



Theatre Virtual Learning

Acting 3 & 4

Commedia dell'arte

April 29, 2020



Adv. Acting
Lesson: [April 29]

Objective/Learning Target:
**The student will explore movement of the acting style,
Commedia dell'arte.**

Let's Get Started / Warm Up Activities:

While watching the video clip of a Commedia dell'arte style performance, focus on one character. While watching them, specifically take note of their movement (gestures, walk, etc.).

You will notice that there is **NO SOUND**. This way you can focus on the physicality!





Lesson Steps:

Today, you will explore images and videos of movement for stock characters in Commedia dell'arte.

You will then practice taking on the physicality of stock characters.

Classic Commedia Characters

Note the stance and active poses in the characters in the following slides. This shows the physicality of performing a Commedia script.





Images of modern Commedia shows

Notice as you look at the slides of
actors, the animation in the
characters.











Commedia takes physical skill

For example, one Zanni could do a complete backward roll with a glass of wine in his hand without spilling any.

Note the physical actions in the next slides.







Franca Trippa e Fritellino
(scena dalla commedia dell'arte)













PRACTICE:

Experiment with Character Walks & Movement

Watch yourself in the mirror as you try to portray different characters.

1. Try a young vibrant character that walks with lots of energy.
2. Try an old miserly person who shows his greed.
3. Try a young flirtatious lover
4. Try a physical move such as kicking someone's ears with your foot (One zanni did that as his schtick) or try the somersault with a cup and see if you can turn it as you roll so you don't "spill" anything--don't put liquid in until you think you can do it.)



RESOURCE:

National Theatre Commedia dell'arte Movement Class

