**Epic Theatre – Bertolt Brecht**

*- Documentary Drama*

*- Ritual and symbol*

*- Shows social and political messages*

*~Storytellers are to to comment, whereas narrators are to remind~*

*Can be: signs, posters, film, video, slides (projected to where?), songs, poems*

**Movement and Gesture:**

* Mime
* Gymnastics
* Stylised to music (Laban)
* Mix of realistic and non realistic movements
* Graceful at times, forceful at others
* Gestus: individual gestures and whole body postures
* Gestus denoted attitude and social relationships

**Voice:**

* Soundscape
* Chorus chanting

**Stagecraft:**

* Fragmentary costumes
* Costume often denoted societal role
* Mask and makeup was often used for caricature
* Makeup was used to portray societal standing, not everyday character
* Signs and placards
* Screen projection used to reinforce themes
* Open white light only
* Instruments in full view of audience – reminded they are watching a play
* Music was to neutralise emotions rather than intensify

**Acting and Characterisation:**

* Actor never fully became the character
* Oversimplified and stereotyped, but some characters complex
* Some included historical, real life characters

**Techniques:**

* Alienation
* Estrangement