

Performing Arts: Core Questions & Vocabulary

Year Group: 10

Composite: Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (*Professional Repertoire focus*)

Composite number: 1 of 4

Core Questions	
1	<p>What is the name of the Professional Repertoire you are studying and who is the playwright?</p> <p><i>'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' written by Simon Stephens. (Original book by Mark Haddon.</i></p>
2	<p>Who are the directors for the Professional Repertoire you are studying?</p> <p>Marianne Elliott (Director) and Scott Graham from Frantic Assembly (Movement Director).</p>
3	<p>Who is the set and costume designer for the Professional Repertoire you are studying?</p> <p>Bunny Christie.</p>
4	<p>What is the production style of the Professional Repertoire you are studying?</p> <p>Physical Theatre - The use of stylised movement to tell a storyline.</p> <p>Physical Theatre is 'not realistic'. Physical Theatre is stylised and allows things to be shown in a more physical way.</p> <p>Examples from the Production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Christopher can't always articulate things verbally so showing them with Physical Theatre shows his mind so an audience can see the world from his perspective.</i> • <i>Whenever Christopher arrives home there is a Physical Theatre sequence where the other actors are the doors and objects inside his house etc.</i> • <i>When Christopher is narrating his 'Space dream' - The actors lift Christopher and support the 'anti-gravity' effect of space. There were various Frantic Assembly lifts and turns involved here through dramatic and physically intense movement sequences.</i> • <i>Physical Theatre and stylised movements are used when Christopher visits his neighbours, at the the train station and on the underground (even subtle movements such as, 'swaying' to show movement on the train)</i> <p>Other production style elements:</p> <p>Narrative - The play uses several narrators: Christopher, Siobhan and the Ensemble.</p> <p>Metatheatre - Play within a play.</p> <p>Elements of Epic Theater (Brechtian Theatre) - Direct address of the audience, multi-role throughout apart from Christopher, actors on stage for the entire time sat around the edge of the stage, monologue, narration, choral speech, choral movement and flashbacks. The ensemble/ Multi-role - Multi-role used by many actors, therefore stereotypical movement and gesture used like a gestus e.g. 'upright' posture for police men/ women, 'Hunched' posture for an old man/ woman etc. * The audience see the ensemble changing into another role physically and through costuming that is visibly changed on stage. * Majority of the actors remain on stage throughout the entire performance. * Actors are regularly used as physical props/ set.</p> <p>Technical elements used inventively - LED screens on every surface of the stage, projection used (e.g. outline of dog), lights used creatively (e.g. strobe lights, torches operated by actors),</p>

