

# Drama & Performing Arts



## Progression to Drama & Performing Arts at Prior Pursglove College

The following practitioners are from the AQA A Level syllabus, however the BTEC students also need to study some of these practitioners for their Unit 1 external exam. Students should choose 3 of these practitioners and research their work. Look at their theories, their practical work online, what inspired/inspires their work and how did their social and cultural backgrounds help them in their work. They need to create a report with all of this information included, also create a bibliography stating where they researched their information from. Also, there are loads of theatre online please email [D.Phillips@pursglove.ac.uk](mailto:D.Phillips@pursglove.ac.uk) for more information.

Mike Alfreds Contemporary Actor centred/truth in performance/ Antonin Artaud Early 20th century Theatre of Cruelty Steven Berkoff Contemporary Expressionism/physical theatre / Alecky Blythe Contemporary Verbatim theatre maker / Augusto Boal Late 20th century Theatre of the Oppressed Bertolt Brecht Early 20th century Political/epic theatre / Peter Brook Contemporary Wide spectrum of approaches /Bruiser Theatre Company Contemporary Physical/actor orientated Alison Chitty Contemporary Costume and set designer /Complicite Contemporary Physical theatre /Paule Constable Contemporary Lighting designer /Gordon Craig Early 20th century Designer / / Bob Crowley Contemporary Costume and set designer / DV8 Contemporary Physical/verbatim theatre/multimedia / Declan Donnellan Contemporary Director / Gregory Doran Contemporary Director Eclipse Contemporary Black-led company / Marianne Elliott Contemporary Director / Polly Findlay Contemporary Director / Dario Fo & Franca Rame Contemporary Political/comic theatre Forkbeard Fantasy Contemporary Multimedia / Frantic Assembly Contemporary Physical theatre Gareth Fry Contemporary Sound designer / Gecko Contemporary Stylised/physical theatre /John Godber Contemporary Political comedy / Rupert Goold Contemporary Director Graeae Theatre Co Graeae Theatre Company Contemporary Performers with disabilities / Jerzy Grotowski Mid-20th century Poor theatre / Handspring Puppet Company Contemporary Puppetry Headlong Contemporary Innovative ensemble theatre / Nicholas Hytner Contemporary Director Nicholas Kent Contemporary Verbatim theatre Kneehigh Theatre Contemporary Multi-disciplined/storytelling/physical theatre / Ralph Koltai Late 20th century Designer / Mike Leigh Contemporary Character based devising / Phyllida Lloyd Contemporary Director / David Mamet Contemporary Director / John McGrath Mid-20th century Socio-political/site specific theatre Vsevolod / Meyerhold Early 20th century Constructivism / Bill Mitchell Contemporary Site specific theatre, set and costume designer / Katie Mitchell Contemporary Naturalism/multimedia / John Napier Contemporary Sets and costume designer / Rufus Norris Contemporary Director / Richard Pilbrow Mid-20th century Lighting /Tom Piper Contemporary Designer / Mic Pool Contemporary Sound designer / Propeller Contemporary All male company / Punchdrunk Contemporary Immersive theatre / Malcolm Rippeth Contemporary Lighting designer / Josie Rourke Contemporary Director Shared Experience Contemporary Expressionism / Rae Smith Contemporary Set and costume designer / Max Stafford-Clark Contemporary Political/ensemble theatre / Konstantin Stanislavski Late 19th, early 20th century Naturalism / Talawa Contemporary Black-led company / Tamasha Contemporary Multiculturalism in Britain/British Asian influences / Julie Taymor Contemporary Director, set and costume designer / Theatre Alibi Contemporary Storytelling theatre / Polka Theatre Contemporary Children's theatre / Deborah Warner Contemporary Director 1927 Contemporary Multimedia

Gecko Theatre have online content of their productions.

The Berliner Ensemble streaming shows with English subtitles.... Chalk Circle at the mo.....relates to Brecht.

The National Theatre or showing a piece every Thursday starting this week On YouTube....One man two Guv, which is servant of two masters.

