Introduction to Pantomime

✓ Mime – or pantomime – means acting out life scenes with your body movements.

✓ We get the word from Greek. “Mime” comes from “mimos”, which means “to imitate”. Our English word “mimic” comes from it. “Panto” means “all”. “Pantomime”, then, means “all-imitated.” We literally create the entire scene through imitation.

✓ The art of mime is older than movies, America and even Shakespeare! Traveling mimes entertained people before the classic Greek civilization. They just gave us the name that stuck.

✓ Famous mime artists include Marcel Marceau, Charlie Chaplin and Rowan Atkinson (better known as Mr. Bean).

✓ According to Webster’s Dictionary, pantomime is “conveying a story by bodily or facial movements”. This is pantomime in its purest form. No voice, no props, just “all-imitating”. This is the form of pantomime we will explore.