

Student 4: High Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

“Select Performance Skills associated with epic Theatre”

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Audience and epic structure

The audience for 'The Mother' would be anybody who had a connection within the law or any sort of strike community

The structure of our piece is clearly epic theatre and the audience are aware that they have come to watch a live performance about the social action of wages being cut down. The extract piece is combined with chorus, storytelling, split stage and narration. And the basic structure of our performance piece is epic theatre. I have quick costume and prop changes throughout the whole piece which help me demonstrate my 3 characters that I play. Also the other actors in my piece have a quick costume change when they use the outside of 4 by 4 square performance space. This is where the audience has full visibility of what they were doing but it's not in the performance space. This is something naturally see in epic theatre.

Direct Address

When I step forward towards the front of the stage and say "All the man did though was buy a pickled onion" I used the convention of talking to the audience and my accent changes from being a Russian accent into my normal voice.

Alienation device

We broke the convention of the fourth wall in our performance, in order to alienate the audience. We freeze at the beginning of the play to show that we are not yet part of the scene.

My movement during this alienation effect changes my voice and eye contact to connect and alienate with the audience. This causes the audience to listen and focus on what I'm about to say as it's the last line of the scene. Also during this moment the audience is able to understand that all the man did though was buy an onion from the factory canteen. All this fuss was sourced and it also helped support the over all message of the play. This is for the Russian factory workers to fight for equal rights and the wages to not be lowered.

Presentational style of performance (Anti- illusional)

In my performance I made sure the audience was aware that they were watching a live piece of epic theatre through the need of props and set. Our set was simple as we only used a few chairs, a table and a black canteen bench/window. I also had minimal props to help portray my 3 characters I was playing during the performance. The props were just something small to show the connection and transition between each character. We also had a 4 by 4 line marked out, which elaborate the stage and set a bit. The sets, props and 4 by 4 lines helped emphasise that the actors were educating, the audience about the theatre performance form being Epic theatre. And what sort of beliefs the Russian workers were fighting for.

Gestus and symbolic movement

Our gestus was the celebration, which stands for everyone's freedom not just the factory workers' victory in the play.

I use a lot of movements to help reveal all my characters as a whole. I use physical actions which helped me show the social position of my 3 characters. An example of this is when my group and I are showing the frustration and anger about the factory wages being cut down. The Russian factory workers express this through a piece of song and dance. The stomping on the ground and standing

on the tables help present the symbolic of communism and what the Russian workers are fighting for. The arm gestures help show the roles we are playing and the Russian factory workers social positions. Overall this helps emphasise the message of the play and explain why the workers were fighting for equal rights.

Function of the Actor

In our performance of "*The Mother*" I show that I am demonstrating a role through the use of a Russian Accent. Throughout the play I demonstrated 3 characters and showed the different use of accent from one character to another. For example when I'm in role and say "I'm against leaflets like this being handled out while negotiation is still going on". I'm impersonating the character of Smilgin who is a factory Russian worker. I talk in a low, weak and feeble voice while doing a Russian Accent, which portrays that my character is an old man who is against the whole idea of communism. As the character I direct the overall message to all the other actors on the stage and I exaggerate it a lot so the audience understands what is going on. Another example is when I play the role of Vlasova. I use a strong and confident tone to help depict my Russian accent as I'm a lady. I do this to help show the audience the overall message, which is that the workers are waiting to strike and fight for their right and the social changes. Also that I pretend that I'm not apart of this social action and know nothing about it.