Drama online is offering a month free so could look at the academic work especially on the set texts which for A level drama are The Importance of being Ernest by Oscar Wilde, Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker and Monsters by Niklas Radstrom

Also Actors of Dionysis'....<https://vimeo.com/3999891730/fd7663d198>

## **BTEC Performing Arts Online Support Materials**

### **All performing arts**

- [Marquee TV](#): 30 day free trial. Includes work from Sadlers Wells, RSC, Donmar Warehouse (Shakespeare all female trilogy), etc
- [Digital Theatre Plus](#) free trial
- Nick Hern Books [External Resources And Opportunities](#): useful links to online productions and professional companies
- [Online Lighting Colour Lab](#): simple online stage lighting tool

### **Dance / physical theatre**

- [Sadler's Wells Digital Stage](#)
- [Dancing Alone Together](#) live streamed dance classes
- [Jasmin Vardimon Company](#) : dance company sharing work online
- [SMASHED a Gandini Juggling Performance](#): made as a tribute to Pina Bausch, this production is edited from shows filmed at the Royal Opera House in 2011
- [The Time of Your Life | Full Show | Gecko](#): physical theatre made for TV
- [Rosie Kay Dance Company 5 Soldiers – Live Stream](#): collaborative dance piece with the British army
- [BalletBoyz](#): free productions and resources
- Bennet Gartside from The Royal Ballet is doing beginners' ballet on Instagram on Wednesdays.

### **Acting and theatre**

- [Keith Burt](#): daily free online drama lessons for students from prolific drama teacher
- [National Theatre](#): new production every Thursday on Youtube
- BBC Bitesize [GCSE Drama - Edexcel](#)
- [Pentabus Theatre |](#): Here I Belong by Matt Hartley
- [AMSTERDAM by Maya Arad Yasur](#) until 27 April, Orange Tree Theatre
- Schaubühne: major German theatre showing works by Thomas Ostermeier etc:  
<https://www.schaubuehne.de/en/seiten/online-spielplan.html>
- Breach Theatre's The Beanfield, from 2015: [The Beanfield on Vimeo](#)
- [The Show Must Go Online: The Two Gentlemen Of Verona](#) Online production of the play using Zoom, professional actors and amateurs perform Shakespeare
- [The Winter's Tale Live Capture](#) Cheek by Jowl
- [CYPRUS AVENUE by David Ireland](#) Royal Court production with Stephen Rea

- Bubble by Kieran Hurley: Set on Facebook <https://www.theatreuncut.com/watch>
- I, Malvolio and I, Cinna by [Tim Crouch](#): extraordinary solo works, exploring relationships and roles of audience and performer
- [Going Viral - Daniel Bye](#): pertinent exploration of pandemics in solo show
- [Girls Like That by Evan Placey](#): seminal play and great production

## **Musical Theatre**

- [Wind in the Willows](#) from London Palladium, with Rufus Hound
- [21 Chump Street](#) by Lin-Manuel Miranda: short musical by the Hamilton creator

## **Theatre Resources for Isolation**

Compiled by Ollie Jones ([oliver.jones@york.ac.uk](mailto:oliver.jones@york.ac.uk)) - with thanks to too many people to mention for suggestions and links!

*\*starred items may require institutional log in - usually there is a log in [by institution] option which takes you to the York Shibboleth system (or equivalent if at another institution)*

*I've divided suggestions into 5 categories - Read, Watch, Listen, Write and Workshops, Other Resources. Items are organised alphabetically, unless date-sensitive.*

*(I'm also aware that most of these recommendations are Anglo-centric, with a smattering of European and US resources - any suggestions to help widen the scope internationally would be very welcome)*

### **Read:**

Do you want to learn about the history of old theatres across the UK in exhaustive-and-fascinating detail? [Browse through Arthur Lloyd's collections](#)

\*Drama Online Library - [www.dramaonlinelibrary.com](http://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com) - With 1000s of plays available, you're spoilt for choice.

Forest Fringe's 2012 *Paper Stages* [is available to read online](#) – artists ask you to perform their works in locations around the city (or in your bedroom).

New Play Exchange - <https://newplayexchange.org> - The world's largest digital library of scripts by living writers.

