

KEY VOCABULARY

Facial Expressions - A facial expression conveys an emotion that tells us about the character and the way they react to the situation.

Gesture - A gesture is a defined movement which clearly communicates meaning. Gestures are usually made with the arms and hands but can also include the whole body if required.

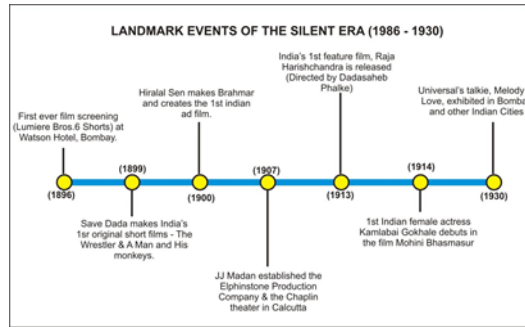
Body Language - Body language is communication by movement or position, particularly facial expressions, gestures and the relative positions of a speaker.

Exaggeration - The movement is increased almost to the point of being extreme. Audience members can clearly see movement, facial expressions, gesture etc to help them understand the story.

Tableaux - a representation of a dramatic scene by a person or group, posing silently without moving – also known as freeze frame/still image

Stock Characters - a type of character in a narrative whom audiences recognize across many narratives or as part of a storytelling tradition or convention.

Mime - the theatrical technique of suggesting action, character, or emotion without words, using only gesture, expression, and movement.



Marcel Marceau, (born 22nd March 1923 – died 22nd September 2007), was a French mime artist and actor most famous for his stage persona, "Bip the Clown". He referred to mime as the "art of silence", performing professionally worldwide for more than 60 years.



Charlie Chaplin, (born in London on 16th April 1889 – died in Switzerland on 25th December 1977) was a comedic British actor who became one of the biggest stars of the 20th century's silent-film era. Charlie Chaplin worked with a children's dance troupe before making his mark on the big screen. His character "The Tramp" relied on pantomime and quirky movements to become an iconic figure of the silent-film era. Chaplin went on to become a director, making films such as City Lights and Modern Times, and co-founded the United Artists Corporation.

SILENT MOVIE

During the early 1920s, every movie was silent. Cinemas used to employ musicians to play the piano or electric organ during the films.

The major movie companies in Hollywood during this period were Paramount, Warner Bros and MGM.

During the silent era that existed from the mid-1890s to the late 1920s, a pianist, theatre organist—or even, in large cities, a small orchestra—would often play music to accompany the films.

By 1907, silent movies' popularity increased across the entire United States and Western Europe.