

## **Drama terms explained.**

**Asides** – when a character says lines to the audience but other characters do not hear.

**Addressing the audience** – when a character speaks their lines directly to the audience.

**Audience** – the people who watch a performance.

**Actor** – amateur or professional, an actor does his/her best to create a believable character.

**Backstage** – the space at the back or sides of the acting area. Unseen by the audience.

**Cast** – the group of actors/dancers in a play or musical.

**Character** – the person (real or imaginary) that an actor creates.

**Conscience alley** – a group of actors create the thoughts and feelings of a character by saying them aloud.

**Costume** – the clothing that an actor wears on stage.

**Dialogue** – the speech between characters in a play or film.

**Director** – the person who is in charge the actors and designers when putting on a play.

**Flashback** – the action moves back in time in order to show the audience important moments from the past.

**Freeze frame/tableau** – actors create a still image (like a photograph) to represent an important moment in time or to represent a theme or feeling.

**Facing out** – actors stand at the edges of the acting area with their backs to the audience when they are not involved in the action.

**cont**

## **Drama terms explained.**

**Hot seating** – a character is questioned by the audience in order to develop their role.

**Improvisation** – actors create their own lines/dialogue and structure of scenes based on a story or a theme.

**Levels** – different heights are created on the acting area in order to make the setting more interesting and so that the actors can be seen.

**Lines** – the words that an actor learns during rehearsals and speaks during a performance.

**Lighting** – theatrical lighting can be used to make sure that the actors can be seen by the audience and to create mood and atmosphere.

**Mime** – actors use actions and gestures to communicate with the audience without speaking.

**Monologue/Soliloquy** – an actor says a long speech directly to the audience.

**Masks and make-up** – actors use these to change their appearance and become a character.

**Narrator** – a narrator is the person who tells the story (a story teller).

**Props** – objects used during a performance. eg. umbrella, telephone

**Physical theatre** – actors use their bodies to represent objects.

**Plot** – the storyline or sequence of events in a play/film.

**Role play** – actors put themselves in the “shoes” of other people and try to react to situations as if they were that person.

**Re-enactment** – a past event is acted out as accurately as possible.

**cont**

## **Drama terms explained.**

**Script** – the words and stage directions of a play.

**Set** – the items and design used on an acting area/stage eg. furniture,back drop.

**Sound effects** – sounds and music used during a performance to make it more realistic or to create atmosphere.

**Slow motion** – part of the action is slowed down in order to focus the attention of the audience on that scene.

**Stage directions** – these are usually written in italics and either give instructions to actors or describe the setting or action in a scene.

**Thought tracking/thoughts in the head** – the action pauses and characters speak their inner thoughts aloud.

**T.I.E** – theatre in education. A piece of drama which has an educational purpose. eg. bullying,friendship,history topics.