Playshare is a curated collection of plays suitable for youth theatre groups, and made available through Youth Theatre Ireland. [www.youththeatre.ie/resources/find-a-play/](http://www.youththeatre.ie/resources/find-a-play/)

[Total Theatre Magazine's archive](#) is now digitised and free to read – it covers 1989-2012, and is a treasure trove of alt performance history

### **Watch:**

*Platforms and streaming services*

Amazon Prime has a number of [pay-for theatre productions](#) - mostly the BBC Play for Today adaptations from the 1970/80s. Few are included if you have a Prime membership, but an exception is the RSC's 1969 production of [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#) directed by Peter Hall and starring Helen Mirren, Ian Richardson and Judi Dench.

BBC iPlayer

*My Left Nut* - This is cheating as it's a TV series but [BBC3's superb comedy drama](#) is based on one of the most uproarious and affecting fringe theatre shows of recent years. It's based on Michael Patrick's own teenage experience of a medical condition that left his testicle "[so big you could play it like a bongo](#)".

All of BBC Arts on iPlayer - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/categories/arts/featured>, including:

*The Royal Ballet: Mayerling* - available on [BBC iPlayer](#) until mid-April

*The History Boys* (under films) by Alan Bennett <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b01shmid/the-history-boys>

Or just browse the archive: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/categories/archive/a-z>

BFI Player - <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free> - 11,000 archive films including shorts, features and 120 years of Britain on Film

\*Box of Broadcasts - <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/> - an extensive archive of TV and Radio. Top recommendations include [On Stage: Live from Television Centre](#) (including Gecko Theatre's *The Time of Your Life*) and [The Duchess of Malfi: BBC Arts at the Globe](#). [Only accessible from the UK]

\*Digital Theatre Plus - [www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/plays-and-productions](http://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/plays-and-productions) - over 300 films of theatre, from live productions, to BBC Studio productions and more.

[Globe Player](#) - stream films of a host of productions from Shakespeare's Globe (n.b. £pay-for service)

HowlRound are livestreaming various [upcoming performances](#) – and there's more international performance to watch on the [Howlround TV archive](#)

[LIVR](#) is a subscription service that enables you to catch up on theatre in 360-degree virtual reality. Pop your smartphone into the headset they send you and experience a range of shows including Apphia Campbell's Fringe First award-winning show *Woke*, which interweaves the stories of Black Panther Assata Shakur and the 2014 Ferguson riots.

[Marquee TV](#) - so many productions free for 30 days, including RSC, Royal Opera House, Donmar

Netflix has a range of theatre and theatre-related offerings.

*Abstract: The Art of Design* - especially [episode 103](#), Es Devlin: Stage Design

Self-isolation may mean that many of us will use living rooms to both teach children and watch theatre. An opportunity to combine the two can be found courtesy of the super-charismatic John Leguizamo – an inspirational tutor if ever there was – whose one-man Broadway show [Latin History for Morons](#) is now available

[Ubu.com](#) is a huge free archive of avant garde theatre, film, sound and dance works. DV8 is on there, among many many others.

### *Theatre Companies*

Lots of theatres post great films on their YouTube channels.

Gecko Theatre has many of their full shows available on their [YouTube channel](#)

Check out [The National Theatre's Youtube Channel](#) - e.g. their 'How You Can Make It' and 'How We Made It' playlists

### *Ongoing projects*

Bare Faced Greek offer films of key scenes from Greek drama in ancient Greek with subtitles. <http://www.barefacedgreek.co.uk/>

The Cambridge Greek Play YouTube channel also has scenes from plays that are on school (and many uni) syllabuses, including *Antigone* and *Lysistrata*. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUSoxf3ahi6EC\\_rTLm-ml5Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUSoxf3ahi6EC_rTLm-ml5Q)

Early Modern Theatre - [www.earlymoderntheatre.co.uk](http://www.earlymoderntheatre.co.uk) - hosts 5 films of full length productions produced at TFTI and a range of other films and resources. Plays include: Thomas Middleton's *A Mad World, My Masters*, John Marston's *The Dutch Courtesan*, John Vanbrugh's *The Provoked Wife*, James Shirley's *Hyde Park*, and John Dryden's *Amphitryon*.

