

# Year 9 Drama -Knowledge Organiser - Term 2 - The Play that goes wrong



**The Plot**  
 "The Play That Goes Wrong" is a comedy play written by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields. It follows the fictional Drama Society as they attempt to stage a murder mystery play, but everything goes hilariously wrong. The play has a variety of comedic characters, who are constantly in a series of mishaps, physical comedy, and farcical/slapstick situations.

- Comedy and Farce:**
- The use of physical comedy, slapstick, and exaggerated situations.
  - Timing and miscommunication leading to comedic effects.
  - The humour derived from things going hilariously wrong.

<b>Comedy</b>	Comedy is a humorous story , usually with a happy ending
<b>Slapstick/Farce</b>	Slapstick is a simple type of comedy in which the actors behave in a rough and foolish way. farce, a comic dramatic piece that uses highly improbable situations, stereotyped characters, extravagant exaggeration, and violent horseplay.
<b>Improvisation</b>	Improvisation, in theatre, the playing of dramatic scenes without written dialogue and with minimal or no predetermined dramatic activity.
<b>Over Exaggerated</b>	When an actor performs over the top.
<b>Characterisation</b>	The act of changing voice, body language, movement, gesture etc. when in role is called characterisation.



### Themes Explored:

#### **Comedy and Farce:**

- The use of physical comedy, slapstick, and exaggerated situations.
- Timing and miscommunication leading to comedic effects.
- The humour derived from things going hilariously wrong.

#### **Theatricality and Performance:**

- The challenges of putting on a play and the complexities of staging.
- The contrast between the actors' intentions and their actual performances.
- The concept of "breaking the fourth wall" as the actors acknowledge the audience.

#### **Teamwork and Collaboration:**

- The importance of working together and relying on each other in a theatrical production.
- Overcoming obstacles and finding solutions as a team.
- Building trust and camaraderie among the cast and crew.



#### Playwrights:

Henry Lewis: Co-writer of "The Play That Goes Wrong."

Jonathan Sayer: Co-writer of "The Play That Goes Wrong."

Henry Shields: Co-writer of "The Play That Goes Wrong."

### **Key Drama Vocabulary**

- Expressive facial expressions
- Physical comedy
- Timing and pacing
- Comic delivery
- Improvisation
- Comic timing
- Characterization
- Ensemble comedy
- Slapstick comedy
- Comedy writing
- Audience engagement
- Comic energy

These skills help to unleash your creativity, discover your sense of humour, and bring joy to your performances.

★ Characterisation- Physical Skills ★	
<b>Facial expression</b>	The way an actor uses their face to convey their character
<b>Body language</b>	The way an actor uses their body to convey their character
<b>Posture</b>	The way an actor sits or stands
<b>Hand gestures</b>	An action that an actor does with their hands e.g. thumbs up or beckoning
<b>Gait</b>	The way an actor walks that conveys meaning
<b>Proxemics</b>	Positioning characters close or far apart to show their on stage relationships.

★ Characterisation- Vocal Skills ★	
<b>Accent</b>	The pronunciation of words, depending on where the character is from.
<b>Tone</b>	The emotion or mood conveyed in a voice e.g. mischievous, worried.
<b>Pitch</b>	How high or low a voice sounds
<b>Volume</b>	How loudly or quietly an actor speaks.
<b>Pace</b>	How fast or slow an actor speaks.
<b>Stutter</b>	Saying a word with difficulty.
<b>Pause</b>	When an actor stops and waits before speaking.