

Year 11 Term 1



Knowledge Organiser

# Devising

## Devising Techniques

### Brainstorming

As a group, discuss the themes you want to explore in the play. Brainstorm stories and ideas linked to the theme

### Still Images

Create still images that depict crucial moments in the character's life or the plot. These can be used as a starting point or incorporated into the play later on.

### Reflect

At the end of a rehearsal, reflect on what you have achieved and what needs to be done next. Set aims and assign jobs for the next lesson.

### Structure

Create a time line of the story and highlight the key scenes. Experimenting with the structure may help to create a more imaginative play.

### Monologue

In a group, think of one word each that describes your character. Then on your own, use the list of words to write a monologue for your character.

### Improvise

Improvise a scene in every rehearsal. Don't just talk. Try to improvise a scene using different styles and techniques.

### Skills:

- ✓ Hot-seating
- ✓ Devising
- ✓ Improvisation
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Characterisation
- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Presentation
- ✓ Self-assessment
- ✓ Peer-assessment

### Knowledge:

- ✓ How to devise theatre around a set theme
- ✓ How to take influence from a theatre practitioner
- ✓ How to create and develop clear characters
- ✓ How to evaluate the effectiveness of own work and that of others
- ✓ How to use specific vocabulary

### Key Words & Definitions

**Devising:** a way of creating Drama that begins not with writers or a script, but is based on a collaborative effort of a group of people.

**Improvise:** to act without a script.  
Theme: The theme of a play refers to its central idea.

**Hot seating:** one actor sits in a chair, in character, and answers questions to develop character.

**Plot:** The main events of a play devised and presented.

**Role-on-the-wall:** a strategy to infer meaning about a character and to visually map the relationship between characteristics (emotions) and actions (behaviours) onto a simple outline of a human figure.

**Bertolt Brecht:** Born 1898 Ausburg, Germany. Poet, playwright and theatrical reformer. Verfremdungseffekt – Audience alienation. Non-naturalistic. Challenges an audience to think.

**Frantic Assembly:** Physical Theatre Company. Combine music, movement and text – inter-disciplinary. Chair Duets. Devised origins.

**Constantin Stanislavsky:** Born 1863 Moscow, Russia. Pioneer in Actor's training. Method Acting. Naturalistic. Realism in Theatre. 'The system'.