

Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Offered: AQA AS/A2 Drama and Theatre Studies (2240)

Teachers for 6th Form

Angela Thorpe: Head of Drama and Theatre Studies.

Specialist Areas of Interest: Acting, Devising, Directing, Set Design

e-mail: angela_thorpe@fc.tchs.uk.net

Martin Robinson: Drama and Theatre Studies Teacher.

Specialist areas of interest: Devising Theatre, Directing, Brecht, Artaud, Expressionism, Physical Theatre, Surrealism, Comedy, Political Theatre

e-mail: martin_robinson@fc.tchs.uk.net

Peter Jackson: Performing Arts Technical Trainer and Adviser.

Specialist Areas of Interest: Lighting Design, Technical Theatre Training (Sound, Lighting & Set Design), Directing, Production Management, The works of Harold Pinter & Samuel Beckett.

e-mail: peter_jackson@fc.tchs.uk.net

Department Learning and Teaching Policy and Practice

“Keep Working, Keep Open, Keep Looking.”

Katie Mitchell, Theatre Director

Studying Drama and Theatre Studies requires much more from you than learning a set of facts. You must develop your own ideas in order to be successful in both practical and theoretical aspects of the course. Your teachers expect to be able to work alongside you in the common enquiry of theatre and its place within the wider culture.

- **Master Learner**

In order to be an independent learner in Drama you will need to develop various skills, attitudes, attributes, and behaviours. We group these together as steps on your **Master Learner Learning Journey**. We believe that any student can achieve the very highest quality work and grades. Improvement and excellence is achieved through commitment, focus and effort. In the table below you can see some broad descriptions of steps that you might take on your journey. We have called these steps Novice, Apprentice, Practitioner, Expert, and Master. It is possible that you will start your journey at Novice or Apprentice level, it is hoped that by the end of your course you will be working at Expert or Master level. It is important to take your time and develop at your own pace ensuring you ask for support when you need it.

There will be a formal Master Learner Assessment and Review at least twice a year.

Master Learner Learning Journey. (Drama and Theatre Studies)

Novice: (Not Independent). As you begin your journey you have very limited knowledge and understanding at this level. You may find the subject very difficult unless you get a lot of support. You may find it difficult to plan ahead or organise your time effectively. You might not read around the subject as you need to get the basics right first. You need to stick to deadlines, and ensure that you don't leave performances to the last minute. It is expected that you need a lot of support. Out of school you need to begin to structure your work carefully in order to move on as a learner.

Apprentice: (Becoming Independent). You are becoming more confident in your learning. You want to do well and when things seem to be too difficult you spend some time thinking things through. If you find it a challenge to focus for any length of time you readily seek support. Sometimes you might give up too easily. You may need to work on your time management. You do the required amount of study, which is helping you to grasp the basics. You understand the importance of meeting deadlines and are beginning to work towards them. You may be beginning to study round the subject, though this should only be done when the basics are secure.

Practitioner: (Mainly Independent). You are a good team player, and you provide positive support both in group work and in class. You like the subject, you are motivated and when things get tough, you usually keep going, asking for support when you need it. You have started to ask questions of yourself and others and are increasing your knowledge and understanding. You focus on some of your work and like studying parts of the subject. You can be creative and good at organising your thoughts. You have been improving your time management, and are better organised. When faced with new topics, you still require support though you are reading about theatre more and enjoy the study of the wider cultural issues. You are good at setting and meeting deadlines; you enjoy performance and work on the detail. Out of school you make links with your wider experiences and drama and theatre studies. You enjoy spending your time widening your study and theatrical experiences, for example, you often go to see live theatre.

Expert: (Fully Independent). You often motivate others in the class; you are an important part of creative groups and an excellent team player. You enjoy group work, debating, arguing and sharing with others. You are developing a passion for the subject, which has resulted in you being able to take more creative risks. You are often confident and see mistakes as part of learning. You are really motivated and when things get tough, you often persevere, understanding that results will come. You have developed a questioning disposition, and you want to increase your knowledge and understanding. You usually focus on your work and enjoy studying the subject. You enjoy thinking about the subject and can organise your thoughts. You have very good time management, and are able to organise yourself and others. You enjoy reading about theatre and also the study of the wider cultural issues. You are very good at setting and meeting deadlines; you are good at performance and enjoy working on the detail. Out of school you make links with your wider experiences and drama and theatre studies. You enjoy spending your time widening your study and theatrical experiences, for example, you regularly go to see live theatre.

Master (Fully Independent Leader). You always motivate others in the class; you are a catalyst of creativity and an excellent team player. You provide positive leadership both in group work and in your ability to teach, debate, argue and share with others. You are passionate about the subject, which results in you being able to take creative risks and exude an air of confidence. You are highly motivated and when things get tough, you persevere, understanding that results will come. You have a questioning disposition; your curiosity feeds your desire to increase your knowledge and understanding. You are in your element when studying the subject. You are able to organise your thoughts, looking to make sense of new ideas and are able to construct arguments for and against current debates within the subject. You have excellent time management and the ability to organise yourself and others. You love reading about theatre and enjoy the study of wider cultural issues. You are excellent at setting and meeting deadlines; you enjoy performance and work on the detail. Out of school you make links with your wider experiences and drama and theatre studies. You enjoy spending time widening your study and theatrical experiences, for example, you often go to see live theatre.

