

Still Image

Also known as a “tableau” or “freeze frame”

Still image requires actors to create a “picture” of a key moment from the drama without the use of sound or movement.

Often used at the start or end of the drama or to highlight a key moment within the story.

Blocking

Blocking refers to the movement and positioning of actors around the stage in a performance.

Actors usually take written or mental notes on their positions and movements on the stage to ensure that they are recreated exactly the same each time.

Blocking someone is when an actor is hiding another actor from the audiences view.

Levels

Levels give a stage more visual interest, and the various levels can be useful, as they allow different characters the opportunity to communicate different status, for example.

The various levels might represent different locations, or may just allow the audience to see particular bits of the action more clearly. .

Thought Tracking

Thought tracking involves a character stepping out of the scene to explain what he or she is thinking and feeling at that moment.

It differs from a monologue or soliloquy or aside because the action on stage is frozen when the thought track occurs.

A thought track is most effective when it reveals information that is not obvious to the audience.

Drama Terms

Still Image

Body Language

Blocking

Gesture

Levels

Proxemics

Thought Tracking

Story Board

Caption

Vocal Qualities

Role Play

Convention

Facial expressions

Drama Vocab

Subconsciously –
without us
knowing

FBS – Face Body
Space

Non-verbal – not
involving or using
words or speech.

Body Language

Everyone is different. How we stand, walk and behaves is effected by many different factors such as...

Who we are

Where we are

How we are feeling

An actor must be aware of all the factors affecting their character and demonstrate them all through their movement choices.

Gesture

Gestures are forms of non-verbal communication used to revel character, and may include facial expressions as well as movements of other parts of an actor’s body.

Some gestures are widely recognised and mean the same thing in many cultures. Others are specific to a particular culture or period of history

Proxemics

Proxemics means the distances between characters / actors in a play. It shows their relationships and feelings

Facial Expression

Facial Expressions are closely linked to our emotions and mostly occur subconsciously.

It’s hard not to show emotions through facial expression

Actors should be aware, not only of how they are using their facial expressions to show what their character is feeling, but also that their face is not revealing their own emotions.

E.g. nervously grinning during a serious scene