



**Abstract** physical theatre is representational and **stylised** as opposed to naturalistic. Set and props are usually minimal.



'**Canon**' - when a group of performers carry out the same **action, movement or gesture one after the other** (an example is a Mexican Wave).

#### Conventions of Abstract Theatre

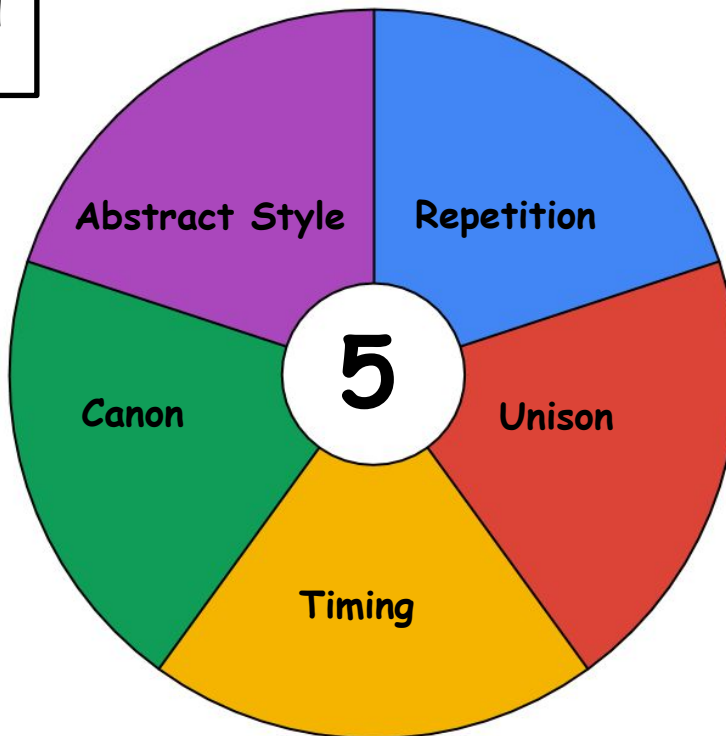
Minimal props are used, they are merely representative.

Lighting and set is suggestive rather than realistic.

The story usually takes place in an unspecific place and time.

Physical theatre is non-naturalistic and is a 'STYLISED' mode of theatre.

The 5 Key skills/words for this unit.



**Repetition** is when an **action, movement or gesture** is carried out **more than once**. This technique can be used to highlight a moment of importance.

**Unison** in theatre happens when multiple performers carry out the exact same **action, movement or gesture at the same time**.

**Timing** is a very important part of physical theatre when working as an **ensemble**. If timing is not accurate, you will lose the effectiveness of any moments of **canon** and **unison**.

Root word: Unison



# Physical Theatre

Physical theatre is a genre of performing arts in which the emphasis is on the movement rather than words or dialogue. The story is told physically rather than verbally. It is often **ABSTRACT** in style as opposed to Naturalistic. The audience are required to use their imaginations as they are not provided with naturalistic props, set or a linear structure as they would be in a naturalistic performance.

## Key Words

**Abstract** - Representative rather than realistic.

**Naturalistic** - Gives the illusion of real life on stage.

**Linear Structure** - Scenes run in a chronological order (naturalistic style).

**Stylised** - Not done in a naturalistic way in order to create an artistic effect.

**Contemporary** - Occurring in the present (practitioners who are currently making theatre).

## ASSESSMENT

For your end of unit assessment, you will be required to complete two tasks:

1. An end of unit written test.
2. A performance assessment of your final performance.

**Some Physical Theatre Practitioners:**  
**Frantic Assembly** - A leading contemporary theatre practitioner co-founded by **Scott Graham**. With an ethos of 'collaboration, empowerment and the desire to improve' Frantic Assembly are known for their 'building block' method of creating material and 'chair duets'.

[www.franticassembly.co.uk](http://www.franticassembly.co.uk)

**Gecko** - Led by Artistic Director '**Amit Lahav**' Gecko have an organic approach to creating theatre. The Gecko process is to start with a **STIMULUS**, then research, create, edit and perform. Gecko are known to spend large amounts of time getting their work just right. [www.geckotheatre.com](http://www.geckotheatre.com)