

Flying Start 2019

A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE

Contents:

- Introduction to the course
- General Reading
- Specific Reading Task
- Book List

A Level Drama and Theatre:

Exam Board:

Edexcel/Pearson: The specification can be downloaded from www.edexcel.com

Preparatory Reading: Please ensure you have read the texts before the course commences.

- 'Frankenstein' by Nick Dear (after Mary Shelley) ISBN: 0571277217
- 'Equus' by Peter Shaffer ISBN-10: 0141188901
- *(Recommended)* Actions: The Actor's Thesaurus by Marina Calderone (Author), Maggie Lloyd-Williams, ISBN:1854596748

Compulsory Text-book:

- Davey, J; Cleaves, P & Johnson, J. Edexcel AS/A Level Drama and Theatre; London: Pearson Education, London, 2016.

The text book includes an 'Active Book' with online resources and 3 years subscription and access. You can purchase the text at the cost of £19.93 from Amazon. Please read through the relevant parts on Section A within the text-book to support with your live performance evaluation.

Equipment:

To the start the course you will need to bring with you an A4 ring-binder with dividers. You will also need energy, cooperation and motivation!

Suitable movement clothes and trainers are required for all lessons, unless stated otherwise.

Preparatory Tasks:

1.) To produce a 1000 word live theatre evaluation of a play of your choice. Guidance to be provided during taster session. (Live Theatre Performance Review Guidance Sheet attached)

2.) To learn a 2-3 minute monologue from a **published** play-text of your choice. These will be performed in the first couple of weeks.

3.) To research into the three following practitioners, providing detailed notes on their methodologies, style and approaches to theatre and directing:

- Konstantin Stanislavski
- Bertolt Brecht
- Antonin Artaud

Your research will be shared and discussed as a class – please make these as visually engaging and beautifully presented as possible!

Books:

It is recommended that you do some background reading about the plays and playwrights. For 'Frankenstein' there are some fantastic interviews with Benedict Cumberbatch, Johnny Lee Miller, and Danny Boyle about the process and concept for 'Frankenstein'.

Trips:

There will be lots of opportunities to visit the theatre throughout the A-level course, and theatre workshops with visiting practitioners every October. Trips and workshops are very much encouraged to help support your studies.

The RSC offer £5 tickets for young adults and the Oxford Playhouse, amongst others, offer free/discounted theatre tickets for young people so it is always worth checking what is available to you.

Summer Workshops: There are lots of theatre workshops and 'play in a week' opportunities both in and around Banbury. There is a good array of skills workshops at the Oxford Playhouse that is worth investigating too.