*Journal of Embodied Research*: <https://jer.openlibhums.org/>

The Royal Opera House's [The Opera Machine](#) is a multi-angled view of the intricate theatrical process behind the scenes during a performance of Act III of Wagner's *Die Walküre*. Choose from 17 different camera angles and three different sound mixes or follow the prompt book which is used to cue the technical crew and artists

Performances that will never get to happen are being memorialised at online project [The Social Distancing Festival](#)

*Limited availability - date restricted*

*March 2020*

*Viral Monologues* - Twenty actors perform new monologues written just for them in this initiative. The performances will be shared online every 15 minutes [on Tuesday night](#) (17 March) and there's some top talent involved, including comedian David Cross, actors Rachel Dratch and Andre Royo, and writers David Lindsay-Abaire, Stephen Adly Guirgis and Monique Moses.

The Show Must Go Online - The actor [Robert Myles](#) has set up a reading group for professional and amateur actors to perform Shakespeare's complete plays in the order they're believed to have been written. The first livestreamed reading, on YouTube, will be [The Two Gentleman of Verona](#) on Thursday (19 March).

YesYesNoNo have made its Edinburgh Fringe hit [Five Encounters on a Site Craigslist](#) available on Vimeo, and their latest show *The Accident Did Not Take Place* will be streamed live on 21 March 7.25pm here: <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/the-accident-did-not-2/register>

The American Shakespeare Center at Blackfriars Staunton VA have [announced](#) BlkFrTV, launching on 22 March at 1.45pm EST with *Midsummer-90* - Shakespeare's magical comedy in a neat hour-and-a-half package - featuring their fabulous National Touring company. Follow on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/americanshakespearecenter](http://www.facebook.com/americanshakespearecenter)

Hampstead Theatre production of [I and You](#) via Instagram starring Maisie Williams from 23rd March for one week

Theatre UnCut are livestreaming [Kieran Hurley's Bubble](#) on Mon 23rd March - Is this the short-term future of theatremaking? *Bubble*, a play set entirely on Facebook, uses a cast of European actors who never met in person, rehearsed over Skype and filmed on their cameras.

Check out the Imagine! Virtual Festival during 25-27 March from 1-9pm with 24 free webcasts covering politics, poetry, film reviews, comedy at <https://imaginebelfast.com>. It's all free!

For Katie Mitchell/opera fans, the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich is streaming her recent production of *Judith* until 26 March. Link here: <https://operlive.de/judith/>

The Royal Court's [Cyprus Avenue](#) will be available to watch online, from Fri 27th March

*A Modern Decameron* - an online story festival. 27 March – 7 April 2020. 50+ tellers. 10 days of 10 stories. 100 messages of hope. The festival will be hosted on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3049501975089576/> and on their Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzUzlu6LWoTODcgfCfEm1wg/about>

*The Rest I Make Up*, the award-winning documentary about playwright Maria Irene Fornes, is streaming for free until April 1. <https://vimeo.com/398378982>

*April 2020*

American Conservatory Theatre is offering streams of Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's *Gloria* and Lydia R. Diamond's *Toni Stone* on a pay what you will basis until Sunday 5 April: <https://secure.act-sf.org/overview/gloria-tonistone-streaming?fbclid=IwAR3dDbNcyDdRXlqUltKolb9EQyHAca4q94e0dV76DJZjbA2F57vhTmGyWtk>

For Marina Abramovic/opera fans, her new project *7 Deaths of Maria Callas* is also being streamed by the Bayerische Staatsoper, on 11 April at 1900 CET. This will appear on [staatsoper.tv](http://staatsoper.tv) at the appropriate time.

Cup Of Brew's *ORANGUTAN* - [youtu.be/KXsrlfBxiks](https://youtu.be/KXsrlfBxiks) is available for 30 days (17th April)

The National Theatre's NTLive is streaming a show a week on YouTube! Productions will be available for 7 days, starting with *One Man Two Guvnors* (2 April), *Jane Eyre* (9 April), *Treasure Island* (16 April), and *Twelfth Night* (23 April). All details here: <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/at-home>

On The Boards are offering [free streaming](#) of their library of contemporary performance through to the end of April  
July 2020

The [Folger Shakespeare Library](#) has a huge range of audio and text resources, and is making the film of their [Macbeth available on Youtube](#) until July 2020

*Limited availability - individual shows (end date unknown)*

*5 Soldiers* - Rosie Kay's extraordinary [5 Soldiers: The Body is the Frontline](#) was staged in army drill halls around the UK but since its live stream is still available online you can watch it from the comfort of your own sofa. Performing in close quarters to a score that mixes punk and opera, Kay's phenomenal company bring home the horror of combat and disarm audiences.

