



What is Devising?

Devising means **creating your own piece of drama** from scratch, instead of starting with a script written by someone else.

When you **devise**, you and your group come up with the story, characters, dialogue, and scenes yourselves.

People devise drama to create original performances, explore ideas and emotions, and work together creatively. It allows them to express personal experiences or important themes.

Step-by-step Devising process

Choose a Stimulus

- Start with something that inspires you (e.g. a photo, poem, theme, object, or piece of music).
- Discuss what ideas, feelings, or stories it makes you think of.

Research and Explore Ideas

- Find out more about your theme or topic.
- Talk as a group about possible storylines, settings, and characters.

Brainstorm and Improvise

- Try out quick scenes or improvisations to test your ideas.

Select and Structure

- Choose which scenes and ideas to keep.
- Decide on the order of your scenes (beginning, middle, end).

Develop and Rehearse

- Add dialogue, movement, and physical theatre.
- Build strong characters and relationships.
- Practise lines, cues, and timing.

Add Drama Techniques

- Include techniques like cross cutting, narration, chorus etc to make it more creative.

Refine, Polish and Perform

- Rehearse the final version and make any tweaks necessary.
- Focus on ensuring you are using your acting skills effectively.

Evaluate and Reflect

- After performing, discuss what went well and what could improve.
- Think about how well your group communicated the story or message.

Key Vocabulary and Drama Techniques

Stimulus

- A stimulus in drama is something that sparks or inspires a creative idea. It helps actors, writers, and directors create a performance by giving them a starting point or theme to explore.

Types of Stimuli:

- **Text** – A poem, script, story, article, a quote or even a single word.
- **Image** – A photograph, painting, or drawing.
- **Sound/Music** – A piece of music or a sound effect.
- **Object** – A prop or everyday item.
- **Theme/Issue** – Friendships, bullying, mental health etc.
- **Historical Event** – A real event from the past.

Cross cut

- A drama technique where two or more scenes are performed on stage at the same time.

Language of the Role

- **Language** refers to the words that are spoken in a drama. **Role** refers to the character you are playing. The dialogue you choose should reflect and be accurate for the character you are playing.

Dramatic Intention

- **Dramatic intention** is the reason behind a performance- what the actor or playwright wants the audience to experience, understand, or feel.

Stage Combat

- **Stage combat** creates the illusion of fighting through choreographed performance. A well-executed fight scene can make stage combat look easy – but, much like dancing, it must be fully choreographed and extensively rehearsed to provide that authentic feel while remaining safe.

Refine

- To improve a performance by making changes to acting skills or blocking to make it clearer and more effective.

Characterisation

- The way an actor uses their acting skills (voice, body language, facial expressions) to create a character.