

**Commedia Dell’ Arte**

- Very old type of theatre which can be traced back to 16th century in Italy. Troupes of Actors would travel around the country performing plays in market squares. The plays were often comedies and topics included mistaken identities and servants tricking their Masters.
- Plays contain ‘STOCK’ characters who the audiences would be familiar with. These Characters wore masks and their movements were very physical and over the top.
- Commedia was the origin of ‘Slapstick’ such as Charlie Chaplin, and Tom and Jerry cartoons. Modern versions of Commedia include Pantomime and Punch and Judy.



Pantelone



**Key Masked Characters**

**Low Status characters – The Servants**

- **Zanni:** High energy, talks directly to the audience, boisterous, confident, loud
- **Arlecchino:** Trickster, nimble, quick, full of energy, master of disguise and mimics other people

**High Status characters – The Masters**

- **Il Dottore:** The Doctor, very pompous, arrogant and stupid. Talks a lot!
- **Pantalone:** Tight fisted, sleazy old man, very rich and greedy. Likes to punish his servant!



Most of the stock characters in Commedia wear half masks

Stock characters: an easily recognised character, always played the same way

**Key words**

<b>Mime</b>	<b>The actor uses movement, gestures, facial expressions and body language to communicate meaning to the audience</b>
<b>Comedy</b>	<b>A genre of theatre intended to make the audience laugh at the performance</b>
<b>Duologue</b>	<b>Two actors on stage during a scene</b>
<b>Slapstick comedy</b>	<b>Physical comedy that is exaggerated</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Your position in society</b>
<b>Physical Theatre</b>	<b>Using your body to create props and scenery</b>
<b>Physicality</b>	<b>Over the top and exaggerated gestures and body language</b>

Mr Bean



