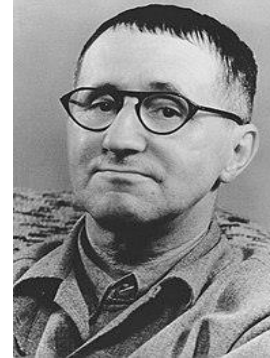


Who was Brecht and why was he important?

- Bertolt Brecht was a German writer during World War II
- He was a Marxist- this means he was **against** the Nazi government
- He was a commentator on society and the political climate at the time
- His work challenged the audience to think and showed them that they could affect change.



Brechtian Style

Alienation Effect

This forces the audience to think about the situation played out in front of them and make judgements on it. This device included music, dance, placards, direct address, third person monologues, mechanics of theatre on display to the audience.

Epic Theatre

Brecht's plays were often known as 'Epic Theatre'. These were stories that were told in any sequence. Each scene would be a stand-alone piece and they could happen in any order.

Actors

A Brechtian actor would **represent** the character rather than become them. They could do this through use of caricature, over-exaggerated expressions, voice and action.

Direct Address:

This is where an actor on the stage talks directly to the audience.



Monologue:

This is a long speech delivered by one character on stage.

Caption:

A title of brief explanation accompanying an illustration, cartoon or poster.

The Verfremdungseffekt

Brecht intended to alienate the audience (making them separate from the action). This was shortened to the 'V' Effect.

- He wanted his audience to remain engaged in the play so that they did not lose the message
- He wanted to **avoid emotion investment** in the characters
- His theatre had a political, social or moral message
- Epic theatre **breaks the fourth wall**, making the audience active members of the theatrical experience as they are kept thinking throughout

Performance Skills- In your exam you will be shown a scene from a play that you have studied. You must then describe how you would perform in the scene, using accurate terminology.

The importance of voice

Your voice can be used to present your character's feelings and emotions. There are many ways that you can use your voice such as:

- Varying the pace (speed) of your voice
- Changing the pitch
- Using emphasis and pause to draw the audience's attention to certain words or lines
- You could use an accent to help show where your character is from.

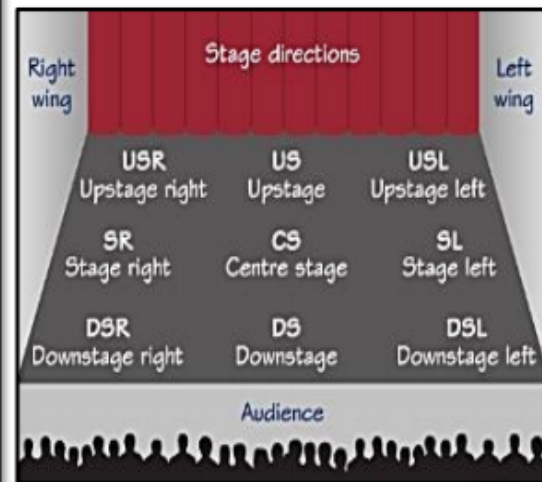
The use of Proxemics in Performance

Proxemics, or spatial positioning, needs careful consideration from the director. This is about where a performer should stand in relation to other performers and any objects in a scene. Proxemics:

is closely linked to blocking and the representation of relationships

can have a powerful impact on what the audience understands about the message and emotions on stage

requires consideration of what the audience can see. Carefully planned sightlines can give the audience a lot of contextual information.



Using Tone

Tone is not about what is said but how it is said. It is vital for showing meaning and emotion, providing the **context** for each of the words.

Using Intonation

Intonation is about the performer making their voice sound interesting and engaging. It is particularly important when delivering long speeches.

A performer's use of gesture

A **gesture** is a way of expressing a character's thoughts or emotions and often works together with **body language**. **Gestures** can reflect an action and can be an instant way of communicating.

Gestures:

- ✓ can help to sum up how a character feels at any given moment in the production. A character shaking a fist, for example, may convey a great deal to the audience without the need for words.
- ✓ can be **socially, culturally or historically** significant.

A performer's use of facial expression

Facial expression is a powerful way of communicating with the audience. Humans are capable of making 10,000 unique facial expressions with just 43 muscles in the face.

Facial expressions can be grouped into seven basic emotions:

- ✓ Fear
- ✓ Sadness
- ✓ Happiness
- ✓ Anger
- ✓ Contempt
- ✓ Disgust
- ✓ Surprise