

# PROJECT 1



## *Before you go*

### Laban efforts

Listen to the Queen song *Radio Ga Ga*. Decide what *Radio Ga Ga* means and set a movement piece to the music.

Use the Laban efforts as the basis of your movement piece. These are:

Laban effort	Time	Space	Weight
Gliding	Sustained	Direct	Light
Pressing	Sustained	Direct	Strong
Floating	Sustained	Flexible	Light
Wringing	Sustained	Flexible	Strong
Dabbing	Quick	Direct	Light
Punching	Quick	Direct	Strong
Slashing	Quick	Flexible	Strong
Flicking	Quick	Flexible	Light

### Tips:

- Try out the movements with your hands and feet first.
- Think about what the words: gliding, pressing, wringing, dabbing, floating, punching, slashing, flicking and what they mean and try out some hand and feet movements.
- Now work with Laban's descriptions of time, space and weight.
- Sustained means that the movement is smooth and uninterrupted.
- A quick movement will be jerky and interrupted.
- The space refers to the way in which you move through the space.
- A direct movement will go straight from one point to another.
- A flexible movement may take a roundabout route between A (its starting point), B (a midpoint) and C (its finishing or destination point.)
- The weight refers to the amount of resistance or pressure you put behind the movement.
- Looking at the title of the movement will help. A flick for instance, sounds like a light, quick and flexible movement.
- Try out one type of movement on its own using the whole of your body.
- Go on to combine two types of movements, changing every so often.

Then turn your movement piece into a sustained improvisation called 'The Production Line.' Set the piece in a time when people are identical and made in factories.

# PROJECT 2



## *Before you go*

### What to look out for

Actors  
Audience  
Costume  
Dance and movement  
Lights  
Make up  
Music  
Scenery  
Set  
Sound  
Space  
Special effects  
Status  
Video  
Wigs  
Words

And add some more of your own below

# PROJECT 3



## *Inspired by the music*

Use one of these lyrics from the songs in the musical as a starting point for improvisation. Work in groups of five.

1. 'Nothing really matters to me.' (*Bohemian Rhapsody*)
2. 'One voice, one hope, one real decision.' (*One Vision*)
3. 'We hardly need to use our ears. How music changes through the years.'  
(*Radio Ga Ga*)
4. 'All we hear is Radio Ga Ga.' (*Radio Ga Ga*)
5. 'I want to break free.' (*I Want to Break Free*)
5. 'Buddy you're an old man, poor man,  
Pleadin' with your eyes, gonna make you some peace some day  
You got mud on your face  
You big disgrace  
Somebody better put you back in your place.' (*We Will Rock You*)

# PROJECT 4



## *Future world*

The year is 2333. Imagine that Scaramouche and Galileo have uncovered the following artefacts. Under each description write what you think the object is and what it was used for.

1. A statue made of plastic. Looks like a clown. It is smiling. Colours have faded but it may have been red and yellow, with red and white socks. It is eating something which could be a bun. The letters RM are printed on the front. The statue was found in the ruins of a shopping precinct.

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2. A rolled manuscript inside a plastic tube which has protected it from decay. The manuscript includes a photo of five young men dressed in twentieth century clothes. Strange words are printed at the bottom of the manuscript. They could be names, although someone has suggested this is a primitive language and the men in the picture were worshiped as gods.

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3. A long object with pieces of wire stretched from one end to another, some of which have been broken. This object used to be bright red, although some of the surface has worn away. There are a number of kidney shaped attachments at one end which can be turned. The other end is noticeably larger and flatter and is curved. There is a thicker wire attached to the side of this object.

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Now create a piece of drama where an expert explains the findings of the dig.

# PROJECT 5



## ***Different or the same?***

Imagine you are going to create a piece of Theatre in Education for a group of younger students to watch, which will be called 'Different or the same?'. Which of the techniques used in the first scene of *We Will Rock You* could you use in your piece of TIE?

Now plan your TIE project 'Different or the same?' Think about:

- Audience: who is it aimed at?
- Message: what do you want to teach your audience?
- Space: what kind of space will you be performing in?
- Time scale for project: what rehearsal period do you have available?
- Who will take on the behind the scenes roles of costume and props, sound, lighting, writing, directing, stage management, planning with the school
- What kinds of techniques you will include in the piece: script work, improvisation, freezes and tableaux, forum theatre, dance and movement, audience involvement

# PROJECT 6



## *Stage Fighting*

1. Imagine your partner is a puppet. Lead him or her around the room but use invisible wires attached to his or her arms, body, head and legs. Imagine these wires are joined to the palm of your hand. When you move your hand a few centimetres away from your partner, he or she will move as directed.
2. In pairs, plan a movement piece where each of you responds to pushes, made by any part of the body. Do not make contact with your partner, rather imagine that an invisible force is coming from him or her and forcing you to react. For instance, if your partner raises his or her hand and pushes towards your shoulder, you react by moving your shoulder backwards. Think back to the Laban efforts of pressing and punching. Respond by pushing back towards your partner. The pushing part of your body remains an obvious distance - a metre at least - from the other person.
3. Next try pulling, using the same method. Now try the same thing but in slow motion.
4. Try pushes and pulls, using the same technique, on different parts of the body:
  - Shoulder
  - Hip
  - Chest
  - Head
  - Arm
  - Knee
5. Try out a sword fight using an imaginary sword. React precisely to the position of your partner's sword. Choreograph this piece very carefully. Pay attention to the precise nature of the movement matched by its opposing reaction.

# PROJECT 6



## ***Stage Fighting (cont.)***

Here are some other non-contact fight movements and reactions to try:

- Jumping
- Ducking
- Turning
- Jabbing
- Slashing
- Punching
- Kicking
- Leaning
- Dodging
- Sliding
- Distracting
- Lifting

Make up a sequence which involves a range of these movements.

Now in groups you are going to plan a recreation of the scene where the Secret Police attack the Bohemians in their Tottenham Court Road base. This piece needs to be choreographed carefully as stage fighting.

No contact should be made with any of the other characters. Slow motion will make this piece more effective.

# PROJECT 7



## ***Status***

Each character in *We Will Rock You* has a different status. For example, the Killer Queen, Khashoggi and Scaramouche all occupy very different positions in society.

Look at the numbers below. Ten is the highest status number and one is the lowest. Next to each number describe how you could play that number. Some things to include are: body language, eye contact, amount of space character takes up, ways of moving, language and voice, confidence, ways of relating to other characters.

Then next to each number write down the name of a character from the musical that you think has that status. Eg if you think that Khashoggi has number 10 status, write his name next to number 10.

10	_____
9	_____
8	_____
7	_____
6	_____
5	_____
4	_____
3	_____
2	_____
1	_____

# PROJECT 8



## *Video-tronic*

Imagine that you are watching television three hundred years into the future. The adverts have just been interrupted with a special announcement from Killer Queen and Khashoggi announcing the take-over of the world by Global Soft and the outlawing of live music.

In groups work on a short scene to dramatise this event. Decide which characters will be in the scene and who will play each character. Killer Queen and Khashoggi are essential, and you may like to include some of the Secret Police. Other characters could be those watching the announcement – members of the Bohemians, or Scaramouche and Galileo. Think about how they would respond.

Practice videoing each other's scenes. Work out if you will be able to film in one take or if you will have to cut (stop and start again) in between shots.

Plan a longer scene using storyboarding on the back of this sheet.

Rehearse your scene in groups. Have a practice recording when the camera angles and positions are worked out.

Gather any props or costumes needed for the scene.

Video your scene. If possible, edit the scene together.

Watch and evaluate your scene with the rest of the group.