

**Performance**  
A piece that is presented to an audience.



# Year 8 DRAMA

## COMEDY

January - April

**Dramatic convention**  
Techniques used to communicate to the audience.



### Performance Skills

**1. Characterisation:** Using a range of performance skills to create a character that is different to yourself.



**2. Dark Comedy:** Also known as black comedy, this subgenre focuses on the incongruity of comedic elements and morbid subjects like war, death, and crime.

**3. Romantic Comedy** This genre of comedy combines themes of romantic love with humour.

**5. Levels:** Using different heights to communicate meaning or to add visual interest.



**4. Parody:** Parodies spoof existing works through imitation and exaggeration.

**6. Farce:** Farce centres around exaggerated characters dealing with improbable situations caused by miscommunication or mistaken identity.

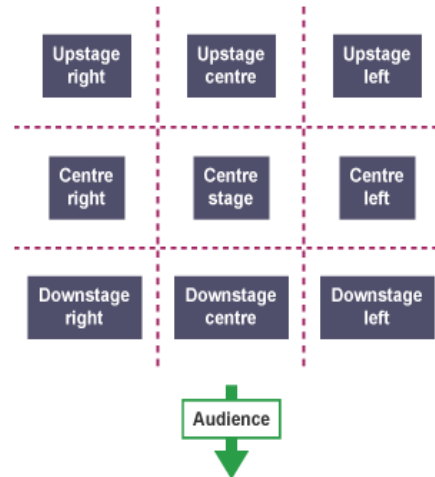
**15. Farce:** Tragicomedies combine comedic elements with serious subjects to explore different aspects of the human experience.

**7. Proxemics:** Where a character stands in relation to other characters and/or the audience.



**8. High comedy:** This highbrow form of comedy is exemplified in works like Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895). Sometimes known as comedy of manners, high comedy typically uses satirical wit in the context of upper-class societies.

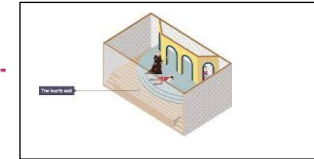
### Areas of the Stage



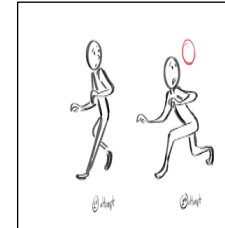
**11. Remember:** The stage is always from the **actor's** point of view, as they are the ones standing on the stage. Demonstrate good **spatial awareness** by using all areas of the stage, where appropriate.

### DRAMATIC CONVENTIONS

**9. 4<sup>th</sup> Wall:** An imaginary wall between the actors and the audience.



**10. Exaggeration:** Making your voice and physicality as 'big' as you can. Being over the top (OTT) creating comedy.



### 12. GENRE: COMEDY

A sketch or storyline that it is intended to make the audience laugh.

**13. SLAPSTICK COMEDY:** A performance that uses fake violence to make the audience laugh.



**14. Technical SEMIOTICS:** Signs and symbols in drama (Definition)  
Props, Costume, Lights, Sound, Music, Scenery, Set, Hair, Make-up, Backdrop...