

## Where is Greece?



The theatre of Ancient Greece consisted of religious festivals honouring the god Dionysus.

Three dramatic genres emerged:

**Tragedy:** a play with an unhappy/tragic ending.

**Comedy:** a light-hearted play to make people laugh.

**Satyr:** short plays that made fun of the characters in tragedies.

### The five key elements of a plot line:

**Exposition** - where you introduce your characters, setting and introduce the conflict.

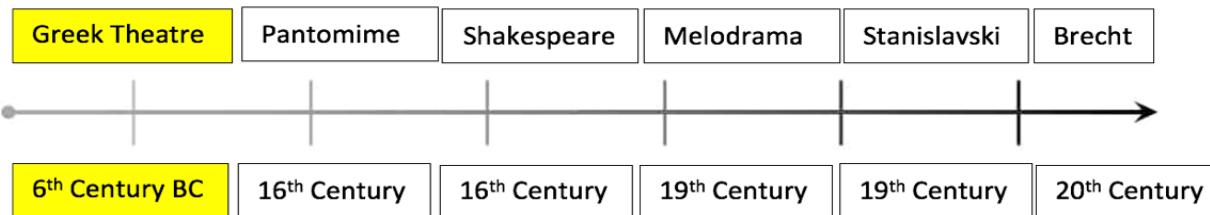
**Rising Action** - An incident that sets your story into action with multiple moments of conflict that escalate and create tension as the story moves towards the climax.

**Climax** - is the peak of tension, plot, and character in your story.

**Falling Action** - this is the time the story moves towards its conclusion and conflicts become resolved.

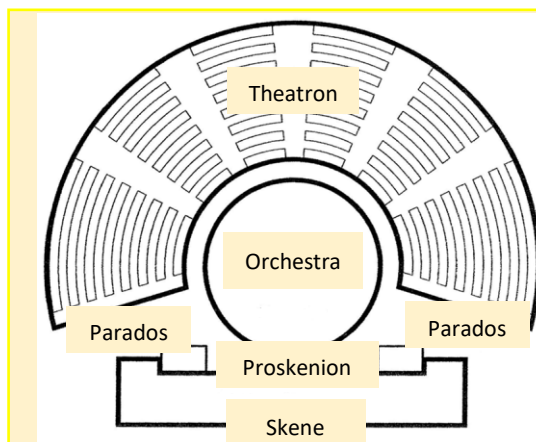
**Denouement** - this is the resolution where your story concludes, tragically or happily.

## Greek Theatre



Modern theatre began with Greek theatre in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century MBC. Even the terms that we now use stemmed from the Ancient Greeks such as:

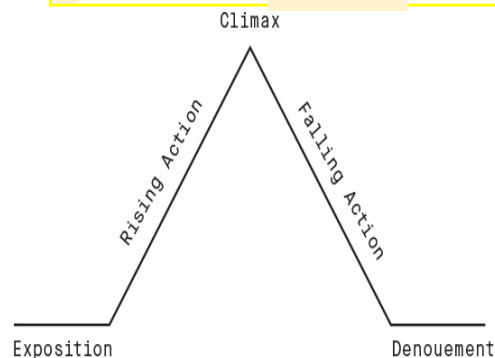
- The word theatre comes from **theatron** meaning "seeing place"
- The word drama comes from **dran** meaning "to do"



### Amphitheatre

Scenery was painted onto a canvas that was hung on the wooden stage building, or skene. The action took place in the circular orchestra, or on a platform in front of the skene called the proskenion.

They would make their entrances and exits on the paths at the side of the theatron called parodos. The audience would then sit in the Theatron area. *There were no women actors; men played women's roles and wore masks to do this.*



