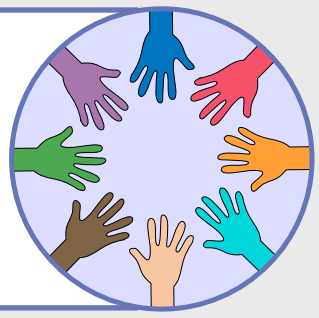
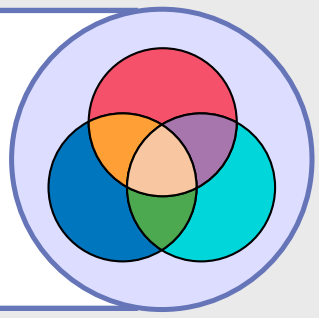
NSW Department of Education

Dramatic contexts

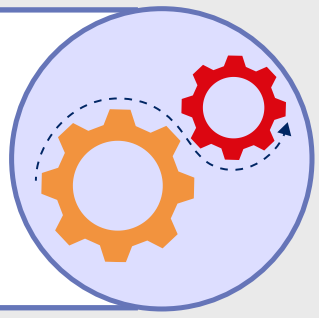
Artistic, cultural, social and personal contexts are ways to consider the circumstances that influence making, performing and appreciating drama.



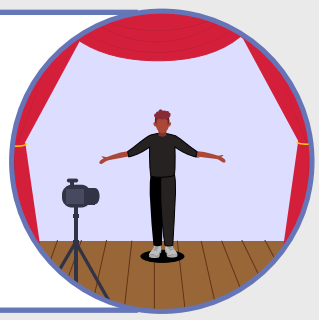
Identities, values and perspectives may be considered in relation to individuals and collectives represented through characters, place, time and situation in drama, and individual and collective dramatic practitioners and audiences.



Dramatic conventions are accepted practices or features that help define forms, styles and meaning. They are shared by practitioners and audiences, usually by tradition, but sometimes negotiated within the performance.

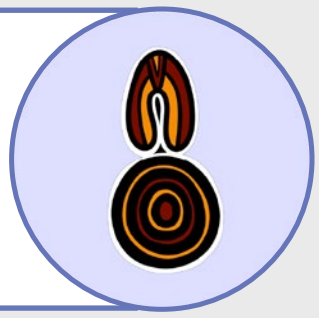


Dramatic forms are recognisable types of drama developed, performed or staged for specific mediums. Dramatic practitioners may use these forms separately or combined.

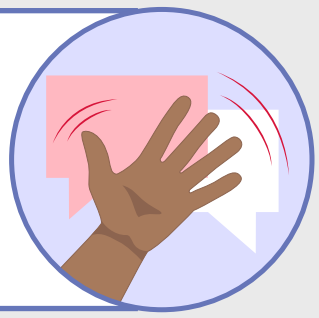


Dramatic styles are groups of related creative works, practices and/or practitioners that share distinctive conventions and/or intentions.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Knowledges may be considered in relation to dramatic works and practices developed by and/or in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dramatic practitioners.



Language is influenced contextually by the forms, styles, works and practitioners makers, performers and appreciators are exploring.



Devised and scripted works can be studied through making, performing and appreciating live and/or recorded experiences. Devised works refers to works which have been created through devising processes by students and other practitioners. Scripted works refers to the study of published works and/or learning how to write scripted works.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Knowledges artwork by Kayleb Waters, Gomeroi artist and Cultural mentor 2025.

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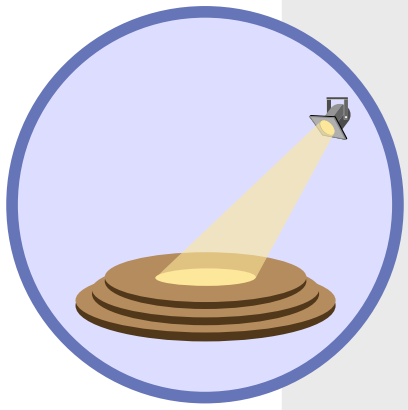
Dramatic forms

Dramatic forms are recognisable types of drama developed, performed or staged for specific mediums.

Theatre forms

Theatre forms include:

- indoor theatre forms, such as black box, proscenium arch, thrust, theatre in the round and traverse
- outdoor theatre forms, such as amphitheatres, streets, parks, pavilions and festivals
- applied theatre forms that use theatre to develop social or educational goals, such as theatre in education, playback theatre and forum theatre.



Audio forms

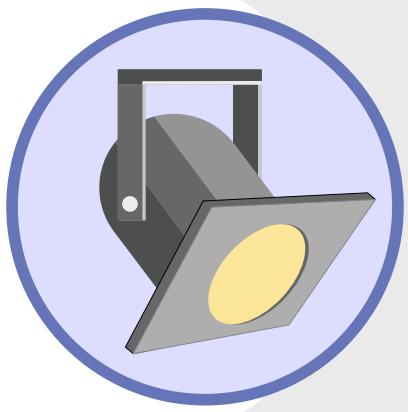
Audio forms are live or recorded dramatic works and experiences that use sound to shape dramatic meaning and audience engagement, such as sound design, radio plays, podcasts and soundscapes.

Video forms

Video forms are dramatic works and experiences that use recorded image and sound to shape dramatic meaning and audience engagement, such as short film, animation and other media platforms and technologies.

Production and design forms

Production and design forms relate to the large variety of resources that contribute to and develop a dramatic performance or production, such as scripts, directorial concepts, storyboards, designs, set models, costume sketches, set or lighting plans, cue sheets and production schedules.



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Dramatic styles

Dramatic styles are groups of related creative works, practices and/or practitioners that share distinctive conventions and/or intentions.

Acting styles

Acting styles are specific methods of creating role, character, ensemble and/or the actor–audience relationship. Acting styles can develop the actor–audience relationship in distinctive ways.

Improvisation styles

Improvisation is a making and performing strategy and technique used within a range of dramatic styles or as the fundamental principle of a style.

Theatrical styles

Theatrical styles include a wide range of styles with specific conventions of storytelling, staging, acting and the actor–audience relationship. Although these styles are often originally developed for theatre forms, students may also explore adapting styles into video and audio forms. Theatrical styles can include styles of realism that aim to represent life believably in theatre, film or audio forms of drama. Theatrical styles can also aim to represent life in heightened, abstract or symbolic ways. Theatrical styles may be associated with a particular cultural context or be used in multiple cultural contexts

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