

The Stanislavski System: A Roadmap to Naturalism

KEY VOCABULARY: THE ACTOR'S TOOLKIT



GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES

The specific setting, era, and environment that dictate a character's realistic reactions.



THE MAGIC "IF"

Using personal imagination to trigger authentic responses by asking, "How would I act?"

OBJECTIVE



OBSTACLE



SUBTEXT

OBJECTIVES, OBSTACLES, & SUBTEXT

Identifying character goals, the barriers facing them, and the hidden meanings beneath their words.

THE 7-LESSON LEARNING JOURNEY

LESSONS 1-3: THE FOUNDATIONS

Moving from basic naturalism to understanding character motivations and navigating scene obstacles.

Focus:
Foundational
Naturalistic
Techniques

LESSONS 4-5: EMOTIONAL DEPTH

Using emotion memory and "Circles of Attention" to create focus and internal monologue.

LESSONS 6-7: ASSESSMENT & SUCCESS

Synthesizing all techniques into a group performance evaluated on voice, movement, and intent.

Focus:
Mastering Subtext,
blocking scenes, and
Final Assessment
performance

END OF SCHEME SUCCESS CRITERIA



VOICE & MOVEMENT
Grounded and naturalistic.



FOCUS
Sustained Circles of Attention.



INTENT
Clear objectives and subtext.



The Crucial Truth: A Masterclass in Non-Linear Drama

THE DEVISER'S TOOLKIT (VOCABULARY & CONCEPTS)



STRUCTURAL TECHNIQUES :

SPLIT STAGE, CROSS- CUTTING, & MONTAGE.

Methods to juxtapose realities,
build tension through rapid
transitions, and condense backstory.



CHARACTER CONCEPTS :

SUBTEXT, TACTICS, & OBJECTIVES.

The internal drivers that
weaponize hidden motives and
drive character conflict forward.



BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL: DIRECT ADDRESS.

Disrupting the 'fourth wall' to treat the
audience as a secret accomplice.



PHASE 1: THE SPLIT REALITY & DRIVING TENSION (LESSONS 1-2)

Mastering the Split Stage and using
Cross-Cutting to drive high-stakes conflict.

THE 6-LESSON JOURNEY (THE FLOW CHART)



PHASE 2: FRAGMENTED MEMORIES & THE INTERIOR MIND (LESSONS 3-4)

Using Flashbacks, Montage, and Direct Address
to expose character backstories and subtext.



PHASE 3: THE FESTIVE CRUCIBLE & WINTER SHOWCASE (LESSONS 5-6)

Synthesizing all techniques into a 4-minute
non-linear performance for formal assessment.

SUCCESS CRITERIA: CHRISTMAS EVE CRUCIBLE PERFORMANCE



EXCELLING

PERFORMANCE: Flawless blend of naturalism and styloma.
TECHNICAL: Uses elite physical timing and subtext to grip
the audience.

SECURE

PERFORMANCE: Heightens tension via holiday themes.
TECHNICAL: Sharp transitions between dialogue,
montage, and direct address.



DEVELOPING

PERFORMANCE: Sustains a clear character role.
TECHNICAL: Uses basic split stages, though pacing may stall.

BRECHT & EPIC THEATRE

YEAR 9 SCHEME OF WORK — TOPIC OVERVIEW & LESSON PROGRESSION

DRAMA CURRICULUM

KEY CONCEPTS & BIG IDEAS



Political & Social Purpose

Epic Theatre turns viewers into conscious observers. Theatre should not merely entertain—it must educate and provoke political thought.

Emotional Detachment (Anti-Melodrama)

Brecht rejected classical realism where audiences get swept up in empathy. By staying emotionally detached, viewers remain critical and objective.

Breaking the Fourth Wall

Actors directly acknowledge the audience, dismantling the illusion of reality to remind everyone that they are watching a constructed performance.

KEY VOCABULARY & TECHNIQUES



Verfremdungseffekt

The 'Alienation Effect' — techniques used to prevent audience empathy and encourage critical analysis.

Gestus

A clear physical gesture, posture, or attitude that explicitly reveals social status or political motivation.

Third-Person Narration

Actors narrate their actions in 3rd person as they perform, maintaining objective distance.

Placards & Spoken Titles

Signs or spoken announcements revealing scene facts in advance to eliminate suspense.

Multi-Roleplaying

Actors visibly switch roles on stage using voice/posture shifts or simple costume pieces.

LESSON PROGRESSION FLOWCHART

LESSON 1 Intro to Brecht & Alienation

School argument scene; breaking 4th wall with direct audience address.

LESSON 2 Third-Person Narration

Fairy tale performance; actors speak their own actions in 3rd person.

LESSON 3 Gestus (Social Gesture)

Unfair workplace scenario; exaggerated gestures showing social class.

LESSON 4 Placards & Spoken Titles

Historical/current event; signs and spoken titles providing commentary.

LESSON 5 Multi-Rolework & Assembly

3-min modern social issue piece; visible on-stage character switching.

LESSON 6 Assessment Performance

Final performance featuring at least 3 distinct Brechtian techniques.

END OF SCHEME ASSESSMENT SUCCESS CRITERIA

DEVELOPING

- Tells a clear story with a basic central theme.
- Uses at least ONE Brechtian technique during performance.
- Acting occasionally slips back into realistic melodrama.
- Transitions between roles or sub-scenes are slightly hesitant.

SECURE

- Clearly focuses on a political or social message rather than just plot.
- Executes at least THREE Brechtian techniques clearly & confidently.
- Intentionally breaks the fourth wall, keeping audience thinking.
- Clean vocal/physical shifts when executing character changes.

EXCELLING

- Highly stylized, thought-provoking piece completely avoiding melodrama.
- Weaves multiple Brechtian techniques seamlessly to challenge perspectives.
- Sharp physical and vocal control with precise, exaggerated Gestus.
- Flawless, visible multi-role transitions executed in plain view on stage.

Monsters Drama Scheme: A 7-Lesson Roadmap to Performance

Explores the "Monsters" narrative through a blend of Brechtian distancing techniques and intense naturalism. Students progress from being "witnesses" of societal failure to performing a "Witness Portfolio" that examines guilt, surveillance, and systemic neglect.

Core Concepts & Vocabulary



Brechtian Alienation (Verfremdungseffekt)

Techniques designed to break the "fourth wall," transforming the audience into active societal witnesses.



Ensemble Narrative

Using physical distance and unspoken tension to communicate power dynamics in interrogation scenes.



The Panopticon & Surveillance

Exploring the "blind eyes" of CCTV as a motif for collective responsibility.

The 7-Lesson Learning Journey



Phase 1: Establishing the Witness (Lessons 1-2)

Introducing choral addresses and stylized physical theatre to represent mechanical CCTV surveillance.

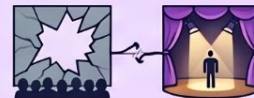
Phase 2: The Interrogation (Lessons 3-4)

Shifting to naturalism to explore subtext, guilt, and the deflection of truth.

Phase 3: Perspective & Climax (Lessons 5-7)

Analyzing maternal trauma and evidence before the final "Witness Portfolio" performance assessment.

Success Criteria Matrix



EXCELLING

Seamlessly shifts between detached Brechtian storytelling and raw, harrowing naturalism.

From Plot to Provocation



SECURING

Strong subtext, deliberate use of contrasting styles, and clean transitions.



DEVELOPING

Clear plot communication, memorized lines, and distinct character intent.