



## Knowledge Organiser

### Year 8 Drama

#### Term 1 – Theatre Makers in Practice

##### Shakespeare

**Henry V** - *After an insult from the French Dauphin, King Henry V of England invades France to claim the throne he believes should be his. Henry stops an assassination plot, gives powerful speeches, and wins battles against the odds. In the end, he woos and marries the Princess of France, linking the two nations.*

**Macbeth** - *Three witches tell the Scottish general Macbeth that he will be King of Scotland. Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth kills the king, becomes the new king, and kills more people out of paranoia. Civil war erupts to overthrow Macbeth, resulting in more death.*

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** - *Four Athenians run away to the forest only to have Puck the fairy make both of the boys fall in love with the same girl. The four run through the forest pursuing each other while Puck helps his master play a trick on the fairy queen. In the end, Puck reverses the magic, and the two couples reconcile and marry.*

##### Woman in Black

*The Woman in Black was a novel written by Susan Hill in 1983. Stephen Mallatratt, a screen writer born in 1947 who died in 2004, read the book on a beach in Greece, not the most conducive environment for being drawn into the misty, chilling world the story described, and yet he was truly terrified by the tale.*

*A lawyer obsessed with a curse that he believes has been cast over him and his family by the ghost of a Woman in Black, engages a sceptical young actor to help him tell his terrifying story and exorcise the fear that grips his soul. It all begins innocently enough, but then, as they reach further into his darkest memories, they find themselves caught up in a world of eerie marshes and moaning winds.*

##### Lighting terminology

- Profile spot – lantern which can produce hard or soft light
- Floodlight – Give a general wash of light
- Follow spot – powerful profile spot and can be moved to 'follow' a performer
- Fresnel spot – Spreads a gentle beam – provides a general covering of light across stage
- Houselights – Ordinary lights in the auditorium
- Par can – Throws out a strong circular beam of light

##### Voice skills

- Tone - harsh, aggressive, calm, soft
- Pitch – deep, light, shrill
- Pace – fast, slow
- Volume – loud, quiet, whispered, booming

##### Physicalisation

- **Gesture** – open, closed, relaxed, uptight
- **body language** – cautious, defensive, smooth, awkward
- **facial expression** – surprised, puzzled, angry, thoughtful