### The Purpose of a Greek Chorus

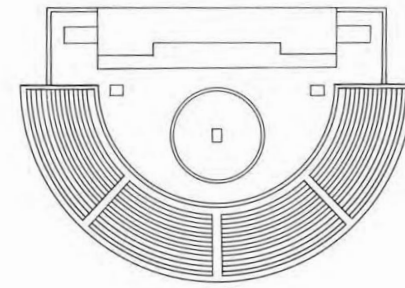
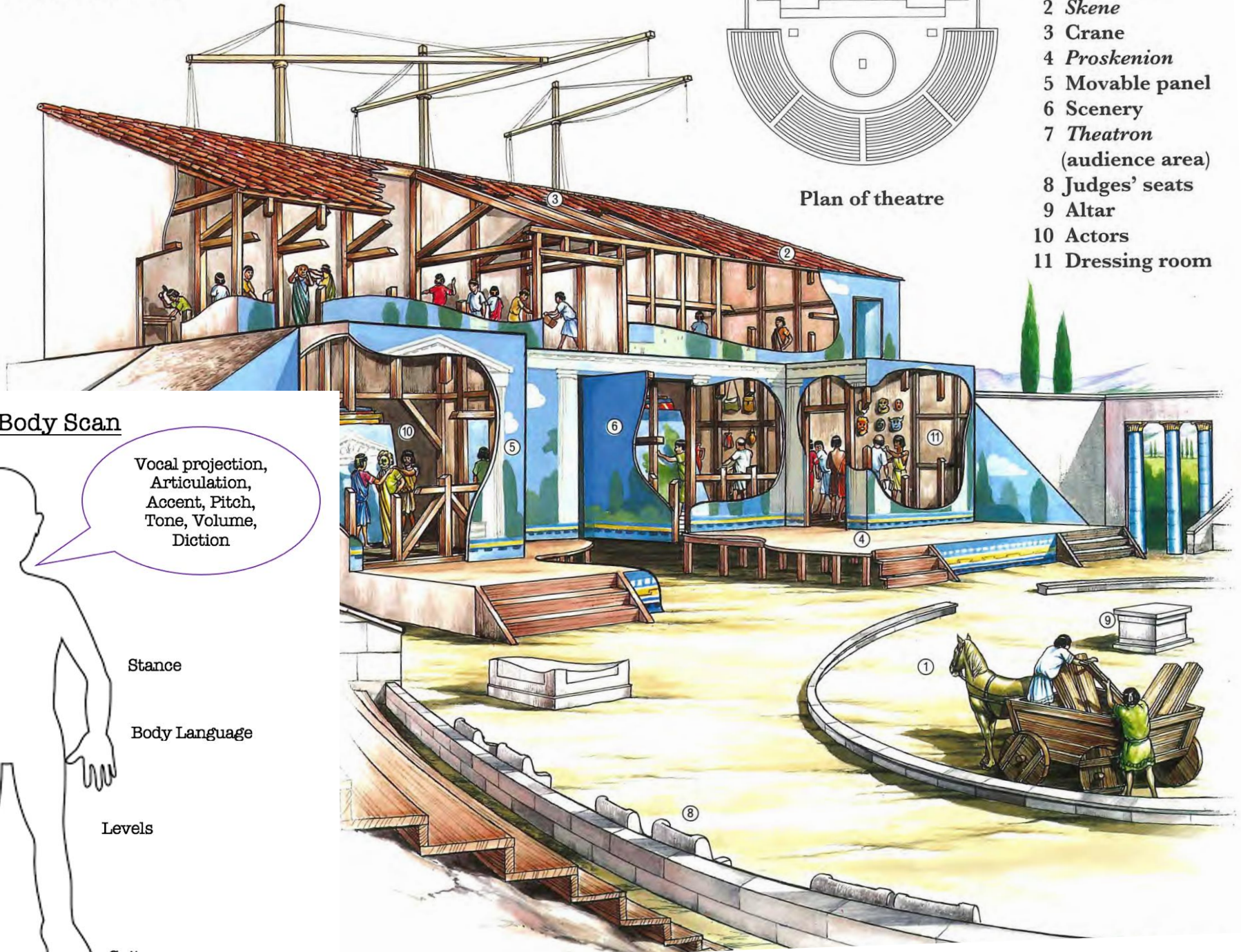
- To offer a variety of background information to help the audience follow the performance.
- To comment on themes and show how the audience might react to the drama.
- To express to the audience what the main characters could not say, such as their hidden fears or secrets.
- To provide other characters with the insight they needed.

The Protagonist - 1st actor, the main character.

The Deuteragonist - 2nd actor, the protagonist's partner or enemy

The Tritagonist - 3rd actor, the messenger or servant.

