Structure 3 – The Gangster

**Stimulus material**
The life and crimes of Al Capone

**Performance focus**
Create a solo performance based on the character of the Gangster. After a falling-out with Al Capone, the Gangster secretly meets with Eliot Ness and other members of the Untouchables, and is pressured into spilling the beans about the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre and a range of other crimes. The Gangster desperately tries to strike a deal with Eliot Ness. The Gangster does this by:

- highlighting how Al Capone and his gang have evaded prosecution for their crimes so far
- creating circumstances that show how the Gangster became part of the Al Capone ‘family’ and why he turned on him
- exploring people’s fascination with ‘antiheroes’.
The Gangster

Do it if the following intrigues you:

– 1. Dynamic character transformation, tableau/vignette, strong accent work
– 2. Specific research required into gang history, style and characterisation
– 3. Storyteller, character actor, emotive, evocative

– Potential Dramatic Element:
  Tension: Playing with the Gangsters desperation, Eliot Ness’ pressure and the high stakes.

– Potential Convention:
  Use of Fact: Knowledge of real people and events could be integral to capturing the spirit of the solo.