

Cross-cutting



Cross-cutting (also called split-screen) is a drama technique borrowed from the world of film editing, where two scenes are intercut to establish continuity. In drama and theatre, the term is used to describe two or more scenes which are performed on stage at the same time. This makes it possible to juxtapose scenes or snippets of scenes that happen at different times or in different places, using separate areas of the performance space.

The technique is used to highlight or contrast a particular theme or aspect of the story. Using different groupings, both scenes could happen at the same time, or one could be frozen while the other comes alive. This can have a similar effect to spotlighting particular areas of the stage or using a split-screen in a film. Cross-cutting is invaluable for analysing themes in the performance of a drama by directly comparing or contrasting elements of the story.

For their Grade 3 foundation medal acting, Honor and Livia are performing a piece called 'Time'. The main part of the scene takes place in World War Two, their characters are best friends and at school age together they make a pact. The scene opens in their future and then flashes back to the war years. Using the cross-cutting technique helped them to develop the different time periods of their piece.

It's lovely to see how well they work together, and the hard work they put into their lessons, well done girls!

Miss Lynne Malone