



Next step  Sixth Form



FORMBY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA DEPARTMENT
Setting the stage for A Level Drama

If you're considering taking A Level Drama next year (and well done if you are) here are a few things that will help you to prepare and to get a head start!

The Course

We follow the AQA A Level Drama specification, Bitesize and AQA have plenty of resources for you to look at.

Practitioners

Practitioners are a vital element of the A Level course.

- **Konstantin Stanislavski**, look at his background, but most importantly his techniques and methodology for acting and Realism.
- **Bertolt Brecht**. A powerful figure in contemporary theatre, research his methods and beliefs, particularly on his views on what theatre should be about.
- **Antonin Artaud**. A rather strange man, with revolutionary ideas on theatre, with his own particular style.

Start on BBC Bitesize as they have some great stuff and expand from there. Do not use Wiki, look at Prezi, there are some excellent presentations, with easy to read information on the practitioners. You can also find articles and good books to read about the various practitioners and their style.

Play texts

Widen your reading, get used to the style and format of playscripts. The following will help with the course, but any plays that sound interesting will be useful.

*Our Country's Good – Timberlake Wertenbaker – set course text

* Hedda Gabler – Henrik Ibsen – set course text

A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen

Mother Courage and her Children – Brecht

Angels in America – Tony Kushner

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui – Brecht

The Accidental Death of an Anarchist – Dario Fo

The Pillowman – Martin McDonagh

Teachers – John Godber

Two – by Jim Cartwright

Days of Significance – Roy Williams

The Birthday Party – Harold Pinter

Watch live theatre

This is an important area of the course and will influence all areas of your work, the more you see the better.

- **The National Theatre** are putting a play on their YouTube channel every Thursday evening and they stay on for a week.
- **The National Theatre Archive** has a huge array of past productions to watch and enjoy.
- **The Old Vic Youtube channel** – the theatre is planning to begin streaming past productions, beginning with **A Monster Calls on June 5 at 7pm and available until 11 June**. Other productions will follow.
- **The Globe Theatre** YouTube channel is live streaming some excellent productions, the Macbeth is seriously good.

These are all well worth watching as live theatre can inspire ideas, help you see the mechanics of staging and acting, keeps your critical eye in practice and again helps with your preparation. Reviews of productions will also help to develop your evaluative style.

Other Resources

For technically minded student, check out this brilliant blog from the Lowry in Salford

<https://thelowryblog.com/2020/03/20/the-world-behind-the-curtain/>

Staff contacts

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