# A GREEK THEATRE



Plan of theatre

- 1 *Orchestra*
- 2 *Skene*
- 3 Crane
- 4 *Proskenion*
- 5 Movable panel
- 6 Scenery
- 7 *Theatron*  
(audience area)
- 8 Judges' seats
- 9 Altar
- 10 Actors
- 11 Dressing room

## The Actor's Body Scan

Sustained & withdrawn eye contact

Facial Expressions

Vocal projection, Articulation, Accent, Pitch, Tone, Volume, Diction

Posture

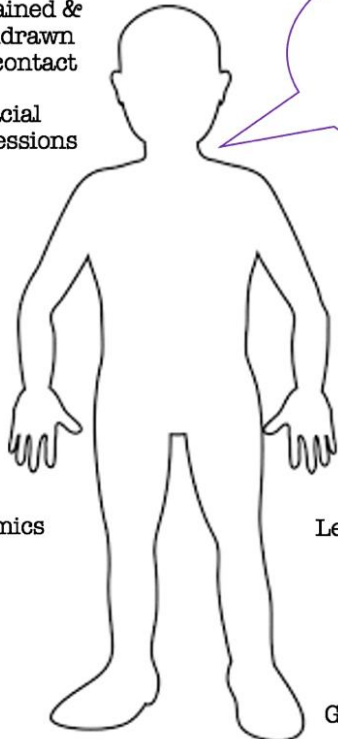
Stance

Body Language

Proxemics

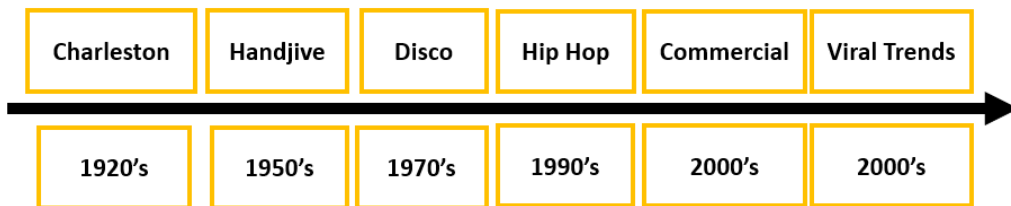
Levels

Gait





# Year 7 - Dancing Through the Decades



**What has influenced dance over the decades?**  
 A decade is a period of ten years. Dance has been influenced by many things such as music, art and culture. Over time, dance has been a way to socialise, to have fun, to distract from harsh realities of life events, to celebrate, to express emotions and to show off skills and techniques. Throughout the decades we have seen the change from vaudevilles and dance halls to the introduction of television, music videos and social media which have created new dance trends and styles.

<b>Physical and Performance Skills</b>	
<b>Extension</b>	The lengthening of body parts outwards. E.g. Straight arms and pointed toes
<b>Flexibility</b>	The range of movement possible in the joints/muscles
<b>Coordination</b>	The ability to use different parts of the body together smoothly and efficiently.
<b>Posture</b>	The way the body is held
<b>Stamina</b>	Ability to maintain physical and mental energy over periods of time.
<b>Timing</b>	Performing the correct movement at the correct time. This should be in time with your group
<b>Musicality</b>	How in time you are with the music
<b>Facial Expressions</b>	Animating the face to engage with your audience/communicate the theme of your performance

<b>Choreographic Devices</b>	
<b>Canon</b>	Performing the same movement one after another.
<b>Unison</b>	Performing the same movement at the same time
<b>Formation</b>	The position you stand in to perform.
<b>Levels</b>	The height at which you perform your movement
<b>Repetition</b>	Repeating the same movement or phrase more than once

**1920's Charleston:**  
 The Charleston is a dance that was developed from an African dance style called the Juba which made its way over to America by enslaved Africans. The dance was first seen to be performed on the streets in America and in nightclubs, but the first official onstage viewing was seen on an all-black Broadway musical called 'Runnin Wild'.

***Key Features of Charleston:***  
 Footwork, Partner Work, Fast Pace Movements, animated hand movements, pulse/bouncing movements.

**1950's Handjive:**  
 The handjive was originally associated with early Rock n' roll and first came to popularity in the late 1950's. It is identified as an individual style under the swing dance umbrella. The handjive involved intricate patterns of hand claps on various parts of the body.

***Key Features of Handjive:***  
 Hand movements that create body percussion, Fast Paced, Repetitive, 'The Hitch-hiker'.

**1970's Disco Trends**  
 Disco dance was heavily influenced by jazz, samba, cha cha and tango. Disco reached its popularity peak with the release of 'Saturday Night Fever'. Disco dancing was a style that emerged from nightclubs in Philadelphia and New York City and focussed on the musicality of the fast beats in funk music.

