

Year 8 - Drama

What will be studied?

Topic(s)

Darkwood Manor - Students will look at the genre of horror and how to build tension in drama. Students will develop a role as part of Darkwood Village and explore the myths and legends behind Lady Darkwood and her manor house. Students will consider character reactions and how to build a world around the role. Students will uncover the mystery and devise from a narrative stimulus what is really going on in Darkwood.

Dramaturgy - Live Theatre - Students will consider the different aspects of technical theatre from costume, lighting, sound to set and props/stage furniture using a greater sense of specific vocabulary. Students will explore the different types of lighting lanterns and states. Students will reflect upon the meaning behind choices that directors/designers make and what impact this might have on the audience particularly how they make it relevant for a modern audience and use symbolism. Students will then be introduced to a production from the National Theatre that will be deconstructed and analysed.

Moral Choices - Students will look at the style of Documentary theatre, considering homelessness and joint enterprise as stimulus for their performances. Students will develop characters considering backstory and what drives the character to make the decisions they make. Students will look at verbatim theatre and the impact using this style in a performance has on the overall outcomes and the audience.

Dramaturgy - Page and Stage - Students will be introduced to a script that they will study over a number of weeks. They will consider the different elements for putting on a production of this play highlighting the fantasy genre of the performance, from costume to lighting to on and off-stage roles. Students will learn about different types of staging and the process that it takes to bring a play to life. Students will take ownership of the script and take a greater role in the rehearsal process to bring their script extracts to life. This will include allocating roles in groups, organisation of props, costumes and attending additional rehearsals.

Melodrama/Slapstick Comedy - Students will explore the genres of Melodrama and Slapstick. Students will look at the stock characters found in each genre and explore the key characteristics that make them identifiable. Students will consider what is comedy and how it can be created. They will explore how Silent Movie and Slapstick performers communicated meaning with an audience and will be introduced to the technique of placards.

Where possible students will then have the opportunity to explore their exaggerated physicality further by exploring the use of masks. Students will learn the golden rules of mask performance and experiment with clocking and counter masks. Students will have the opportunity to use Trestle Masks.

How do you assess the learning?

- Group work, effort and contribution to discussions.
- Rehearsal process
- Application of drama techniques and performance outcomes based on choices made.
- Characterisation and acting skills both vocally and physically.
- Audience awareness and appreciation Drama Curriculum Information
- Reflection, evaluation and feedback
- Performances
- Home learning which will be a series of creative tasks that allow students to share ideas, use their imagination, develop characterisation, research and prepare for assessment and evaluation.
- SMHW Quizzes to recap key vocabulary and techniques.
- Written response to live theatre
- End of Year Written Exam

End of Year Examination

How will I be assessed at the end of the year?

There will be a 1 hour written paper. Students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge from the year to develop responses to questions.

Practical work will also be taken into consideration for end of year grade

How can I help my child?

Guidance and advice

Use the BBC Bitesize website to help challenge your theory

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zgnv9j6>

Read plays around themes, genres and topics you are interested in. Samuel French has a great selection and they have enormous selection in their London Store. Equally you can visit the National Theatre Bookshop. Talk to your teachers to see if they can recommend any play texts for you to read. Take part in any extracurricular opportunities and clubs that are happening in the department. Use show my homework to help ensure that all tasks are completed.

Visiting the theatre and watching different styles of performance. Local theatre's include; Lyric Hammersmith, Beck Theatre, Hayes, The Questors Theatre, Acton, Bush Theatre, National Theatre and many more.

Visiting the V & A museum where there is an exhibition about theatre including examples of costume from west end productions. Join an amateur dramatic drama club/ youth theatre group. Many theatre's offer youth weeks during school holidays and half terms.