Performance styles

Realism	Musical theatre	Non-naturalism
• Actors present characters in a 'lifelike' way • They think about character motivation and naturalistic actions and reactions • Linear plot • Realistic set and costume • Research the practitioner *Stanislavski*	• Action appears realistic but is usually stylised or exaggerated • Can be complete fantasy • Musical numbers / songs tend to highlight key moments in the plot • Usually has a linear plot • Set and costume may be symbolic or stylised • Research the productions *Chicago* and *Cabaret*	• Performance symbolises emotions / thoughts / abstract ideas • Characters may not be real people • Set / costume / lighting is always symbolic • Performances are usually non linear • Research the practitioner *Artaud*
Episodic / political	**Surreal**	**Storytelling theatre**
• Performance does not tell just one story- it will focus on a series of episodes that may not be connected but linked by a *theme* • Performance is designed to make the audience *think* about an issue • Uses direct audience address • May use comedy but again, in a way that makes the audience *think* rather than just be entertained • Research the practitioner *Brecht*	• May appear naturalistic at first but language does not always make sense- it is symbolic and 'dreamlike' • The meaning is not always clear- open to interpretation • Set / costume / lighting is usually symbolic • Research the writers *Harold Pinter / Eugene Ionesco*	• A production style that usually reinterprets traditional stories • A range of techniques are adopted- music, narration, puppetry etc… • Usually non naturalistic • Always looking for unique and imaginative ways to communicate ideas. • Research the theatre company *Kneehigh*