

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies preparation work

The A Level course that we follow is the EDUQAS A Level Drama and Theatre course.

The practical work that we are going to start the year off on will be based on 6 Theatre Practitioners/Theatre Companies and therefore your preparation work is going to be based around the background knowledge of them.

The six Practitioners/Theatre Companies that you will be studying are:

1. Stanislavski
2. Brecht
3. Artaud
4. Frantic Assembly (Theatre Company)
5. Steven Berkoff
6. Les Enfants Terribles (Theatre Company)

For each of the above Practitioners/theatre companies you will need to compile the following knowledge in a folder that you will bring with you for our start in September:

1. Who are they and what is their approach to theatre?
2. When were they/are they working in theatre?
3. Why did they decide to work in theatre?
4. What are the main conventions used in their work? (What would a piece of their theatre look like on stage and how would it be discernible from others?)
5. Examples of their most famous/most successful pieces of work
6. Watch pieces of their work/or pieces inspired by their work on YouTube/Digital theatre and evaluate whether or not you like their approach to theatre.

Use the internet to search and Bitesize but also use Digitaltheatre Plus who have a wealth of information on some of these Practitioners – it is important you watch stuff as well as read – Drama is about the action.

The above is quite a lot of work but having this ready for September will be an excellent start for you all and will aid all of our practical exploration.

Live theatre reviews:

Part of the course means that we will be seeing a lot of plays, at the moment this is not possible in the actual theatre but you still need to expose yourself to as much as possible.

We have access to Digital Theatre Plus with the login information below, but also The National Theatre are showing new plays each week on YouTube for you to watch.

Username: suttongrammar

Password: suttongrammar224

Task:

Watch at least 2 plays before September and for 2 of your favourites complete a bullet pointed review about the semiotics used in the play, under the following headings:

- Costume
- Props
- Set
- Staging
- Lighting
- Sound

Your bullet points should be about what you liked or did not like in the play. The reason this is so important is that you will be creating your own interpretations of plays during the A Level course and you need to take influence from plays that you have seen to help inspire your own ideas.