

Physical theatre shows that you don't have to use words to express ideas. It uses techniques such as movement, mime, gesture and dance and can be used to explore complex social and cultural issues.

At its simplest, you could define Physical theatre as a form of theatre that puts emphasis on movement rather than dialogue. But remember there are a huge number of variations as the genre covers a broad range of work. But essentially Physical theatre is anything that puts the human body at the centre of the storytelling process. As a result, it's often abstract in style, using movement in a stylised and representational way. With the expression of ideas choreographed through movement, such performers use very little or no dialogue at all.

**BBC BITESIZE**

**Read the text to the left and answer the questions below. Tick the statement that is true.**

Physical theatre likes to highlight the dialogue rather than the movement.

It is naturalistic in style.

Physical theatre prioritises movement and dance over dialogue.

### Physical Theatre Skills

Look at the table below of the skills used in physical theatre. Highlight with coloured font or draw an arrow to the key skills and definition.

<b>Mime</b>
<b>Not moving</b>
<b>Proximity</b>
<b>Harshness and tenderness</b>
<b>Motif</b>

How close or far you are from your co-performers can be a source of very powerful impact.

This usually means stylised movement but can be comparatively realistic.

This is repeated use of a movement pattern which has meaning and reminds us of the central theme of the work

If the stage is full of characters moving, immobility can have a powerful effect

Used here as umbrella terms to focus on the fact that in physical work the gestures and bigger movements come together to express the emotions of the piece

### Frantic Assembly

Physical theatre companies often use minimal set and props and scenery so that the audience can concentrate on the movement. **Frantic Assembly** is a theatre company that is a well-known physical theatre company. The play (based on the book) called *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Watch the following clips to see how they use physical theatre to give the audience an insight into his thoughts.

Watch this clip about their production as an introduction: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-gcse-the-curious-incident-of-the-dog-in-night-time-what-is-physical-theatre/zfgmhbk>

Take a look at this clip and answer the question below: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-gcse-the-curious-incident-of-the-dog-in-night-time-ensemble-acting/zngmhbk>

**Q: What is meant by the term ensemble?**

Complete the test on this link and jot down your score below: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztfk6sg/test>

**My score was** /10