

Welcome to Drama



Explorative Strategies and Skills in Drama

A. Still Image/Freeze Frame

A frozen picture which communicates meaning. A still image is a way of marking the moment. The three rules of a still image are: 1. stay still. 2. be silent. 3. add a physical skill (facial expression, body language).



B. Tableaux

A tableaux is a series of still images, one after another.



C. Narrator

A storyteller informing the audience about the plot. Narration is useful in making a story more understandable for the audience.



D. Mime

Mime is the art of demonstrating an action with an object that does not exist. It is a very disciplined and precise act. The four things that help to make mime believable are: 1. Size. 2. Shape. 3. Weight. 4. Texture.



E. Thought Track

A thought track is when a character steps out of a scene to address the audience about how they are feeling. Performers speak directly to the audience.

F. Slow Motion

Slow motion is a technique that can be used to mark the moment. By slowing the moment down, it makes the audience focus and allows them to see it in detail.

G. Physical Skills

Body Language	How an actor uses their body to communicate meaning. For example, crossing your arms could mean you are fed up.
Posture	The position an actor holds their body when sitting or standing. For example, an upright posture.
Gait	The way an actor walks.
Facial Expressions	A form of non-verbal communication that expresses the way you are feeling, using the face.
Gestures	A movement of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea of meaning.
Stance	The way you position yourself when standing to communicate your role. An elderly person would have a different stance to a child!

H. Vocal Skills

Projection	Ensuring your voice is loud and clear for the audience to hear.
Volume	How loudly or quietly you say something. (Shouting, whispering).
Tone	The way you say something to communicate your emotions. (e.g., angry, worried, shocked tone of voice).
Pace	The speed of what you say.
Pause	Moments of pause can create tension or show what you are thinking.
Accent	Use of an accent tells the audience where your character is from.
Pitch	How high or low your voice is.
Emphasis	Changing the way, a word or part of a sentence is said, to emphasise it. (Make it stand out).

I. Marking the Moment

Marking the moment is a dramatic technique used to highlight a key moment in a scene or improvisation. The moment is 'highlighted' or marked to the audience by using an explorative strategy.

