



Theatre Virtual Learning

Acting 3 & 4

Commedia dell'arte

April 30, 2020



Adv. Acting
Lesson: [April 30]

Objective/Learning Target:
The student will explore improvised scripts and comedic bits (lazzi) used in Commedia dell'arte.

Let's Get Started / Warm Up Activities:

Now that you have learned about different stock characters, think of a character in a movie, tv show, cartoon, etc. that you feel might fit one of the stock character types.

Then, for fun find a video of them and pay attention to their physical comedy! How does their movement add to the humor?





Lesson Steps:

Today, you will learn about the “scripts” and lazzi structure for Commedia dell’arte. Once you are done you will research and find modern examples of them.

PLOT STRUCTURE OF A COMMEDIA PLAY

GOAL

Most Commedia scripts start out with the two lovers wanting to get married.

The servants want to steal from their masters, the masters want to be more rich and have many wives.

CONFLICT

The old men do not want the two lovers to get married and are trying to stop them.

The servants are plotting ways to mess with their servants and begin to execute their plans.

RESOLUTION

The lovers are married. The old men have their ego's crushed and the servants have completed their tricks.



BECAUSE COMMEDIA IS MOSTLY
IMPROVISED, THEY RELY ON REHEARSED
COMEDY BITS OR LAZZI TO MOVE THE PLOT.
LAZZIS CAN BE PHYSICAL, LINGUISTIC OR
TRICKERY.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF LAZZI

Acrobatic

People jump over railings, do handsprings or vault over others.

Violent

Slaps, punches, kicks etc.
People can throw furniture or other props.

Language

Mistranslations or misunderstandings lead to comedic situations.

Food

Putting something gross in someone's food, throwing food at someone.

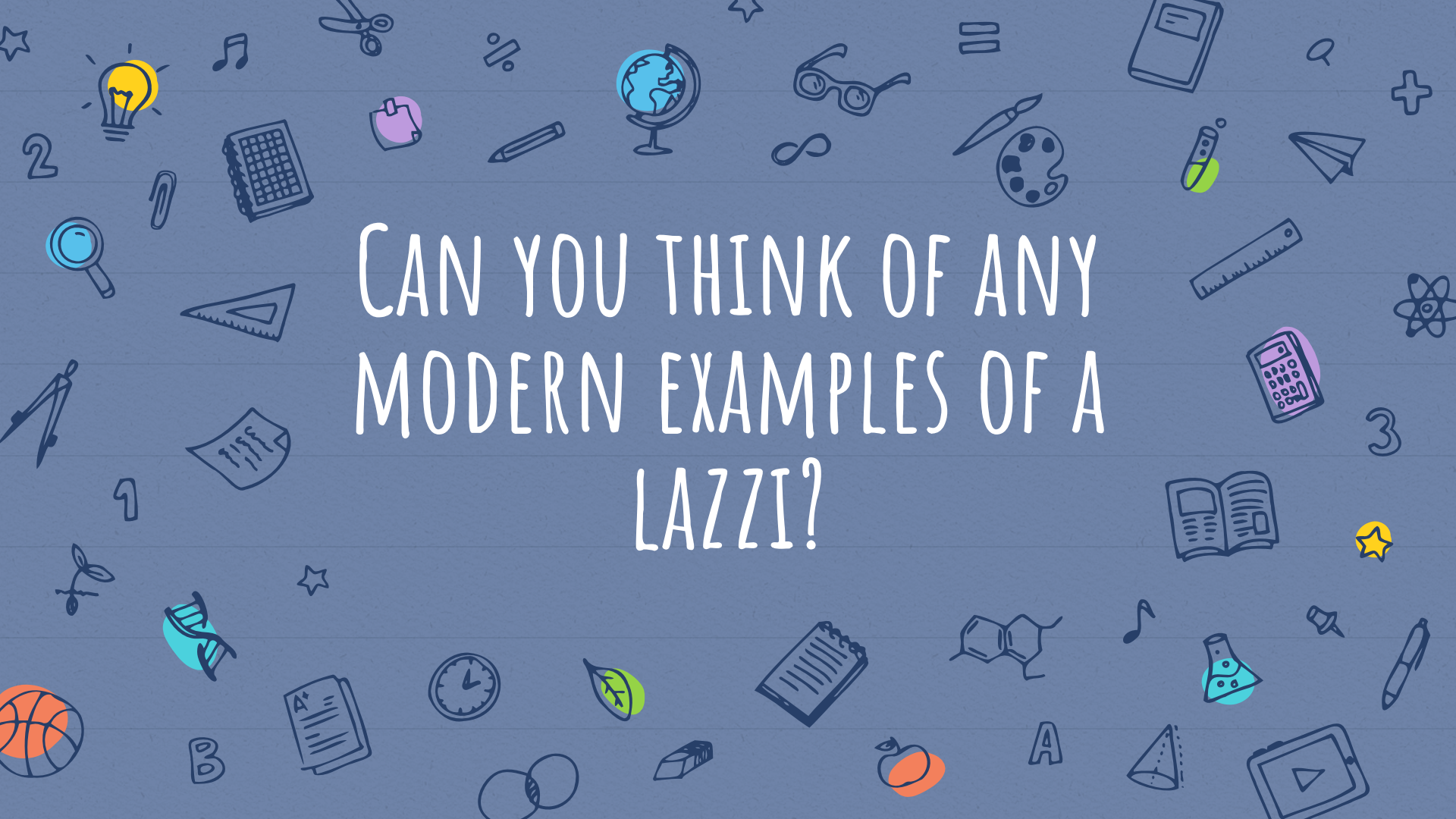
Intelligence

Someone is so extremely stupid that they don't understand what is happening, or someone refuses to talk to someone who is stupid.

Class

A servant yells at their master, the servant becomes the master or the master loses all his money.





CAN YOU THINK OF ANY
MODERN EXAMPLES OF A
LAZZI?



PRACTICE: FIND A CLIP OF THE 3 STOOGES
ONLINE AND WATCH.
THE SLAPSTICK HUMOR USED IN THESE COME
FROM COMMEDIA.



PRACTICE: FIND A CLIP OF YOUR OWN
CHOICE THAT HIGHLIGHTS ONE OF THE
CATEGORIES OF LAZZI.