Drama

Stock characters in Melodrama

Stock characters in Melodrama

Overview

Melodrama characters were not meant to be particularly life-like, instead they were intended to have identifiable types of personalities – these types were referred to as 'stock characters' and are known as

- **Heroes** - handsome, strong, brave, honest and reliable. Status - middle class or higher
- **Heroines** - beautiful, courageous, innocent and vulnerable. Status - middle class or higher
- **Villains** - cunning, without morals, dishonest, cruel and evil. Status - middle class or higher
- **Villain's accomplice** - usually provides comic relief because he is a bumbling sidekick. Status - lower class
- **Faithful servant** - also provides comic relief, and also does the dirty work. He usually discovers evidence against the villain. Status - lower class
- **Maidservant** – a female character who is lively and who flirts with the faithful servant. Status - lower class.

Approaching characters in melodrama

Acting in melodrama is very different to other theatrical styles and forms, a good melodrama requires the following:

- Exaggeration. This acting style requires strong facial expressions, large movements and gestures, and clear and well-projected delivery of lines. Melodrama actors concentrated more on showing emotions rather than feeling them. The actor also overemphasised words or syllables they thought essential to their character.
- Audience interaction. Actors encourage audience interaction by improvising lines and telling topical jokes and would help the audience to boo or hiss at the villain.
- Asides. An aside is where any character speaks directly to the audience to reveal a thought or plan that is kept secret from the rest of the other characters. The actor's delivery of the aside should instil a feeling of secrecy and draw the audiences focus away from the other action and onto their 'secret'.

Learning tasks

Social media profile

1. Complete the social media profile on the following page for ONE stock character discussed above or go to Classtools.com and create a Fakebook profile.

2. Be prepared to be hot-seated as your character by the class.

Username: 5 minutes ago

Wall	Info	Photos	+

What's on your mind?

Attach: Share

Status one:

_____

_____

Status two:

_____

_____

Status three:

_____

_____

Glue profile picture here.

View photos of me (34)

Information

Relationship Status:
_____

Current City:
_____

Birthday:
_____

Likes:
_____
_____
_____
_____

Dislikes:
_____
_____
_____
_____

Friends

Friend name:
_____

Friend name:
_____