

Performing Arts (Drama) Year 10 'Teechers'

Week 1
Key Elements
Epic Theatre
Multi rolling throughout performance
Creating an effective Monologue
Responding to a Script
The Rehearsal Process
Using Direct address and breaking the fourth wall

Week 3: Creative Intention

- The purpose of the piece is primarily to entertain through the use of comedy features.
- However, Teechers also challenges the viewpoint of the government and provokes the audience to challenge their views on education.
- Teechers is a subtle comment on the state versus private education divide but its main focus is on the intense difficulties facing teachers and the exuberance of being a teenager. All these issues are handled in a light-hearted fashion with great hilarity and comedic wit.

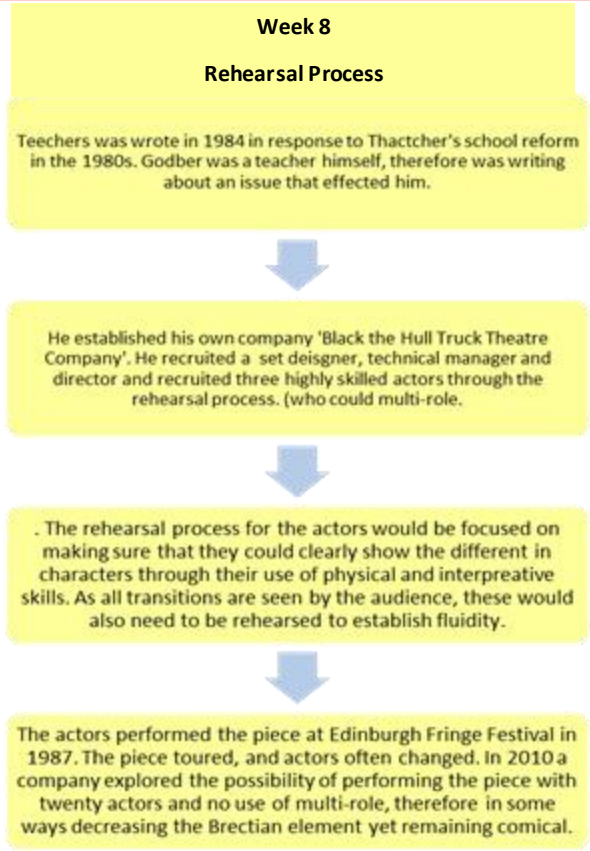
Week 4&5: Godber

John Godber was a drama teacher who became head of drama at the school he went to as a child. He became unhappy with the educational system and stopped teaching after 6 years. At this time there was many educational reforms occurring as a result of Margaret Thatcher's reign, for example the national curriculum was introduced. He aims to represent the working class in his work, and in 'Teechers' he raises awareness of his disgust at the private/state school divide, and discusses how every student has the right to high quality education, despite their social class or background. He uses his own real life experiences to develop situations in his plays, for example he uses his experiences as a teacher to inform 'Teechers'. Unlike many famous practitioners he has no acting background or formal training, he does however execute a sense of resilience (as his plays were often highly controversial, therefore received criticism), extremely creative and had a well thought out, and proactive artistic vision. He has many roles in the creation of 'Teechers', including writing, producing the original adaptation and recruiting the original actors.

Week 2
Core Dramatic Skills
Facial Expression
Body Language
Tone of Voice
Gestures
Eye Contact
Posture
Projection
Positioning
Movement

Week 6&7: John Godber

The piece is a comedy which draws upon Brecht's non naturalistic style. For example we can see how he breaks the fourth wall in Teechers with the actors addressing the audience. Also his political voice apparent within the play could be said to relate to Brechtian techniques- forum for political ideas to get the audience to think about a situation. However, the play also demonstrates elements of Dario Fo. A theatre practitioner who uses theatre to criticise crime or political corruption. In Teechers this could relate to the class divide and Godbers' lack of belief in the British Educational system, hence the references to differences between the upper class school and the debate between Mr Nixon and Mr Basford. Also, he draws influence from Stephen Berkoff type-mime. Stephen Berkoff is an actor/director who concentrates on physical theatre. His work was mainly to do with heightened body language, gestures and facial expressions which the three main characters in Teechers do when they are impersonating teachers and other school characters. Primarily the genre if non naturalistic, this is evident further through the episodic structure, use of multi-role and simplistic set.



Characters	Physical skills needed	Interpretative skills needed
Salty – when playing Salty.	Projection – at the start of the play when directly addressing the audience.	Interaction with and response to other performers – especially at the start of the play when interacting with Gail and Hobby.
Salty – when playing 'Oggy'.	Characterisation – to demonstrate the transition, exaggerating his 'laddish' qualities.	Energy and commitment – demonstrating the energy of the role and committed to this overexaggerated new persona.
Salty – when playing Mr Nixon	Clarity and articulation – to demonstrate his new character as a much more 'clearly spoken' teacher.	Facial expression – demonstrating his vulnerability when teaching classes for the first time.

Week 9	
Word	Meaning
Multi Role	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.
Direct Address	Direct address: actors spoke directly to the audience, thus breaking the fourth wall. They did this in order to provide analysis of situations on stage, to provoke argument and reflection, and additionally to prevent the audience from getting emotionally involved.
Epic Theatre	Epic theatre, German episches Theater, form of didactic drama presenting a series of loosely connected scenes that avoid illusion and often interrupt the story line to address the audience directly with analysis, argument, or documentation.
Local Authority	The Local Council
Morale	the confidence, enthusiasm, and discipline of a person or group at a particular time.

Week 10

Physical and Aural Setting

Lights – Basic lighting to maintain Godbers 'minimum' set. This allows the audience to focus on the acting.

Sound – Godber also specified the use of contemporary chart music to keep the play current. In 2010 a revival of the play was again performed at Hull Truck Theatre, before touring at other venues. The cast included Zoe Lister as Gail, Peter McMillan as Salty and Claire Eden as Hobby. The play was updated with modern references and modern music

Set – Godber believed in minimum set, the only props used were three red chairs. He believed this allowed the audience to concentrate on the message being delivered.

Costume - School uniformed used to symbolize the characters teenage years.