

## Overdrive Theory Lesson 1

**Resources:** Audio 1, Clip 1, Clip 2, Clip 3 and Resource Sheet 1

**Lesson Objective:** To understand the main principles of *Overdrive*, including the use of dancers, music and costume.

**Starter Activity:** Play *Audio 1* and ask the students to identify the instrument. Ask if any music students can comment on layering or melody. Teachers should watch *Clip 1* ahead of the class to help with answers to this question.

Hand out *Resource Sheet 1* and read the key information together. The students should be informed that the primary starting point for *Overdrive* is the music itself\*.

**Main Lesson:** Play *Clip 2*, asking students to make notes on the melody and develop their understanding of layers within the accompaniment.

Using *Resource Sheet 1* ask the students about the costumes noting the colour, shape, texture and material. Ask how the shape and texture may lend itself to the movement the dancers are doing. What do they notice about the similarities and differences?

Play *Clip 3* through twice, following the instructions on *Resource Sheet 1*. Invite the students to comment on what they notice, which should be that the women in red and grey share the material of both the red women and grey men. This is the reason for the blend in costume in that they are not associated with either group but with both.

Watch *Clip 3* one final time and pause the clip during a wide angle shot. This is an opportunity for students to analyse and comment on the use of staging for *Overdrive*, the lighting, space, entrances and exits, location and height of lighting, and importance of the shadows.

**Plenary:** Recap the main elements of the lesson. Write the following words up on the board (red, grey, rhythm, Alston, shadows, keyboard) and ask your students to put them into a sentence with reference to *Overdrive*.

\*Further information and lessons incorporating starting points can be found in the resource pack available from Essential Alston

Extension Task: Select sections from *Clip 1* to deepen your students' knowledge of accompaniment