



## Section 1 Melodrama – a brief history

It is a dramatic form which uses **exaggerated** plot elements and characters (often stereotypes or 'stock') in order to appeal to the **emotions** of the audience.

Originally, in the 18th and 19th centuries, melodrama referred to the specific form of theatre where **orchestral music** or **song** were used to accompany the action to add to the **emotional and dramatic effect**.

The term originated from the early 19th-century French word *mélodrame*, which comes from the Ancient Greek words *melos* (music) and *drān* (to do or perform).

## Section 2 Key skills

Mime	The art of <b>demonstrating</b> an action with an object that <b>doesn't exist</b> .
Comic timing	The use of <b>pacing</b> and <b>rhythm</b> to heighten the comedic <b>effect</b> of a joke.
Trebling ('Rule of three')	A <b>pattern</b> used in stories and jokes, where part of the story is told three times, with <b>minor variations</b> .

## Section 3 The Silent Movie Era

1888 – The first 'movie' is shown. It is 2.11 seconds long.

1895 – The first cinema is opened in Paris.

1912 – Most US film studios move to California, creating 'Hollywood'.

1915-1926 – The heyday of the Silent Movie era.

1927 – The first film to have synchronised dialogue was released.

1939 - 'The Wizard of Oz' is the first major colour film to be shown.

## Section 4 Silent Movie Stars

Charlie Chaplin  
1889-1977



Buster Keaton  
1895-1966



Harold Lloyd  
1893-1971

