

DEVISING THEATRE

A BRECHTIAN THEATRE		
1	Epic Theatre	A non-naturalistic style of theatre designed to make the audience think. It uses a range of devices to remind them that they are watching theatre and not real life.
2	Distancing	Any technique used in the performance that reminds the audience they are watching a play. (Also called V-Effekt or verfremdungseffekt)
3	Political theatre	Drama which emphasises a political issue or issues in its theme or plot. Political issues can cover a very wide range of issues.
4	Episodic structure	Episodic scenes stand alone and are constructed in small chunks, rather than creating a lengthy and slow build of tension.
5	Costume	Costume is only required to indicate a character. It is kept minimal, for example different hats might be the only costume used.
6	Props	Minimal props are used. Often one item can be used in a variety of ways. A suitcase might become a desk, or a car door or a bomb.
7	Staging	Staging is minimal. Set items are used only to indicate place where required.
8	Placards /Projections	A placard is a sign or additional piece of written information presented onstage. What's important is that the information doesn't just comment upon the action but deepens our understanding of it.
9	Characterisation	Brecht didn't want the actors to become the character onstage, only to show them as a type of person. For this reason Brecht will often refer to his characters by archetypal names, such as 'The Soldier' or 'The Girl'
10	Stepping out of character	Pausing while you are acting and using your own voice and body language instead of pretending to be your character
11	Breaking the fourth wall	On a stage, there is an imaginary 'fourth wall' that keeps the audience as observers. Speaking directly to the audience 'breaks' this wall and reminds them that they are watching a play

B DEVISING		
1	Stimulus	Anything that gives you a starting point for your ideas. It song, a picture, a concept etc
2	Devising	A process in which the whole creative team develops a show collaboratively.
3	Research	For this project you will need to back up your ideas with thorough research
4	Dramatic Intention	What you decide you want an audience to get out of a play; for example the dramatic intentions in a comedy would be to amuse.
5	Transitions	The movements between scenes
6	'Top and Tail'	Rehearsing just the beginning and end of each scene to ensure that transitions run smoothly
7	Multi-roling	Multi-roling is when an actor plays more than one character onstage. The differences in character are marked by changing voice, movement, gesture and body language but the audience can clearly see that the same actor has taken on more than one role.

C BERTHOLT BRECHT	
	<p>Brecht wanted his theatre to spark an interest in his audiences' perception of the world. He did not want his audiences to sit passively and get lost in a show's story, but to make them think and question the world they live in. He encouraged them to be critical of society. His work was often mischievous, provocative and ironic</p>