

## KEY FACTS - MELODRAMA

1	Originated	18 <sup>th</sup> Century
2	Characters	-Stock Characters Similar in each production. Identifiable by their use of physicality and dialogue.
3	Acting style	Exaggerated Actors had to perform using loud voices and exaggerated movement – Lack of lighting and microphones as electricity was not widely used.
4	Plot and Story lines	– Stock Scenes Similar plots and story lines in each performance, making them familiar and easier for audiences to follow.
5	Name of acting style	Blend of two words Melody (music) and Drama (acting) to describe main features of Melodrama

## STOCK CHARACTERS MELODRAMA

1	<b>Hero</b>	Strong, Handsome, Brave, Honest, Reliable, Falls in love with the Heroine
2	<b>Heroine</b>	Beautiful, Innocent, Vulnerable, Needs rescuing, Falls in love with the Hero
3	<b>Aged Parent</b>	Old, Parent of hero or heroine, Poor
4	<b>Villain</b>	Evil, Cunning, motivated by money, Often tries to marry the Heroine
5	<b>Comedy Servant</b>	Loyal, Stupid, Easily confused
6	<b>Mysterious Stranger</b>	Changes the course of the story with a big announcement,

## STOCK CHARACTERS PANTOMIME

1	<b>Principal Boy</b> - Aladdin Dick Whittington Jack (Jack and the Beanstalk) Prince Charming (Cinderella / Snow White)	Strong, Handsome, Brave, Honest, Reliable. Traditionally played by a woman,
2	<b>Principal Girl</b> - Cinderella Snow White Princess Peach (Jack and the Beanstalk) Princess (Aladdin)	Beautiful and innocent
3	<b>Dame</b> - Ugly Step Sisters (Tracey and Stacey) Wishee Washee (Aladdin)	Female character traditionally played by a Man
4	<b>Villain</b> - Evil Step Mother (Cinderella / Snow White) King Rat (Dick Whittington)	Evil, Cunning, Jealous of principle boy or girl
5	<b>Comedy Characters</b> - Buttons (Cinderella)	Friend to principle boy or girl
6	<b>Magical Character / Animal</b> - Puss in Boot (Dick Whittington) Fairy Godmother (Cinderella) Genie of the Lamp (Aladdin)	Grants wishes, appears with a puff of smoke / harp chord sound effect

## PANTOMIME CONVENTIONS

1	Entrance and Exits	Evil characters Stage Left/ Good characters Stage Right
2	Gender Swaps	Females playing male roles / Males playing female roles
3	Audience Interaction	Speaking Directly to the audience and inviting a response – breaks the fourth wall.
4	Panto Catch Phrases	“Oh no she isn’t! Oh yes she is”. He’s behind you! Hello Boys and girls
5	Musical numbers	Including song and dance within the story telling
6	Comedy	Inuendo (jokes with two meanings, one is often rude) and slapstick
7	Slapstick	Trips and falls, silly sound effects, banging heads together, poke in the eye, slipping over a banana skin
8	Exaggeration	Making all performance skills (vocal and physical) much bigger / louder than

## KEY VOCAB

1	<b>Exaggeration</b>	Making physical movements larger than normal.
2	<b>Gesture</b>	Use of hand and arm movements to reinforce spoken word
3	<b>Blocking</b>	Deciding where you move to and stand on stage.