**Theatre of Cruelty – Antonin Artaud**

*Both the world around him and the theatre itself needs change; surrealism*

**Movement and Gesture:**

* Inspired by Balinese dancers
* Largely non verbal theatre
* Ritualistic
* Communication through ‘signs’ of facial expression and movement
* Style known as visual ‘poetry’

**Stagecraft:**

* Emphasis on lights and sounds
* Sound was loud, piercing and hypnotising
* The audience’s sense were assaulted (hence, ‘cruelty’)
* Lights were flooded or pinpointed
* Sets were eliminated
* Use of ancient clothing for rituals
* Over sized puppets or mannequins used
* Masks occasionally used

**Acting and Characterisation:**

* Actors encouraged to openly use emotions
* No emphasis on individual characters
* Less defined by movement

**Actor-Audience Relationship:**

* Intimate relationship created
* Actors performed around the audience in the center
* The audience was made to feel trapped by the actors physically surrounding them

**Powerful Use of Ritual:**

* Movement e.g. Balinese
* Dance
* Violent action/fighting
* Music (live)
* Chanting
* Singing