Branar (Irish theatre for young audiences company) is making a video of each of their shows available for 24 hours at a time: see <https://www.facebook.com/branartear>

Clown Funeral - associate artists of the New Diorama and Pegasus Theatre - has made three shows available online for free. What's on Stage describes them as 'a whole wad of whimsy while you wait for the virus to subside'

[The Murderer](#)

[Things We Chose To Save](#)

[Mr Poe's Legendarium](#)

*Cookies* by Emily Jenkins, performed in 2017 at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, tackles cyber bullying: <https://youtu.be/WMH77gzqd88>

Daniel Bye's shows [The Price of Everything](#), [How to Occupy an Oil Rig](#), and the very apt [Going Viral](#) are available on YouTube

Dead Centre have released the recording of *Lippy* (2013ish) - link here: <https://vimeo.com/253790281> and password is context

*Ghost Quartet* - filmed in 2015 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJSaEJm8pCE>

*Girls Like That* - London's Unicorn Theatre has a world-class reputation for theatre for young audiences. It's [online in full](#) and offers a raw account of adolescent anxiety, slut-shaming and self-belief. In-your-face theatre that stays in your mind.

The Irish National Opera has made available [Orfeo ed Euridice](#), [Madama Butterfly](#) and [La Cenerentola](#).

Living Record Productions' [Thrown](#) - binaural sound performance in full - listen with headphones!

If you are a fan of opera, a number of places have made films available, including [OperaVision](#), [Teatro Regio Torino's #operaonthesofa](#), [Vienna State Opera](#), and the [New York Met](#) is streaming productions each day and making them available for 20 hours.

*Le Patin Libre* - Think dance on ice and you'd imagine sequins and staggering TV celebrities but the Canadian troupe [Le Patin Libre](#) has taken the artform into a new dimension. In their double bill *Vertical Influences*, the skaters turned the rink into a mesmerising stage slowly decorated by the patterns cut by their blades.

Belgian company Peeping Tom have posted their first trilogy - the film of *Le Jardin* and live performances of *Le Salon* and *Le Sous Sol* - online for free until the end of the outbreak. Check them out [here](#)!

Powder Keg's [Bears](#) is on Vimeo



*Rosas Danst Rosas* - Love dance? Need to exercise at home? Then join the queen of Belgian avant-garde performance Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker as she [talks you through](#) how to perform her 1983 classic *Rosas Danst Rosas*. All you need is a chair, a bit of legroom and enough space to swing your hair.

The Royal Shakespeare Company's First Encounters *King Lear* was created specifically for younger audiences and played in schools across England - [https://youtu.be/zP\\_gODJ2SM](https://youtu.be/zP_gODJ2SM)

The Schaubühne Theatre in Berlin is offering a range of productions for streaming at <https://www.schaubuehne.de/en/seiten/online-spielplan.html> - if your German is as good as mine, you'll find Google Chrome's translate feature a help!

*Showstopper! The Improvised Musical* - After more than 1,000 productions, the Showstoppers improv crew are some of the quickest wits in the biz. So it's no surprise that when they were faced with a West End closure they live-streamed a performance. Watch their custom-made, never-to-be-repeated impro musical [on Facebook](#).

Musical theatre pro Adam Lenson has given every musical fan their heart's desire with *The Signal*, a raft of shows and performances [all available online for free](#).

*Since U Been Gone* - [Teddy Lamb](#) was due to present a Trans Take Over at London's Bunker theatre this week as part of its now suspended [Power Share](#) season. So they have [uploaded a version of their musical fringe hit](#) about losing loved ones and finding your own voice.

