

Drama and Theatre

Brief Overview of the Course <i>(for further details, please see our Sixth Form Prospectus https://strschool.co.uk/sixthform/prospectus)</i>	
Exam Board: EDUQAS Specification web link: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre-as-a-level/#tab_overview	
Topics Covered: Year 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Higher level devising• Practitioner study• Textual analysis• Dramaturgy• Performing a semi-devised piece based on an existing set text with a supporting portfolio	Topics Covered: Year 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devising from a stimulus• Theatre and live theatre study• Performing to a live audience AND external examiner• Produce TWO pieces of theatre with supporting portfolio• Revision and sitting of summer exam

Please follow the instructions in the boxes below. The aim of these activities is to introduce you to the study of this subject at Advanced Level by:

- reinforcing your core knowledge and understanding of your chosen subject;
- encouraging you to think more deeply about your subject;
- supporting you to develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for your subject as an academic discipline.

Core Knowledge and Understanding Task

Whether you have studied this subject before or not, there are elements of core knowledge and understanding that you must have prior to starting the A Level course.

Please provide a written answer to each of the following questions. There are links below to help you discover the answers.

- *Create a list of as many of the different theatre genres/practitioners as you can.*
- *For each one, please name them and give a list of techniques you would expect to find in a performance in the style of that practitioner or genre.*
- *Please list as many play titles / pieces of work as you can for each practitioner/genre.*

Links to support:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvph2sg/revision/1>

<http://essentialdrama.com/practitioners/>

The Bigger Picture Task

As well as reinforcing your core knowledge and understanding, our A Level curriculum will expose you to what are called the 'established orthodoxies' within each subject, which can include key research, important people who have contributed to the field, as well as broader methods and theories that exist within the subject.

Prior to starting the A Level course, it is important that you are aware of the following themes and topics so that you can develop an understanding of how they contribute to some of the established orthodoxies within the study of drama and theatre.

For each of the below practitioners, please create a one-page fact file that includes the following:

- The dates their work first emerged
- A selection of titles associated with each practitioner
- Features of their styles of work – what techniques do they use to convey a story to an audience? Please give examples.
- Your opinion on the practitioners use of technique/style – do you like it? Do you feel it is effective at conveying a story? If so, how? If not, why not?
- A brief summary of how their work differs from that of another practitioner in the list. (you might wish to save this task until the end so that you can compare each practitioner with the most extreme alternative.)

1. William Shakespeare
2. Steven Berkoff
3. Bertolt Brecht
4. Konstantin Stanislavski
5. Frantic Assembly
6. Caryl Churchill
7. Simon Stephens
8. Antonin Artuad

Links to support:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvph2sg/revision/1>

<http://essentialdrama.com/practitioners/>

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/>

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/>

Recommended Reading List and the Department's 'Top Pick' Title

As an A Level student, we want you to value academic endeavour (scholarship) and develop a thirst for learning in your chosen subject. Our curriculum will help you to understand that scholarship is not just about learning facts, it is about nurturing powerful knowledge.

We will help you with this by directing you to resources that will not only deepen your knowledge and strengthen your understanding of the A Level content, but also broaden it beyond that of the exam board specification.

Please find the full subject reading list alongside our prospectus on the Sixth Form section of the STRS website here: <https://strschool.co.uk/sixthform/prospectus>. We would encourage you to explore as many of these titles as you can.

From the published reading list, the most highly recommended book(s)/article(s) to read before September are:

1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare - James Shapiro

As You Like It - William Shakespeare

Love and Information - Caryl Churchill

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime - Simon Stephens

Once you have read the recommended book/chapter/article, consider the following:

- What did you learn from the reading?
- Have you identified any patterns or made any connections?
- What unanswered questions has the reading left you with?
- Did you agree entirely with what you have read? If so, why? If not, why not?
- Are there any themes or topics that you would like to explore further?

Other Recommended Activities

Please find below a selection of suggested additional activities that the department feel it would be useful for you to explore prior to starting the A Level course in September.

A really useful resource is to YouTube the recommended practitioners and genres to really get a visual flavour of the components within the specific field.

Any good drama or theatre you can watch online before starting the course will also seek to further your understanding.