Assessment Policy and Practice

You will be assessed on a day-to-day basis, periodically and transitionally

Day-to-Day:

Class Discussion: you will be asked to discuss your work and that of others critically. You will use your notebook to reflect on your work and capture/write down comments. You will be introduced to the idea of commenting through 'PMI' where you will look at your work and that of others through 'Plusses', 'Minuses' and 'Interestings'. You will assess your work and that of others and you will mark your work and that of others using the exam criteria. Your teacher will comment on your work regularly and you should note this down in your notebook. You will receive comments on some pieces of written work.

Periodic:

You will receive detailed comments (Director's notes) for major pieces of practical work. You will also self and peer assess this work. You will receive a progress report, a mock report and 2 master learner current performance reports per year.

Transitional:

You will 'sit' 2 exams in year 12. These will be:

Unit 1: Live Theatre Production Seen and Prescribed Play (Antigone)

Unit 2: Presentation of an Extract From a Play (Practical)

You will then 'sit' 2 exams in year 13. These will be:

Unit 3: Further Prescribed Plays Including Pre-20th Century (The Seagull, The Trial)

Unit 4: Presentation of Devised Drama (Practical)

Course Outline:

- **Year 12**

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to the course • Page to Stage • Semiotic Analysis • Study of different genres and styles • Study of different approaches and practitioners • Study of Antigone and performance of extracts • Theatre Visits and Reviews of Live Theatre Production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mock Practical exam • Project: 'Antigone'. • Theatre Visits and Reviews of Live Theatre Productions • Exam Technique and Past Questions • Mock Written Papers • Practical Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision Antigone and Theatre Reviews • Tutorials
<p>Essential reading/resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Student's Guide to AS Drama and Theatre Studies for the AQA Specification by Philip Rush and Robert Lowe • "Antigone" by Sophocles 		
<p>Key pieces of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances from extracts of Antigone • Mock Unit 2: Duologue Supporting Notes deadline Duologue evening performances • Mock supporting notes deadline • Student viva in lesson on duologue projects • Performance of excerpts from Antigone • Theatre Reviews • Monologues and Duologues • Theatre Reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Vision Presentation</u> - Presentation to the class on your ideas on how to stage a production of Antigone • <u>Vision Project</u>– Deadline for written essay to accompany the presentation. • <u>Mock Unit 1A written exam</u>: Theatre Review • Mock Unit 1B written exam: Antigone • Unit 2: Script Extract Production week and examination • Deadline for redrafted Vision Project on Antigone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Theatre Review notes • Text Notation • Practical Exam

- **Year 13**

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seagull by Anton Chekhov • Devised Theatre Exploration and Mock Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trial by Stephen Berkoff • Devised Theatre Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of the Seagull and the Trial
<p>Essential reading/resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Student's Guide to A2 Drama and Theatre Studies for the AQA Specification by Philip Rush and Robert Lowe • The Seagull (Methuen Student Editions) by Anton Chekhov and Michael Frayn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trial / Metamorphosis / In the Penal Colony: Three Theatre Adaptations from Franz Kafka by Franz Kafka and Steven Berkoff 	
<p>Key pieces of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mock Unit 4: Devising Theatre Examination Evening Performance • Deadline for Supporting Notes on Devised play • <u>Vision Presentation</u> - Presentation to the class on your ideas on how to stage a production of The Seagull by Anton Chekhov • Vision Essay – Deadline for written essay to accompany the presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 4: Devising Theatre Production week and examination • Mock Unit 3A written examination on The Seagull • <u>The Trial Research Project and Prompt Script</u> - Your ideas on how to stage a production of The Trial by Steven Berkoff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for redrafted Vision Project on The Seagull by Anton Chekhov • Deadline for redrafted Research Project and Prompt Script on The Trial by Steven Berkoff

Wider Learning Opportunities

We run many theatre trips for students particularly in year 12 who need to attend at least 4 theatre productions. However year 13 students are also invited to attend. We also expect year 13 students to see devised work as this will help them with their practical exam.

Students will be expected to commit to performances and rehearsals after school and at weekends, at times this means making sacrifices in your social lives and perhaps other commitments like part time jobs.

We offer e-mail study support services, and a tutorial system

We have established strong links with Middlesex University and LAMDA. Theatre Studies students are encouraged to take LAMDA acting examinations in year 12 or 13 as an additional course.

Year 12 rehearsals & Year 13 rehearsals are held every week, in the Theatre.

