

Unit 3 Drama

Outcome 1

Ensemble Performance

Jack the Ripper

Setting

London, 1888-91.

Performance Style

Non-naturalism: each group is to choose *one dominant* style for their performance. Aspects of other performance styles can be included.

Performance Style	Theatre Practitioner	Dramatic Elements	Stagecraft
Poor Theatre	Jerzy Grotowski	Rhythm Space Symbol	Props*
Theatre of Cruelty	Antonin Artaud	Sound** Space Mood	Sound***
Epic Theatre	Bertolt Brecht	Contrast Space Tension	Multimedia****

* use of props with a strong focus on transformation of objects

**sound using the actors' voice, body, interaction with objects

***sound using technology

*** multimedia with a focus on projection

Prescribed Non-Naturalistic Conventions (all groups)

Transformation of character, time, place and object.

Background

Between April 1888 and February 1891, eleven women were brutally murdered in the Whitechapel district of London. Most, if not all of the women killed were prostitutes and many of the victims were murdered in the dark hours of the early morning. Some were mutilated; others had organs removed post-mortem with surgical precision. The murders terrorised London society as police struggled to come to grips with what appeared to be a serial killer. Each of the murders remained unsolved and some or all of them were attributed to a man who was never identified or caught: Jack the Ripper.

Plot

Your performance must focus on The Whitechapel Murders in London, 1888-91, and include scenes documenting the following:

- Living conditions in the Whitechapel district in the late 1880s/early 1890s
- The Whitechapel Murders of London
- Investigations into the murders by local police and Scotland Yard
- Possible murder suspects and links to Jack the Ripper
- The role of the Press in the hunt for the murderer/s
- The panic in London society as a result of the murders
- The unsolved mystery of Jack the Ripper