audience, it is classed as a non naturalistic theatrical technique, called foley.

### Ensemble Movement

- Is when a group of performers do the exact same movement at the same time.

### Ensemble

- A group of people who perform together

### Stanza

- A stanza is a group of lines in a poem, similar to a paragraph in a story.

