

## Section 1 Commedia dell'arte

*Commedia dell'arte*, also known as "Italian comedy," was a humorous style of theatre performed by professional actors who travelled in **troupes** throughout **Italy** in the **16th century**.




Performances took place on **temporary** stages, mostly on city streets, but occasionally even in court venues. The art form spread throughout **Europe**, with many of its elements still seen in the modern theatre, such as clowning.



## Section 2 Key terms

Mime	Working in silence, or with few sounds or words, to show <b>activities</b> , e.g. painting a wall or opening a door.
Parody	Parody is an <b>imitation</b> of a particular writer, artist, or genre, <b>exaggerating</b> it deliberately to produce a comic effect.
Lazzi	"Gags" or <b>stock</b> jokes which can be added into a play or performance in order to ensure the comic action keeps pace.

## Section 3 Clowning types

<i>Whiteface</i>	<i>Auguste</i>	<i>Tramp</i>
The Whiteface is the oldest of the clowns and the big brother of the clowning world: in charge, a know-it-all.	He is sometimes the Whiteface's helper, almost always the brunt of his jokes, and certain to mess up any job.	The Tramp is the brunt of every joke, the one whose rear gets kicked, the one whose face gets wet from a squirting flower.
		

## Section 4 Famous Clown example 'Mr Bean'

The series followed the exploits of Mr. Bean, described by Rowan Atkinson (the writer and performer) as, "a child in a grown man's body", in solving various problems presented by everyday tasks and often causing disruption in the process.

