

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES



ROYAL
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL



WHAT IS DRAMA BUT LIFE WITH THE DULL BITS CUT OUT?

- Alfred Hitchcock



WHY DO DRAMA?

- Making theatre might be the most creative and personal thing you ever do here or anywhere else.
- The group bonds you make will be like nothing else in any other subject.
- The skills and personality you bring to us will be valued and transformed into live acts of real art.
- It's great to be part of a very successful department.
- No other subject develops these important life skills so well: public performance and presentation, leading a group and hitting a deadline.
- It also develops your skills in research, text analysis, essay-writing, and cake-eating.

WHY DO IT AT RHS?

- We benefit from excellent workshops with visiting professional theatre companies
- We have excellent human resources
- We are a practically and intellectually curious department, always searching to achieve something new on stage.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

We are following the newly reformed Edexcel specification.

COMPONENT 1: PRACTICAL WORK

This is a 'non-examined assessment': what used to be called 'coursework'.

You create and perform a devised piece of theatre, supporting this with a written portfolio charting the development of the project.

COMPONENT 2: PRACTICAL WORK

You will perform two extracts from plays, one in a group, the other as a monologue or duologue. There is no written coursework for this.

Together these components are worth 60% of the A Level.

COMPONENT 3:

This is a written examination with three parts:

- a) Writing about a set text, focusing on the role of performers and designers.
- b) Writing about another set text, focusing on interpreting it for a contemporary audience.
- c) Writing about a live performance.

This element is worth 40% of the A Level, obviously.



REASONS FOR NOT DOING IT:

- The idea of performing appals you utterly.
- You are doing no other essay-based subjects.
- Thinking it's an easy A Level. It really isn't. Making good theatre is hard. Developing a director's view of a play is also hard.

INADEQUATE REASONS FOR NOT DOING IT:

- Not having done Drama GCSE. It really doesn't matter. Some of the best pupils I have taught didn't take the subject at GCSE. And some did.
- Thinking it's only for wannabe actors. Yes, taking A Level Theatre will make you a better performer, but pupils go on to be stage managers, administrators, teachers, lawyers, business managers and, yes, actors.
- Thinking that good universities won't look at it. I have taught Theatre to people who have gone on to Cambridge, Exeter, Kent, London, Durham, Bristol and many others.

GOOD THINGS TO DO NOW:

- See as many plays as your money allows.
- Sign up to stay in touch: dkerr@royalhospitalschool.org

**ACTING
TOUCHES
NERVES
YOU HAVE
ABSOLUTELY
NO CONTROL
OVER**

- Alan Rickman



If you would like to discuss the A Level specification and the options that the Drama Department offer, please don't hesitate to contact
Mr Damon Kerr, Head of Drama

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