

Student 6: High Not Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

“Select Performance Skills associated with Epic Theatre”

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Epic structure

The structure of the piece has some traits of traditional epic theatre but still alerts the audience that they are watching a piece of live theatre. During the piece we used chorus, freeze frame and demonstrated roles. We also had many character changes during our performance in full view of the audience which is very typical of epic theatre.

Alienation effect

We use the alienation effect in our piece during the moment where Vlasova says her line “how much more sympathy a lump arouses from people expecting lumps than from people handing them out.” The use of the alienation effect in this way helps to remind the audience once again of the key message in the play. “how much more sympathy a lump arouses from people expecting lumps than from people handing them out.” As this line is being said the rest of the cast freezes in their current position to influence the audiences place of attention, also as this line is being said I break out of character and turn to face the audience and say the line as myself rather than the character. This showed the use of alienation towards the audience making them aware that they are watching a piece of educational theatre rather than a story. It also helped to express the turmoil that their country is in at that present time.

Presentational style of performance (Anti- illusional)

During the excerpt that we chose to perform we made the audience aware that they were watching a piece of live theatre through our basic set and lack of props. Our performance was done in a marked out small area and our set consisted of a large table and three chairs, two placed at the left side of the table and one placed at the right side of the table. Our props consisted of two hats to help show the change in character. This helped to show the audience that they were watching a piece of educational theatre because there was no elaborate set and props to distract them, our piece relied on pure acting techniques and skill. It also showed the audience that the characters didn't have much to depend on in their lives.

Multiple roles

I showed the difference when playing the character Vlasova who had just entered the estate kitchen after being pelted with stones because she was confused for a strike-breaker by removing my hat.