Year 12 reading list

Title	Author/Editor	Publisher/Edition	ISBN
Antigone	Sophocles	Cambridge University Press	978-0521010733
Greek Theatre Performance: An Introduction	David Wiles	Cambridge University Press	978-0521648578
Notes on Sophocles' Oedipus Trilogy (Cliffs Notes)	Charles Higgins	John Wiley & Sons	978-0764585814
Actions, The Actor's Thesaurus	Marina Calderone & Maggie Lloyd-Williams	Nick Hern Books	978-1854596748
The Director's Craft: A Handbook for the Theatre	Katie Mitchell	Routledge	978-0415404396
Taking Stock: The Theatre of Max Stafford-Clarke	Max Stafford-Clarke	Nick Hern Books	978-1854598400
Letters to George	Max Stafford-Clarke	Nick Hern Books	978-1854593177

Year 13 Reading List

Title	Author/Editor	Publisher/Edition	ISBN
The Cambridge Companion to Chekhov	Vera Gootlieb and Paul Allain	Cambridge	978-0-521-58917-8
The Actor's Chekhov	Jean Hackett	Smith and Kraus	1-880399-05-09
The Chekhov theatre, A century of the plays in performance	Laurence Senelick	Cambridge University Press	0-521-78395-x
A Sourcebook On Naturalist Theatre	Christopher Innes	Routledge	780415152297
Performing Chekhov	David Allen	Routledge	978-0415189354
Chekhov in Performance	L Styan	Cambridge University Press	978-0521293457
The Director's craft a handbook for the theatre	Katie Mitchell	Routledge	978-0415404396
The Trial	Steven Berkoff	Amber Lane Press	978-0906399842
The Theatre of Steven Berkoff	Steven Berkoff	Methuen Drama	978-0413673404
Steven Berkoff and the theatre of self performance	Robert Cross	Manchester Universtity Press	978-0719062544
Free Association	Steven Berkoff	Faber and Faber	978-0571192694
Graft: Tales of an Actor	Steven Berkoff	Oberon Books	978-1840020380
The Complete Short Stories	Franz Kafka	Vintage	978-0749399467
The Trial	Franz Kafka	Penguin Classics	978-0141182902
The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre	Scott Graham & Steven Hoggett	Routledge	978-0415467605
Certain Fragments	Tim Etchells	Routledge	978-0415173834
Through the Body, a Practical Guide to Physical Theatre	Dymphna Callery	Nick Hern Books	978-1854596307
Devised and Collaborative Theatre	Tina Bicat & Chris Baldwin	The Crowood Press ltd.	978-1861265241
Making a Performance	Emma Govan, Helen Nicholson & Katie Normington	Routledge	978-0415286534

DVD List

Title	Publisher/Edition
East	East Productions
The Trial	
The Seagull	Broadway Classic Collection

Wider Reading and Study:

Books:

The Cambridge Companion to Greek Tragedy P.E. Easterling Cambridge University Press 978-0521423519
Greek Tragedy: Suffering Under the Sun Edith Hall OUP Oxford 978-0199232512
The Theatre, A Concise History Phyllis Hartnoll Thames and Hudson 0500200734
The Complete Stanislavski Toolkit Bella Merlin Nick Hern Books 9781854597939
Actions, The Actor's Thesaurus Marina Caldarone & Maggie Lloyd-Williams Nick Hern Books 1854596748
Stage Design and Properties Michael Holt Phaidon 0714825158
Physical Theatres A Critical Introduction Simon Murray and John Keefe Routledge 978-0415362504
Lighting and Sound Neil Fraser Phaidon 071482514x
Antonin Artaud – Blows and Bombs Stephen Barber Faber 0571172520
Avant Garde Theatre 1882-1992 C Innes Routledge 0415065186
The Twentieth Century Performance Reader Huxley and Witts 0415116287
Twentieth Century Actor Training Alison Hodge 0415794520
Theatre Directions Jonothan Neelands and Warwick Dobson Hodder & Stoughton 0340758619
The Moving Body Jacques Lecoq Methuen 0413771946
Devising Theatre Alison Oddey Routledge 0415049008
Devising, A Handbook for Drama and Theatre Studies Students Gill Lamden Hodder & Stoughton 0340780088
Experimental Theatre, From Stanislavsky To Peter Brook James Roose-Evans Routledge 0415009634
Impro: Improvisation and the Theatre Keith Johnstone Methuen 9780713687019
The Director and The Stage Edward Braun Methuen 0413463001
Modern Drama in Theory and Practice 1: Realism and Naturalism J L Styan Cambridge 0521296285
Modern Drama in Theory and Practice 2: Symbolism, Surrealism and the Absurd 0521296293
Modern Drama in Theory and Practice 3: Expressionism and Epic Theatre 0521296307
The Seven basic Plots Christopher Booker Continuum 9780826480378

Websites:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/drama_theatre_new.php
www.nelsonthornes.com/aqagce/drama.htm
<http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>
www.getintothetheatre.org
<http://www.inyerface-theatre.com/>