

Bertolt Brecht Research Task

You can present the findings of your task in any format you choose eg, mind map, video, document, powerpoint or a combination of these.

Please ensure you research all the elements listed to ensure a full understanding of Brecht's methodologies.

Before you complete the tasks outlined below, read/watch the following to gather the relevant information needed. I have included an array of resources for you to help you.

Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-828KqtTkA> - An Introduction to Brecht (National Theatre)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7fqMPDcKXM> – A Crash course in Brecht

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOdhFDC0D3E> – Changing Stages BBC Documentary (Between Brecht and Beckett)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwmvd2p/revision/1> - BBC bitesize (Brecht and Epic Theatre)

Please also read through the attached resources for more guidance. The resources will all say a similar thing so you need to find the information that is most accessible to you.

Part One – Brecht's life

- When did Brecht live and where?
- Identify the significance of where Brecht lived throughout his life? Explain his decisions to move around from country to country.

Part Two – Brecht's Theatrical Work

- What is the Berliner ensemble?
- Research some of Brecht's most famous plays – identify connections you can make between them?
- Explain what Brecht wanted from his audience/ what his plays were meant to achieve?
- Demonstrate your understanding from your research as to how he achieved this.
- Consider what is meant by the following quote: "Art is not a mirror to reflect reality but a hammer with which to shape it".
- Define the following:
 - Verfrumdungseffekt
 - Gestus
 - Fourth Wall
 - Direct Address
 - Spass

- Fractured Narrative
 - Placards
- Read Scene One of the attached text (Pages 1-10 of 'Mother Courage and Her Children' by Brecht). Identify where in this scene Brecht has used elements of the Verfremdungseffekt to deliberately 'alienate' his audience.
- As a director, how would you direct this Mother Courage in this scene using Brecht's methodologies? Use the grid below to ensure you have covered key ideas:

MUST use words	SHOULD use words	COULD use words
Gestus Verfremdungseffekt Characterisation (or mention separately vocal and physical skills you would employ) Use of Song	Costume Fourth Wall Placards	Lighting Spass Direct Address

Part Three – Brecht as a Political Activist

- Identify significant events in world history happened during Brecht's lifetime.
- Decide what you think he would have made of these events? Justify what evidence you have of this in your research?
- Identify one of Brecht's plays which gives a political message – how does it do this?