Le Théâtre du Soleil and Ariane Mnouchkine have made a number of films and shows available via [https://www.reseau-canope.fr/edutheque-theatre-en-acte/index.php?id=225&fbclid=IwAR2OC4n5SmAAz\\_sNaL0b5R5dYja-m8afL16AeQ-SLO\\_AFKvvpNAPlrJCIRM](https://www.reseau-canope.fr/edutheque-theatre-en-acte/index.php?id=225&fbclid=IwAR2OC4n5SmAAz_sNaL0b5R5dYja-m8afL16AeQ-SLO_AFKvvpNAPlrJCIRM)

Tim Crouch's wonderful [I, Malvolio](#) free on Vimeo, and his [I, Cinna](#) is on Youtube

Hit Fringe production [Timpson the Musical](#)

West End production of *The Wind in the Willows* available for free (with an option to donate) - <https://www.willowsmusical.com/> [UK only]

Young Jean Lee's [We're Gonna Die](#) is currently available on her website

*Announced, details tba*

[BBC Culture in Quarantine](#) to stream Emma Rice's *Wise Children*, Mike Bartlett's *Albion* and more

Home in Manchester has commissioned [Homecoming](#), inviting theatre and live art makers to create new works at home, for an audience who are also at home. All work will be made available on HOME's website on a 'pay-what-you-decide' basis. It will be made accessible to the widest possible audience through captioning, audio description, and providing relaxed versions where appropriate.

Listen:

*Search for podcasts using your favourite app...*

AdLib - York Theatre Royal's podcast

BBC podcasts: *In Our Time*, *The Life Scientific*, *Infinite Monkey Cage*, *Desert Island Discs*, *From Our Own Correspondent*, *Friday Night Comedy*, *You're Dead to Me*, *Forest 404*

BBC 4 Radio Drama <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04xyp0g>

Beyond Shakespeare is broadcasting a series of lunchtime readthroughs of non-Shakespeare early modern plays. Check out their twitter page for updates: <https://twitter.com/BeyondShakes>

Curtain Call Theatre Podcast - spotlights current shows through wide-ranging interviews, which give listeners a detailed sense of what it takes for a show to come together. <https://curtaincalltheatre.libsyn.com/>

David Tennant Does a Podcast With...

Hamiltcast - a no-stone-left-untuned exploration of the groundbreaking show *Hamilton*, its multilayered musical treats and its cultural impact. <https://www.thehamiltcast.com/>

**Gwaandak Theatre** and Vuntut Gwichin Government's *Ndoo Tr'eedyaa Gogwaandak: Forward Together Vuntut Gwichin Stories* - [vuntutstories.ca](http://vuntutstories.ca)

Tune into discussions with artists on **MayFest Radio**: new episodes soon

Off Book: The Black Theatre Podcast - features conversations between the hosts and a selection of guests from all walks of theatrical life, including actors, costume designers and writers. <https://soundcloud.com/off-book-theatre-podcast>

**The Parsnip Ship** - a monthly radio-play podcast series recorded live and distributed for free wherever folk stream their podcasts. This has been a great entertainment and educational resource for folk wanting to hear stories by underrepresented playwrights and independent musicians

Piece by Piece: musical theatre talk show hosted by musical director Joe Bunker, exploring iconic pieces of musical theatre with the actors and creative teams behind high-profile UK revivals: <https://anchor.fm/piece-by-piece>

Playing On Air - contemporary one-act play performed by actors like Adam Driver, Audra McDonald and Michael C. Hall, followed by a conversation with the creative team. <https://playingonair.org/>

Pod4Ham - a song-by-song examination of *Hamilton* from The Incomparable

Pursued by a Bear - by Exeunt Magazine

Putting it Together - the biggest theatre podcast in Scotland and it's sponsored by the National Theatre of Scotland. Contains over 120 episodes interviewing actors, writers and directors, and various other artistic creatives too.

