



Masks and Mask Design

Masks

You have already learnt how the ancient Greek actors wore masks and how Commedia actors portrayed masked stock characters. Now we will look at how masks can still be worn in contemporary theatre and what the rules and conventions of mask work are. Your knowledge of physicality and exaggeration in your acting (from Melodrama and Commedia) will help you understand the need for the actor to use larger than life body language in mask work to communicate emotions and situations to an audience. You will experiment practically with Trestle Theatre masks in your group work as well as considering, through the example of 'The Lion King', how design elements collaborate to create visual effects and enhance characterisation. How do masks interact with other design elements? You will consider make-up, body paint, costume, props, lighting, set and scenery and how they work together with masks and headdresses to create visual effects.

Magic 5 Skills

Vocal skills: Pitch, Pace, Pause, Projection, Tone, Accent- if you are using half masks that can be spoken through!

Physical skills: Movement, Facial Expression, Gait, Posture, Gesture, Body Language

Space and Interaction: Use of Space, Use of Set, Stage Position, Interaction with other Actors

Directing: Stage Directions, Blocking, Dialogue, Subtext, Message of the play, Dramatic Intention

Design: Lighting, Sound, Costume, Set, Props, Puppetry, Setting & Context



Sequence:

What you have done: Your knowledge of how Commedia actors wore masks to play stock characters is a great starting point for our mask unit. Your knowledge of Ancient Greek theatre is likewise useful for our mask topic. Your design skills from our 'Adolphus Tips' work in Year 7 will also help you and you will get to branch out.

What you will go on to do: awareness of design elements from this topic will help when we study 'The Curious Incident' in Terms 3 and 4 as well as with our Darkwood Manor unit in Term 6. You may decide to do a costume design in our Term 5 Shakespeare topic and this topic will help you think about costumes too. Design elements underpin much of our work in Year 9.



Cross-Curricular Links:

Art/DT: we will be designing and decorating masks. Working to a design brief with materials.

Music: Lion King the stage musical.

English Lit: we will look at Wertenbaker's 'The Ash Girl'.

Mask Design:

When you have explored how to use masks in performance to tell a story, you will move on to explore how abstract/fantastical or symbolic characters can be created through mask design, designing and decorating a mask in order to experiment with colours and textures for the realisation of design ideas/choices. We will take a snap-shot of Timberlake Wertenbaker's play 'The Ash Girl' (in which you will recognise the story of Cinderella) and learn how, in order to see her prince again after the ball and find her happiness, the Ash Girl must first find her way through the forest where monsters (representing the Seven Deadly Sins in anthropomorphic form) lurk waiting to ambush her and discourage her pursuit of happiness. You will be designing the monster creatures using mask design in collaboration with your ideas for the costume, lighting and set.

Drama Star Skills



	R	A	G
Creativity			
Teamwork			
Design Skills			
Making Skills			
Performance skills			
Evaluation			