

Keywords	Definition
Stock character	A character that represents a 'type' and belongs to a certain genre
Lazzi	A short comedy sketch, traditionally improvised
Servant	A person who performs duties for others, especially a person employed as a personal attendant
Master	A person who has people working for him, especially servants
Status	The relative social/professional position one character has over another
Slapstick	A type of comedy involving physical exaggeration.
Rule of three (comedy)	Do something three times, anymore and it stops being funny.
Gibberish (gromelot)	Nonsensical speech
Improvisation	Invent and create content on your feet/ make it up as you go along

Key information:

- The actors were a touring theatre group around Italy.
- Commedia Dell'Arte was performed during the 16th and 17th centuries.
- As a child, if you were in an acting family, you were born into whatever role your father was (eg. If your father was a villain, you would play the villain)
- These companies would stop in towns and perform to audiences for money, the pieces were adapted to certain audiences
- Audience would typically be drunk
- Commedia has inspired many different types of theatre across the years

Stock Character	Description
Arlecchino	Servant. A cheeky chap, likes to play practical jokes on people, keeps low down when he as been up to something. Heart is in the right place.
Pantalone	Master. Hunched over, bit of a scowl on his face, very money orientated, bent knees and constantly holds onto a bag of money hanging from his belt.
Brighella	Arlecchino's crony. A cowardly villain who is a young rogue but slightly more sophisticated and tends to stop Arlecchino if he is going too far
Pulchinella	Cruel, humpback bachelor with a crooked nose who chases pretty girls
Il Dottore	Overweight, fraudulent doctor with a big personality
Il Capitano	Stereotype of a drunken soldier

COMMEDIA
DELL'ARTE