

SKILLS vs ABILITY

*Skills are different to ability. Skills can be learned and practised, leading to improvement and progress. These are the drama skills you will learn in **Drama 101**.*

STILL IMAGE & BFG

This is also called a ‘freeze frame’ or a ‘tableau’. Actors freeze in position to represent a moment from a drama in detail, giving the audience time to think about what they see. When creating a still image, it’s important to think about your **Body language**, **Facial expression**, and **Gesture (BFG)**. You should also think about space and levels and what they might mean.



Year 7 Drama Knowledge Organiser – Term 1 Drama 101

Drama 101 is a basic introduction to drama skills. You will be introduced to many of the skills that you will use throughout drama lessons in Year 7, 8 and 9, and perhaps beyond to GCSE or BTEC. The aim of the first term is to make you familiar with these skills and how to use them when working collaboratively with others, leading to performances of your work.

AUDIENCE AWARENESS

This means, being aware of where your audience is positioned and making sure your drama is presented towards them so they can appreciate it. Often we encourage actors to **face the audience** (although sometimes it can be effective to *decide* to have your back to the audience). It can also be useful to think of the **80/20** rule: imagine you’re standing in the middle of a circle, straighten your arms and move them behind you until you can only just see your fingertips in your peripheral vision. 80% of the circle – in front of your body between your hands – is visible to the audience, whilst 20% of the circle is behind you and cannot be seen.



ERNIE’S INCREDIBLE ILLUCINATIONS

This is a play by Alan Ayckbourn, about a boy called Ernie whose fantastical daydreams seem to come to life around him. You will perform a short scene from the play for your end-of-term assessment. You can see other students performing the scene [here](#).

FLASHBACK

This is a scene within a scene where the action jumps back in time and we get to see what happened earlier in the story. Flashback can be a useful way of building tension in a storyline and can let the audience know more about the characters.

PHYSICAL THEATRE

This is any kind of drama in which movement is more prominent than words. Mime, pantomime, dance, puppetry and commedia dell’arte are all forms of physical theatre.

THOUGHT-TRACKING

Within a still image, the actors speak the thoughts of the characters they are representing. This is a useful way of finding out more about a character’s reactions to other characters of the events they are experiencing.

SOUNDSCAPE

A soundscape is a sound picture of a moment in a drama, used to create atmosphere and/or tell a story.

IN-ROLE NARRATION

A character speaks to the audience to narrate parts of his/her own story. You will see Ernie do this in *Ernie’s Incredible Illucinations*.

STATUS

Status means the power or importance of a character, e.g. a king vs a servant. We can show status through **BFG** as well as space and levels.

CHORAL SPEAKING

This is when actors use their voices together to create interesting effects such as unison, echo and canon.