NT Talks - 10 years of talks with actors, directors and more recorded at the National Theatre

Rathband was the 2018 winner of the BBC Audio Drama Podcast. This 3-part drama about the last 20 months in the life of PC David Rathband before he was shot and blinded by Raoul Moat is available at [www.rathbandplay.com/](http://www.rathbandplay.com/)

Royal Court Playwright's Podcast - Simon Stephens interviews 40 playwrights

RTE Radio Drama. Radio plays from Ireland's national broadcaster <https://www.rte.ie/drama/radio/>

Season 6 of Chris Goode's podcast **Thompson's Live** has just begun

Variety's Stagecraft - a deep gold mine of searching interviews with actors and other theater professionals about their Broadway and off-Broadway endeavors. <https://broadwaypodcastnetwork.com/podcast/variety-stagecraft/>

Other non-theatre recommendations: *Guilty Feminist*, *Global Pillage*, *The Best Pick*, *99% Invisible*, *Ologies*, *Reply All*

## Write and workshops:

*Some opportunities that might tempt you:*

The BBC Writers Room has launched **Interconnected** and are looking for original short-form scripts, between 5-10mins whose 2-4 characters now find themselves in isolation, but connecting via video conferencing. Deadline: 30th March. Pay: £300

Get playwriting inspiration from The Bruntwood Prize's excellent collection of [online writing resources](#)

Eve Leigh's [Workshop for a Digital Body](#) is open to everyone

**Papatango** is asking for new monologues (2-4 pages): the writers of 10 selected pieces will win £100

Young Jean Lee is teaching a [free online writing workshop](#) on 22nd March



## Other resources

For any teachers of drama who have had to hastily convert their teaching to online platforms, this Google Doc has some excellent, drama-specific resources and advice: *Teaching Theatre Online: A Shift in Pedagogy Amidst Coronavirus Outbreak* - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i-keJ\\_frOOEUa50CLAdz86hq5CxQwBQ2T4hbSI2nYdM/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR11cVZdw4DXEZqNCgOwYn\\_swxIhHfsWXF9tMu9-7aiKfQljSyecFGkfn!](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i-keJ_frOOEUa50CLAdz86hq5CxQwBQ2T4hbSI2nYdM/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR11cVZdw4DXEZqNCgOwYn_swxIhHfsWXF9tMu9-7aiKfQljSyecFGkfn!)

[www.stagestories.org/resources](http://www.stagestories.org/resources)

## Keeping it practical

It will be hard to do drama practically in lockdown – but not impossible! Here are some suggestions to keep active and to exercise your performance skills.

1. Developing physical skills: Vamos Theatre Company specialises in mask work. With the face covered and the voice silenced, the emphasis is on the body. The physical performance of the actor is important no matter what play you are doing and what style you are working in so why not work through Vamos' [tutorials](#) on mask work and refine your physical expression. Create a mask of your own (a paper plate would do!) and practice to the camera on your phone or in front of the mirror.
2. Learn and stage a monologue to camera. Watch it back and give yourself some constructive criticism. Click [here](#) for some interesting monologues. 14 in total (7 female characters and 7 male characters – but see beyond gender by all means). Research the plays and find out about the characters and their circumstances to make choices about age, accent, state of mind etc.
3. Give Shakespeare a go! This [site](#) has a number of monologues by Shakespeare you could try. The [following series](#) is an excellent introduction to playing Shakespeare with plenty of practical exercises and demonstrations by notable RSC actors (including some young famous faces!). Hours of expertise here.
4. Make a puppet and learn how to make it come to life! Click [here](#) to find out more.
5. Learn some warm-up exercises [here](#) and practise them at home.

## Get lost!

The National Theatre has a YouTube channel with tonnes of informative videos. Why not get lost in it [all](#)?

## Swot up on your theatre history and theatre movements

YouTube channel [CrashCourse](#) offers bite-size videos on theatre history and important movements in theatre, for example expressionism, epic theatre and absurdism (to name just three). Watch these informative videos and make notes on them. Search for online productions of any plays mentioned. Then go down the rabbit hole of YouTube to explore these movements, plays and playwrights in more depth. Some of the work you see may be bad. Very bad. But you need to see bad theatre as well as good theatre!

## KE specific – preparing for the written paper 1: read and research your set texts

We study two plays for the written paper. They are *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth and *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams.

If you are planning to join us in September, why not source these plays and read them?

