**What is comedy:**

**Help sheet for Commedia Dell ‘Arte’s**

**A servant to Two Masters**

**Comedy** – to make an audience laugh and accept what is happening on stage. E.g. laughing at amusing characters because of the way they behave and speak. Also at **amusing** situations, also **jokes, double meanings, irony, puns and misunderstandings**. (good for intros and conclusions)

This is done through:

* **Satire (High comedy, wit and ridicule)**
* **Farce (low comedy slap stick)(can be ridicule- Truffaldino)**
* **Visual comedy (both and not literary)**

**Satire** is a send up – when you highlight the inefficiencies of something through comedy (usually a system / establishment – like status) –lombardi, pantaloon’s status. (so other characters are satirical towards them). E.g. Beatrice tricking him, Lombardi having no control over the situation. The lovers being tricked. Satire is also **High comedy** – pretentiousness, like Lombardi being intellectually ridiculed.

Ridicule is often in the satire bracket as you are putting them up for ridicule – pantaloon and Lombardi.

**Witty** – intelligent humour that can be satirical (no characters in this play except if you understand Latin and know Lombardi is wrong).

Farce is just for comic effect – making fun of something. Designed to provoke an audience response to ‘belly laughter’, using caricatures – like the comedic characters, and puts them in **improbable ludicrous situations**, making unsuitable **physical and verbal horseplay.** Farce is also **Low comedy** – little or no intellectual appeal but arouses laughter through jokes, gags, slapstick, humour, boistorus nature, clowning.

Truffaldino is ridiculed by other character because he is **dim – witted**. Yet ridicules others by tricking them – but the joke is usually on him as he fails, and therefore leaves himself up for **ridicule** himself.

Truffaldino’s inefficiencies are highlighted through **visual humour** not satire. E.g. **farcical,** comedic, **slap- stick**.

**Conclusion help:**

To be successful in creating comedy, you need to overplay your characters and scenes, so the audience can immediately that YOU are not taking it too seriously. It usually takes the audience time to warm-up so that the smiles become giggles and then outright laughter.