

Year 8 Drama

Unit 1: Melodrama and Silent Movies

What will I learn about this term?

In this unit you will be introduced to physical characterisation using stock characters from Melodrama and study Silent Movies. You will learn to communicate exaggerated and clear characters non-verbally to an audience.

You will be practically assessed on your rehearsal work and through an end of unit recording of your Silent Movie performance using the skills you have learnt.

Key Words	Meaning
Victorian Melodrama	A style and genre of theatre that originated in England in the Victorian era (1837 – 1901). A sensational dramatic piece with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to appeal to the emotions.
Silent Movies	A film with no synchronized recorded sound (no dialogue). The silent-film era existed from the mid 1890s to the late 1920s.
Talking Pictures	A motion-picture film with sound effects and dialogue recorded on it. The Jazz Singer was the film talking motion picture in 1927.
Exaggerated physicality and emotions	Over the top body language and facial expressions to convey character and meaning.
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.
Status	The importance or class of a character or group of characters compared to that of another character or group of characters.
Atmospheric music	Music that conveys the meaning of a scene in a film.
Placard / intertitle	A piece of filmed, printed text edited into the film to convey character dialogue or description.
Sepia / Black and White Film Stock	The colour of the film picture was either shades of brown / or black and white.
Melodrama characters	The Victorian stage melodrama featured six stock characters: the hero, the villain, the heroine, an aged parent, a sidekick and a servant of the aged parent. engaged in a sensational plot featuring themes of love and murder.
Melodrama plot	Melodrama normally featured the characters engaged in an exaggerated story featuring themes of status, love and murder.



Additional information;

Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy
Safety Last! 1923, Modern Times 1936, The General 1926, The Circus 1926