Then research each play's historical context, genre, style and themes. Search for reviews of recent productions to find out more about the plays' themes and to find out how the plays have been staged.

### KE specific – preparing for the written paper 2: watching and analysing live theatre

[Tune into YouTube](#) every Thursday to watch a play from the National Theatre. The plays will be available for a week after they have been screened. Why not choose a key moment – about 2-3 minutes of footage you thought was really successful – and practise vividly and analytically describing what you saw and evaluating why you thought it was successful? You could create a grid to plan your work –

The who	The what	The how	The why 1	The why 2
Name of the actor and the character being played	A line of dialogue or a movement	Describe how it was performed by the actor – use vivid descriptions as well as terminology	What was the effect? For example, what was conveyed about the character? What mood was created? Etc etc etc.	Why was this successful? Because it evoked your sympathy, made you laugh, successfully highlighted an important theme in the play, created suspense and tension?

– and then write it up in a paragraph.

Here's a reminder of those key acting skills:

**Voice:** tone, accent, emphasis, pause, volume, pitch, inflection, pace

**Physical:** gesture, posture, stance, gait, facial expression, spatial relationships

In partnership with the BBC the RSC will be airing past productions on BBC platforms including iplayer. Click [here](#) to find out more. You could do the same kind of exercise with these productions plus Emma Rice's *Wise Children* and Mike Barlett's *Albion*, also to be screened on the BBC. Our Twitter feed will keep you informed about what is available.

### Watch some international theatre and broaden the mind

The [Berliner Ensemble](#) and the world famous [Schaubühne theatre](#) in Berlin are both streaming productions on their websites. The Schaubühne releases a new play daily at 5.30 UK time (6.30 German time). Productions by Thomas Ostermeier are a real treat.

### Learn about different theatre practitioners

What is theatre? Different practitioners have different ideas. Spend some time watching and researching their work. Discover the work and practices of some new theatre practitioners you may not have studied at GCSE:

- Kneehigh and Emma Rice
- Theatre de Complicite
- Headlong Theatre

- Steven Berkoff
- Frantic Assembly
- Max Stafford-Clark
- Katie Mitchell
- Marianne Elliott

Each company/practitioner has a website you can explore. What makes each company/practitioner different and special? What ideas do they have about theatre and theatrical experiences? What key features define their work?

Here are some practitioners you probably did look at – but may not have done:

- Konstantin Stanislavski
- Bertolt Brecht
- Antonin Artaud

Research these stalwarts. Their influence can be seen in all kinds of theatre we see today.

At KE we have a subscription to DigitalTheatre+. Unfortunately, we are unable to share the log-in details with anyone who is not officially part of the college community. However, if your previous school has a subscription or your drama teacher can arrange a free, temporary pass for a month or so during this period, you can watch various productions directed by Steven Berkoff (I would recommend *The Trial*), Complicite's *A Disappearing Number*, and Frantic Assembly's *Things I know to Be True*.

Note that the BBC will air Emma Rice's production of *Wise Children*. Rice was artistic director of Kneehigh for some time and you can see Kneehigh's playful approach to theatre throughout the production!

### **Brush up on your GCSE knowledge**

If you were studying for a GCSE in drama, you might like to brush up on the knowledge and the skills you acquired. You can carry this into your A level studies. The [BBC bitesize website](#) offers useful revision notes on all aspects of the course, including design.

### **Read, read, read! Useful books and suggested reading**

Below are some suggestions to chomp your way through but note that [Nick Hern Books](#) will be giving away a play every Wednesday! No need to spend any money to keep reading. You could join them on Twitter to discuss the plays.

Why not work your way through [these](#) 25 excellent contemporary plays?

KE specific reading – AQA revision guide – *AQA Drama & Theatre Studies* by Su Fielder and Pat Friday.

KE specific reading – our set texts: *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth and *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams

A good book on directing – *The Director's Craft* by Katie Mitchell

A good book on acting – *An Actor Prepares* by Konstantin Stanislavski

Two good books by actors about acting – *Being an Actor* by Simon Callow and *The Year of the King* by Antony Sher

A good practical book on becoming a better actor – *Actioning and how to do it* by Nick Moseley