



ELEMENTS OF FARCE

1

EXAGGERATED SITUATIONS

Farces are built on improbable and often ridiculous situations. As the characters react to these situations, the level of confusion and silliness builds and builds.



Noises Off, Alley Theatre, 2012



Lend Me A Soprano, Photographer Lynn Lane, Alley Theatre, 2017

2

PHYSICAL COMEDY

Farce relies on physical comedy like chases, slamming doors, funny falls, and big physical reactions. They add to and often escalate the chaos (and the laughter).

3

FAST PACE

People in farces talk fast, move fast, and act fast. It definitely adds to the sense of urgency, and definitely leads to more confusion among the characters.



The 39 Steps, Alley Theatre, 2017

4

CONFUSION

Speaking of confusion, farces are full of misunderstandings, disguises, and mistaken identities. There are moments when the only people who know what's really going on is the audience.



Lend Me A Soprano, Photographer Lynn Lane, Alley Theatre, 2017

5

STOCK CHARACTERS

Characters in farce are over-the-top and built on recognizable types. Audiences are in on the joke: they recognize the bit and anticipate their actions - which are usually exaggerated.



The 39 Steps, Alley Theatre, 2010