

Much Ado About Nothing – Portfolio

RESPONSE

- Start by discussing your initial response to the project and the play, be honest but not too honest- you are talking to the examiner!
- Give a very brief overview of the task for the RSC, the main plot elements and the chosen style of performance- Storybook theatre- and what this means.
- You must include **4** Explorative Strategies in some detail, go through how you used them and how well as strategies in exploring Much Ado they were useful, what did you use on stage and how effective was it?

Marking the Moment- used regularly, to highlight Hero/Claudio falling in love, Beatrice and Benedick's hate and love for example. Consider a key moment and how the group marked it- was it effective, how could it have been improved?

Still Images- Used to set location for the audience, images of bedrooms, gardens, tombs, churches and so on. Analyse success and weaker areas.

Role-play- We improvised contemporary versions of scenes, as well as Don John's and Don Pedro's childhood's, select one example to discuss.

Narration- The most important in the context of our style of performance, everyone played characters, narrators and furniture/props, how did you signal to the audience which you were playing, what was the function of the narrator?

(Hot seating- to give you more understanding of the characters and to prepare for performance, group asked questions to help you understand your role. Also in the keys game, you demanded answers in role.)

DEVELOPMENT

- Refer to the drama medium, use of costume, voice, spoken language, space/levels and so on to relate your development work to the piece, how could it be included?
- Refer also to the elements of drama. What form we told the story in. The pace/tempo, when did it change why, how will your work fit into the pace? What conventions did we use from popular films, culture and theatre? How can you incorporate these? Will you use symbols?

In-role writing you could write in-role something inferred in the text, such as Beatrice or Benedick's love notes but with a contemporary or modern twist to fit into our piece. You could write an epitaph for Hero, a letter to Don John, the statements from Dogberry 'I am an ass!'

Script with stage directions of the scene you worked on in the mock exam or a different scene.

Introduce and conclude your work by putting it in the context of our group piece.

EVALUATION

- You should evaluate your contribution to the process of creating the piece, what did you bring to the performance? BE SPECIFIC.
- Evaluate the RSC production, whose performance did you admire, why, what did they bring to the character? And/or evaluate the other schools. BE SPECIFIC.
- Evaluate the groups' work and highlight individuals whose work you admired and sections of work to be improved. BE SPECIFIC.
- Social context- piece to be performed to a target audience of year 10 from Coventry, what affect did this have on your work?
- Historical context- this is Shakespeare, why do we still study Shakespeare, why is he still considered relevant?
- Cultural context- we modernised the piece and gave it a contemporary twist, was this effective?

Remember each section can be a maximum of 4 sides long, try to write as much as possible but avoid waffle!