

Turton Drama: Meaning Through Movement

WHO: Frantic Assembly was founded in 1994 by Scott Graham, Steven Hogget and Viki Middleton. Currently Scott is the only founder left in the company as Viki and Steven have pursued different careers within the industry. Frantic Assembly is one of the UK's leading **contemporary** theatre companies, producing **thrilling, energetic** and **uncompromising** theatre, constantly attracting new audiences. In **collaboration** with a wide variety of artists, Frantic Assembly continues to create new work that places **equal emphasis** on movement, design, music and text. Frantic Assembly is interested in the power of **collaboration** and the endless possibilities of theatre. They have a strong desire to tell stories, making them **relevant** and **engaging** for their audiences. They are driven to tell stories in voices we won't often hear, and find talent in places we don't often look.

WHAT: As well as creating their own shows, they have provided movement direction for others such as; *'The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-time'* and channel 4 series *'Humans'*. They have also set up a company called Ignition, which is a free, national training programme for young men 16-20. It aims to seek out talent in unexpected places and is committed to helping young men from across the UK with different backgrounds, skills and stories come together to find their individual and collective strength. In March 2019 Frantic launched Ignition for women.

THE COMPANY: Frantic Assembly are a company who use movement as an integral part of their practice. They can be seen as sitting under the wide and varied umbrella of 'physical theatre', though it is certainly not a term they themselves use to define their work. The company feel that the label 'physical theatre' brings with it a set of expectations, they were not interested in definitions, as, to them, they felt like limitations. Their unorthodox route into theatre had presented them with a world of possible styles and approaches, and to them, this was their strength. Frantic are known for working from a starting place of text and through a collaborative devising process, develop the ways in which they will present a text. The artistic director of the company does not come into the rehearsal process with a clear vision of the production, rather a few images, a list of song titles, various physical images, quotations and text extracts. From this the company works together to create moments within the production. They start small and gradually layer and develop their work. They refer to this as the **building blocks**.

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

'Curious' is a novel written by Mark Haddon. In 2014 playwright Simon Stephens approached Mark and told him he wished to adapt his novel for the stage. He enlisted the help of Director Marianne Elliot and Frantic Assembly to help bring the world of Christopher Boone to life. The play begins with Christopher Boone discovering that his neighbour's dog Wellington has been killed with a garden fork. Christopher makes it his mission to discover who killed Wellington and along the way uncovers hidden truths about his own life.



Scan the QR code to watch how Frantic Assembly create their movement sequences.

Check your understanding:

-With a partner test your spelling and definitions of key words

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Contemporary– Something that is contemporary is said to be modern or happening in the present.

Uncompromising– When Frantic say they are uncompromising it means they are unwilling to change for the sake of others. They are proud of their work and of their unique style.

Collaboration– Working with others to produce something.

Relevant– Appropriate to what is being done.

Engaging– Making an audience interested in a performance

Ensemble– A group of actors who perform together. When working as an ensemble you must have **focus, discipline, trust, resilience** and you must be able to **listen**.

Ignition– A performance group designed to find talent in young people aged 16-20

Building Blocks– The act of breaking down the devising process into small and simple tasks. The building blocks can be built upon and come together to create a performance.

Push Hands– An activity designed to build trust between partners and develop an awareness of movement.

Hymns Hands– A sequence of movements using only the hands.

Round/By/Through– A sequence built up of a series of movements created by the actors. To help this process the actors can use the words round/by/through to create their sequences.