

Drama – Devising



Why Devising Drama is interesting

Devising drama is interesting because you get to create something completely original. Instead of following a script, you become the writers, the directors and the performers.

Its exciting because:

- You control the story- you decide what it's about, how its told and what message it sends.
- Its creative and imaginative- you can experiment lots of different ways of presenting the characters and drama itself.
- Its personal- you can explore topics you care about, your own experiences, or big issues that matter in the world.
- It's collaborative- you learn how to collaborate, share ideas and build a performance together.

Understanding Dramatic Structures

There are lots of different types of dramatic structures that can be used in theatre. The 'structure' stands for the order or the sequence that make up the drama.

CYCLICAL

This is where the drama begins and ends the same. It follows a sequence of events throughout the story line and then comes back to the same place at the end

LINEAR

This follows a chronological sequence from beginning to end. This gives the audience a direct story that is easy to follow and understand.

EPISODIC

This divides the play into distinct episodes or scenes, each with its own narrative. This structure allows for more flexibility in storytelling and is used to help tell multiple story lines.

NON-LINEAR

This is the opposite to linear. The story is told but in a random order. It may start at the end and then move to the beginning. It jumps around in time, using flash backs and flash forwards.

Key Vocabulary and Drama Techniques

Devise

- To create a piece of Drama

Stimulus

- A stimulus is the starting point, idea or inspiration for your devised drama. It is what you base your drama around.

Target audience

- The people (audience) who the performance is aimed at. For example, a piece of Drama educating an audience on knife crime would be most likely to be aimed at young people between the ages of 11-21.

Dramatic Intention

- Dramatic intention refers to the purpose or message a performer, director, or writer wants to convey through their performance. It's the reason behind a characters actions, the atmosphere they want to create, and the emotions they aim to evoke in the audience. Dramatic intention guides the choices made in a performance.

Research

- When you are devising a piece of drama, research is the process of gathering information to help you inform your ideas, characters and storyline. Research helps you understand the context of the piece, deepen your understanding of your characters, and make your performance more realistic and meaningful.

Transition

- A transition is how you move from one scene or moment to another in a performance. It helps your drama flow smoothly and keeps the audience engaged.

Refining

- Refining in drama means improving and polishing your performance. After you rehearse, you look at what works well and what needs to be better. Then you make changes to improve your acting, voice, movement, timing etc.

Naturalistic Drama

- Style of performance that aims to represent real life as accurately as possible. It focuses on realistic characters, dialogue, and situations, mirroring everyday experiences.

Non-Naturalistic Drama

- Style of performance where the action is not based on real life. It includes drama techniques to make the performance more creative.

Stimulus

Respond

Explore

Refine

Rehearse

