

Devising in the Style of



The Paper Birds



Method & Approach

- Choose an 'umbrella' theme—keep it broad. For example, this picture stimulus...



Becomes
“Fast Fashion”



Becomes
“Fashion”

- Research, conduct interviews and find verbatim content. Explore:
 - 1. Real stories from real people— E.g. Ask friends, family, and the public about what they wear and why, where they buy clothes, how much they spend, how their style has changed etc.*
 - 2. History of Fashion and clothing styles + History of mills and textile production in the UK and globally.*
 - 3. Politics of Fashion— ethos of fast fashion, low paid workers, environmental impact, sustainability.*
 - 4. Fashion in popular culture; celebrities/models, film & TV references, make up, social media, advertising slogans.*
 - 5. Your personal relationship with clothes, appearance, self confidence, style.*
 - 6. Your personal opinions about the fashion industry and production.*
 - 7. Stereotypes of Style/ Fashion.*
 - 8. Statistics of Fashion; eg, each year Britons throw away 500 tonnes of clothing to landfill, etc.*
- Start to make different style scenes relating to all of the strands you've researched;

Make a 'stereotypes' scene; make a scene where you play with clothes and dressing up and down; write a piece about how your style has changed over the years; make a movement scene that shows the monotony of working in a textile factory; stage a fashion show that spans through time; create an advert for a clothing line; stage some real people's experiences of working in the industry... etc...
- Use verbatim, movement, imagery, atmosphere, and theatricality to create a tapestry of scenes.
- Only use **REAL STORIES** in your narrative—don't make up a story!
- Choose **one** of your strands to become your **frame**, and use this frame to hang the other scenes on. For example:

Eye witness verbatim story of Bangladeshi factory collapsing becomes the frame, or through-line. We keep coming back to this story, maybe we hear/learn a bit more about that day each time we come back to it, but interspersed between those scenes are all the other interviews, opinions and scenes we have made that explore the wider theme of Fashion.
- Consider what you want the audience to **think and feel** relating to your theme. Offer up two sides of a debate, show the light and the dark sides of an issue, and encourage the audience to form their own opinion.