



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.

