

Style

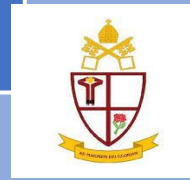
Ensemble physical theatre: A group of actors use the movement of their bodies to demonstrate different moments in the story and to demonstrate location. The ensemble of four also multi-role as the many different characters- 139 in total! 'The clowns' multi-role most of these.

Pastiche: the play is affectionately mocking of the spy detective genre with its unlikely twists and turns and lucky escapes!

Flexible design: minimal set and props, with the same items (such as suitcases, ladders, a few chairs, etc) multi-functioning to create different settings inventively, aided by props such as a steering wheel to represent a whole car.

Creative adaptation: from a novel by John Buchan to a black and white movie directed by Alfred Hitchcock to a stage play for the West End!

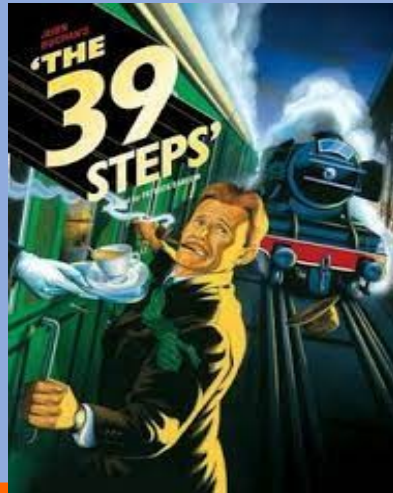
'The 39 Steps', by Patrick Barlow



Sequence

What you have done: ensemble physical theatre as used in 'The Curious Incident' and comedy skills as used in Commedia dell'Arte.

What you will go on to do: interpreting scripts, live theatre evaluation, practitioner style, set text at GCSE (from same AQA selection)



Cross-Curricular Links:

English Literature: the study of genres including satire

History: the play is set in May/June of 1914 before the outbreak of World War One.

PE: Balance, coordination, movement.

Plot:

The 39 Steps is a stage adaptation by Patrick Barlow that is a pastiche of the spy detective genre. It is loosely based on John Buchan's 1915 novel.

It centres around the hero Richard Hannay who becomes caught up in preventing an organisation of spies called "The 39 Steps" from stealing British military secrets. Mistakenly accused of the murder of a counter-espionage agent, Hannay goes on the run to Scotland and becomes tangled up with an attractive woman, Pamela, while hoping to stop the spy ring and clear his name.

Magic 5 Skills

Vocal skills: Pitch, Pace, Pause, Projection, Tone, Accent

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



Drama Star Skills



	R	A	G
Creativity			
Teamwork			
Resilience			
Leadership			
Performance skills			
Evaluation			