	<p>sound was pre-recorded and was used to intensify the atmosphere.</p> <p>Practitioners: <i>Frantic Assembly</i></p>
5	<p>What is Physical Theatre? Theatre which emphasises the use of physical movement, as in dance and mime, for expression.</p> <p>Techniques: <i>Mime, movement, motif, harshness and tenderness, dance work and body propping.</i></p> <p>Practitioners: <i>Frantic Assembly 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' - techniques such as Chair Duets, Hymn Hands and Round, By, Through.</i></p>
6	<p>What are the technical aspects of the Professional Repertoire you are studying?</p> <p>The aim of the sound and lighting in this production is to remain true to Marianne Elliott's (Director) vision, she wanted the visual aspects of the performance to look like something that could be from Christopher's head. She wanted the audience to witness the performance the way that Christopher would see and experience his everyday life.</p> <p>Lighting examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of ultraviolet (UV) light to give high contrast against the black background. ● Strobe light used when Christopher is having panic attacks. ● Use of LED screens or spot light within the walls (backs, sides and floor) used to 'pulse' coloured lighting specifically to mark points on a graph, representing stars (space) and outline the dog. ● Back projection used against each wall giving effect of: chalkboard, train movement (windows), city skyline (London), underground tube map and outer space. ● General lighting state 'stark white light' using floodlights - red gel added on wide angle. Fresnel during panic attacks. ● Blue and purple gels added during 'space scene' on wide angle Fresnels. ● 'Warm' colours added when Christopher is remembering his mother. Orange/ Yellow gels on wide angle Fresnel used. ● Lots of changes in the lighting to reflect how Christopher sees something or how something is affecting him/ making him feel. ● Mothers house - very tight box of light. The dark surrounding the the light represents monsters/ Mr Shears show how Christopher is feeling. ● Tense moment when Christopher finds the letters from his mother - Torches are used so only small amount of light. ● Lights moving carefully at first to show Christopher is controlling things and as things get too much for him the lighting becomes more frantic. <p>Sound examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Repetitive songs that were pre-recorded to highlight the repetitive nature of Christopher's life. Loud percussive and 'metallic' sound used. ● Music and sound effects are synchronised with strobe lighting during panic attacks - down deliberately to make the audience jump. ● General ambient soundscapes used to represent location: Big city, summer in the country, train station, on the beach. ● Leitmotif (a specific song linked to character) to refer to Christopher.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Music is not used for sentimental reasons. ● Music and sounds for the majority of the performance, very rarely silent.
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7	<p>Who are Frantic Assembly?</p> <p>Theatre with no fear - Frantic Assembly. They are an internationally renowned theatre company inspiring innovation practice and unlocking creative potential.</p> <p>Frantic Assembly is a theatrical company that uses movement., design and text to provide a unique theatrical experience. By focussing on popular culture and using effective communication techniques.</p> <p>Popular works: 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', 'Things I Know to Be True' and 'Fatherland'. Based: United Kingdom. Led by: Artistic Director and co-founder Scott Graham.</p>
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8	<p>How do Frantic Assembly create theatre?</p> <p><i>Quote: 'It appears 'Physical Theatre' is used as an umbrella term for aspects of performance including dance theatre, mime, clowning and traditional pictorial or visual theatre... Within this is an enormous 'physicality from the limb-threateningly expressive to the delicate and demonstrative. It can be said that our brand of theatre sits somewhere within this realm...' - Frantic Assembly</i></p> <p>Building trust with your ensemble:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Breaking down inhibitions ● Setting high standards and keeping to them ● Leading, but also listening ● Reading body language and group dynamics ● Having a plan yet being prepared to throw it away ● Motivating, encouraging and praising when necessary <p>Company exercises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building blocks and layering sequences ● Push hands ● Picking fluff ● Hymn hands ● Push and pull ● Chair Duets ● Round, by, through ● Lifts <p>Music</p> <p>Music is a key feature of Frantic Assembly's work. They argue that music:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creates the right rehearsal environment 2. Helps the running time of scenes 3. Creates the soundtrack to the show - an overturn that is translated into a visual form. <p><i>Quote: "Music is a massive inspiration to us, We have it in our heads all the time and we use it in rehearsals at every stage. We cannot understand the type of rehearsal where the music only arrives in the tech week. It is integral to how we understand and communicate our theatre. It is a very present collaborator throughout the rehearsal process." - Frantic Assembly</i></p>
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Core Vocabulary (Physical Theatre)	
1	Mime

	<i>Stylised movement but can be comparatively realistic.</i>
2	Gesture <i>May be something small but can have emotional impact or it can be a particular movement that defines a character.</i>
3	Status <i>This may be executed by use of levels or by distance or strength of contact, or a combination of all of these with voice work.</i>
4	Proximity <i>How close or far you are from co-performers. It can be a source of very powerful impact</i>
5	Stance <i>This is associated with strength as the body could radiate assertion and authority or weakness by stance, incorporating posture.</i>
6	Movement <i>Every movement needs to be rehearsed with precision.</i>
7	Motif <i>This is repeated use of a movement pattern which has meaning and reminds us of the central theme of the work.</i>
8	Harshness and tenderness <i>Used here as umbrella terms to focus on the fact that in physical work the gestures and bigger movements come together to express the emotions of the piece.</i>
9	Not moving <i>If the stage is full of characters, immobility can have a powerful effect.</i>
10	Dance work <i>Don't be afraid to include dance in your work, you don't have to be an experienced dancer, 'Dad dancing' can work well in a comedy.</i>

Core Vocabulary (Grading Criteria - Learning Aim A)

Pass	You need to describe and give relevant examples from the practical work you have done.
Merit	You need to discuss and give appropriate examples with justification regarding the practical work you have done.
Distinction	You need to assess and give considered examples showing how you have used the skills throughout the practical work you have done.

Core Vocabulary (Grading Criteria - Learning Aim B)

Pass	Describe: <i>Give a clear, objective account in their own words, showing recall and in some cases application, of relevant features and information. Normally requires breadth of content coverage.</i> Relevant examples: <i>To give closely connected or appropriate examples of what is being described.</i>
Merit	Discuss: <i>Consider different aspects of a topic and how they interrelate and the extent to which they are important.</i> Appropriate examples: <i>To present suitable examples of what you have discussed.</i>
Distinction	Explain: <i>Provide details and give reasons and/ or evidence to support an argument.</i> Considered examples: <i>Using carefully through about examples to demonstrate and support what you have explained</i>