

Year 7 Drama

Unit 5: Physical skills – Clowning

What will I learn about this term?

In this unit you will learn about the different types of clowns and the different Commedia dell'arte masks using physical characterisation whilst developing control, timing and imagination.

You will work in groups to create and perform lazzi (routines) for your “clowns/masks”.

You will be assessed in an end of unit performance using the skills that you have learnt.

Key Words	Meaning
Commedia dell'arte	A style and genre of theatre that originated in northern Italy and France and relies on comedy stock characters with which the audience are familiar.
Stock characters	Characters who are immediately recognisable and represent particular personality types or characteristics of human behaviour.
Exaggerated physicality	How over the top an actor uses his or her body language to convey character and meaning.
Mime	Acting without words creating meaning for an audience.
Comic timing	Rehearsing and performing the delivery of physical and vocal skills to create comedy for an audience.
Slap stick	A style of humour involving exaggerated physical activity which is greater than normal physical comedy.
Audience awareness	An awareness in rehearsal and performance of where the audience who are watching the performance are placed.
Clear emotion	Making a character's emotion clear to an audience.
Status	The importance or class of a character or group of characters compared to that of another character or group of characters.
Lazzo / routine	A comic routine demonstrating the characteristics of the character being performed.
Whiteface Clown	The Whiteface Clown is the typical circus clown. The grotesque Whiteface Clown wears colourful 'silly' clothes, white make up with big exaggerated colourful lips, checks and hair. They are the clown in charge, they are the one that throws water over people or pushes them over. We laugh at their actions.
Auguste Clown	Auguste comes from the German slang word for idiot. They have the exaggerated make-up of the whiteface but on a skin coloured base to make them look more human. They are the clown that gets water thrown at them or pushed over - we laugh at how they react and feel sorry for them.
Character Clown	The Character clown can be Whiteface or Auguste but they are dressed in a uniform like a police officer, fire fighter or builder, they have an occupation.

