

Drama and Theatre A Level

Qualification	Exam Board
A Level Drama and Theatre	Pearson/Edexcel

Things to Read

- *Edexcel A Level Drama and Theatre Student Guide* by John Davey, Alan Perks and Phil Cleaves
- *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov
- *Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre* by Scott Graham and Stephen Hoggett

In addition to the above, you should read a wide range of contemporary play texts. Contemporary means anything from the mid-20th century onwards. In addition to narrative, you should pay attention to how characters are developed, the structure of the text, the language style and the performance style.

Things to Watch

- The National Theatre are broadcasting a different show live on their YouTube channel each week and it is then available as a catch up across the week before the next production is shown. The National's YouTube channel also has great short videos to watch about how they make work and the role of directors, technicians and designers.
- The Globe Theatre are streaming productions via YouTube. Visit The Globe's website for more information.
- The BBC are providing a range of great shows from the Royal Shakespeare Company. You can access these via the BBC IPlayer.

Watching theatre is a vital component to study and regular viewing is best. Even though we cannot go to the theatre now, there is still a lot of theatrical content out there, which is quite different to film and television content so it is important to sample a wide range of theatre.

As you watch, notice:

- How actors use their voices, body and space to communicate meaning.
- Set, costume, prop, lighting and sound design (as well as puppets, multi-media and masks, if used) - what can theatrical design tell you about the style of performance, themes, character, location, etc?
- What the director was trying to achieve. How has she/he used actors, space and designs to communicate ideas with the audience?

Tasks to Complete

- Research the father of realistic acting, Konstantin Stanislavski. Pay particular attention to his method for creating realistic performances. Make sure you understand (at least): the given circumstances, units, objectives, super-objectives, circles of attention and subtext.
- Research the physical theatre company Frantic Assembly. They have some great digital content available on their website. Some of this is about work they have made in the past and gives really good insight to their process, which you will need to understand.
- Research the immersive theatre company Punchdrunk. Their website is quite different – what might that tell you about their work? Have a look at the content on their website as well as considering its style. Watch and read the content, then go and do more research to try and understand their methods and what a Punchdrunk experience might be like.