


Year 9 Unit 3: Practitioner- Steven Berkoff

Key Words Relating to Berkoff		KEY TECHNIQUES IN TOTAL THEATRE		Methods & Techniques																								
Total Theatre	<p>Every aspect of theatre must have purpose: every movement, that is choreographed, each line, lighting effect, mood or message; each sound effect to each prop that has a use.</p> <p>Extreme moods to give the audience an overwhelming experience and to shock, amuse, scare, or amaze them.</p> <p>Minimalist, with bare stages and little language Focus remains on the physical movement.</p>			<p>* Berkoff tells stories in a poetic and heightened way, both vocally and physically using minimal set and a non-naturalistic style with lighting and music. Characters use a mix of poetic language, sometimes Shakespearean, often vulgar and muscular, almost physical.</p> <p>* Berkoff's early work is based on classical Greek texts and contemporary modern day verse in an ensemble environment.</p> <p>* Berkoff often uses the chorus in a stylised sequence of movement, usually heightened both vocally and physically. They reflect the mood of the story and express what the main characters cannot say.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kabuki concept of jo-ha-kyo. This Japanese concept governs actions of actors, structures of plays and scenes. Jo is a slow and auspicious beginning (the way Berkoff often introduces character and plot), ha speeds events up (Berkoff often uses this and culminates the story with a moment of tragedy) and ku is a short, satisfying conclusion. Many of Berkoff's characters move on quickly after tragedy. 																								
Mie	 <p>'Mie' – when the actor strikes a pose and holds it for a while – rest of cast freeze.</p>																											
Audience Address/Direct Address Physicality Exaggeration Repetition	Mime Music & sound Projections (set)																											
Kabuki	<p>Movement is considered to be elegant and grand. Very melodramatic in style.</p> <p>Stylised gesture and forms – performance is like a slow dance. (Similar to the kata and martial arts)</p>																											
Methods & Techniques		LECOQ'S SEVEN LEVELS OF TENSION				Plays & Productions																						
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