"Select Performance Skills associated with Epic Theatre" ①
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." As I say this line the rest of the cast freezes and I turn to the audience and break out of character and say the line as myself. This reminds the audience that they are at the theatre. At this moment I am also making eye contact with the audience, this causes the audience to focus on what I am saying in that moment and shows them the importance of the character Vlasova. The use of the alienation effect in this way helps to remind the audience once again of the key message in the play.
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.
Gestus and symbolic movement
During our performance our movements helped to show the audience what the characters did for a living and how they were as a person. Take for example my character Vlasova, during the scene (after the butcher hits his wife for serving the food up "too hot") my character suddenly stops being so reserved and makes an effort to voice her opinion on what's right and what's wrong. She jumps up from her seat and grabs the butcher confidently showing that although he is larger than her she is not scared of him. She does this as she says the line "No Vasil Yefimovitch the food is not too hot!" this shows the audience that she is an independent woman and is not scared too voice her opinion, it also shows the audience that she plays a key part in getting her country out of their current state and shows that she is fighting for equal rights and social change.
Function of the Actor

During the excerpt that we chose to perform I showed ==that I was demonstrating a role rather than playing a character through the use of freeze frame. Within the scene I demonstrated the role of two characters and also said lines alone to the audience whilst out of character to demonstrate the "V effect".== 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. She makes her first appearance downstage left, the key line where the audience sees my use of freeze frame is "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.==