***Key features of Disco:***  
 Large hip movements, pivot turns, pointing fingers, side steps.

**1990's Hip Hop**  
 Hip hop dance falls under the umbrella term for Street Dance and begun to develop during the 1970's, inspired by the movements of African dancing. Hip Hop was a style for individuals without any professional dance training but with a natural instinct for movement. Hip hop moves were inspired by complex rhythms and down to earth movement style.

***Key features of Hip Hop:***  
 Complex Footwork, High Energy, Popping, Locking and Breaking

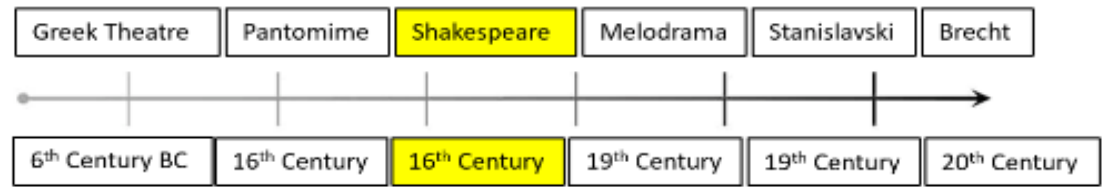
**2000's Music Videos and Commercial Dance**  
 Commercial is a fusion of multiple dance styles such as hip hop and jazz, the styles used in performances depend on the purpose of the dance but it usually appeals to a wide audience. Commercial dance is used for entertainment or for promoting music, brands and products.

# Year 7 - Elizabethan Theatre

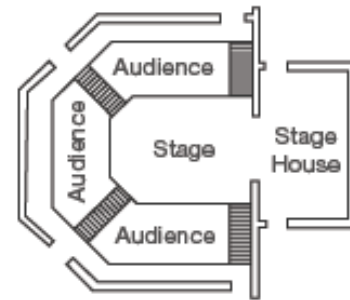
Elizabethan theatre took place during the late **16<sup>th</sup> century**. The **themes** of plays changed during Elizabeth's reign and English playwrights began to write **comedies and tragedies**. Elizabethan theatre was notoriously raucous. Most people would stand throughout the play and talk back to the actors as if they were real people. Hints of this is seen in Shakespeare's plays.

Shakespeare was the **SOAP OPERA** of his day.

Like today's soap operas, Shakespeare's plays **featured characters and language that were, in their time, everyday, relatable and topical**. He poked fun at important figures, referenced current affairs and used the latest words and slang of the day. The "common people" of London would pay one penny to see his plays, and they were the best entertainment around – they were as popular as TV soaps like Eastenders and Coronation Street today. They also dealt with very similar storylines, such as murder, death, family feuds, love stories...



Thrust



## Thrust Staging and The Globe Theatre

A **thrust** stage sticks out into the audience, who sit on three sides. There is a back wall that can be used for hanging **backdrops** and large scenery. **Blocking** is easier than an amphitheatre due to not having the orchestra space where the actors may have their backs to the audience.

### Universal Themes:

Murder	Revenge	Love	Jealousy	Hatred	Morality
Comedy	Tragedy	Good vs Evil	Conflict	Power	

**A play within a play** was a popular dramatic convention used during Elizabethan Theatre, particularly the playwright Shakespeare, the main purpose for using this was to comment on the events of the main narrative. In Hamlet it is used for the main character 'Hamlet' to judge another characters guilt in order for him to get the answers that he requires to get revenge.

### Presentational Acting:

Elizabethan acting style very often used this method where the actors would acknowledge the audience through gestures, eye contact and language.

### Breaking the fourth wall:

The fourth wall is an imaginary wall that separates the actors on stage and the audience. The fourth wall is broken when an actor directly speaks to the audience, this is done to create a more intimate relationship.

### What is a Soundscape?

A soundscape is a series of sounds created by a group of people that can create an atmosphere or to set the scene. The sounds can use body percussion, words, repetition, and echoes.

### What is a Soliloquy?

A soliloquy is a speech that an actor will perform alone on stage. The speech will allow for the audience to understand the character's most inner thoughts and feelings.

### What is an aside?

An aside is where a character will break away from the action taking place on stage and deliver dialogue either talking to themselves or the audience which reveals their true intentions.

## The Actor's Body Scan

Sustained &  
withdrawn  
eye contact

Facial  
Expressions

Posture

Proxemics

Vocal projection,  
Articulation,  
Accent, Pitch,  
Tone, Volume,  
Diction

Stance

Body Language

Levels

Gait

## The Globe Theatre – Thrust Stage

