

# A Level Drama and Theatre



Hi everyone, we are so pleased that you are looking at our transition activities with a view to taking **A Level Drama and Theatre** next year. We have tried to offer a

range of tasks to give you a sense of how broad the subject can be, how exciting the possibilities are, and to whet your appetites for further study.

Plans for next year include working with different theatre companies including Paper Birds and Complicité, as well as the possibility of participating in Masterclass with The Theatre Royal, Haymarket. We still have our partnership with the Donmar Warehouse and now we are building links with The Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, so there will be lots going on! The theatre will be your second home!

Please look at the lovely suggestions on the following pages to give you a taste of the journey ahead. Towards the end of the summer, having sampled a range of theatrical delights, we would like you to write an essay:

**Title: “Live theatre has nothing to say to young people” Discuss, with reference to your own experiences of live theatre, as an audience member and/or a performer.**

**Due date: 1<sup>st</sup> A level Drama lesson!**

*But mostly, we would like you to get out there and experience some theatre yourselves! Look at these great ways of seeing things that oldies have to pay through the nose for:*

**National Theatre:** £5 tickets <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/16-25-tickets>

**The Old Vic:** £10 tickets <https://www.oldvictheatre.com/your-visit/booking-tickets/concessions-ticket-schemes/pwc>

**Royal Shakespeare Company:** £5 tickets <https://www.rsc.org.uk/rsc-key>

**Mousetrap:** £7 tickets <https://www.mousetrap.org.uk/golive>

Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please email [ltorres-ryan@gch.org.uk](mailto:ltorres-ryan@gch.org.uk)

# Year 11 progression to Key Stage 5

Resources to help you prepare for post 16 study  
in Drama and Theatre:

Go to the library and take out a few  
plays.

You can read a play in an afternoon!

Keep a note of what you read; and  
familiarise yourself with the play  
form. Browse the shelves and see  
what tickles your fancy!

Here are some good  
modern playwrights to get you  
started: →

Timberlake Wertenbaker  
Caryl Churchill  
Nina Raine  
debbie tucker green  
Alice Birch  
Winsome Pinnock  
Lucy Prebble  
Natasha Gordon  
Laura Wade  
Evan Placey  
Simon Stephens  
David Mamet  
Tom Stoppard  
Michael Frayn

You should aim to read a  
play a week! To help,  
you can use Nick Hern  
Books.

Download, read and  
then listen to Q&A  
podcast about the play  
of the week.

[https://www.nickhernbo  
oks.co.uk/playgroup](https://www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/playgroup)

Watch this Physical Theatre from  
Gecko Theatre. Gecko is an award-  
winning and internationally  
acclaimed physical theatre company  
based in Ipswich, led by Artistic  
Director Amit Lahav. Gecko's shows  
are visual, visceral and ambitious  
crafted to inspire, move and  
entertain.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v  
=5PQpxi7h\\_rc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PQpxi7h_rc)

Complete this task to unleash your neutral mask. All you need is an empty cereal box. Listen to leading practitioner Annie Sutton guide you through the process.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUP1116IKwM&feature=youtu.be>

Listen to this interview with Alecky Blythe. An exceptional Verbatim Theatre playwright. She explains how she crafts her plays.

Read the news article about her play 'London Road'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u21hmi7O6xE>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-17489109>

Read this article about Forum Theatre (Theatre of the Oppressed) and then watch this Forum Theatre performance from student theatre group STATE of Reality.

<https://www.culturematters.org.uk/index.php/arts/theatre/item/2455-the-theatre-of-theoppressed>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcLcXeXJVDU>

Watch this TED talk from Selina Busby (Lecturer at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama) discussing "Can theatre change the world?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3rj5jB96no>

Read this article about the evolution of modern theatrical production.

<https://www.britannica.com/art/theater-building/The-evolution-of-modern-theatrical-production>

Complete this movement class led by Angela Towler who is a former rehearsal director at Rambert Dance Company.

Join in with the National Dance Company of Wales.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/I0026gtf/national-dancecompany-wales-morning-class>

Listen to power of sound design. What is binaural sound? Could you use it in performance like the National Theatre have with their production of Anna?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFM4hPgGZuk>

Watch the Royal Ballet's version of 'Metamorphosis' recorded from the Royal Opera House.

This ballet is taken from the original play by Franz Kafka from 1915 and is often taught as a physical and surrealist piece of theatre.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQyli3GLR50>

Listen to these Podcasts from the Royal Court's Playwright Podcasts introduced and presented by Simon Stephens.

[There is a podcast from Alecky Blythe (see Box 6) in S2 Ep13!]

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/series/playwrights-podcast/>

# FRANTIC ASSEMBLY



## Find out about Frantic Assembly!

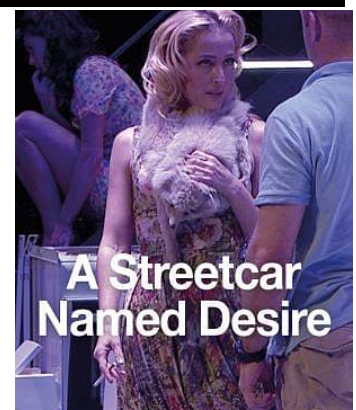
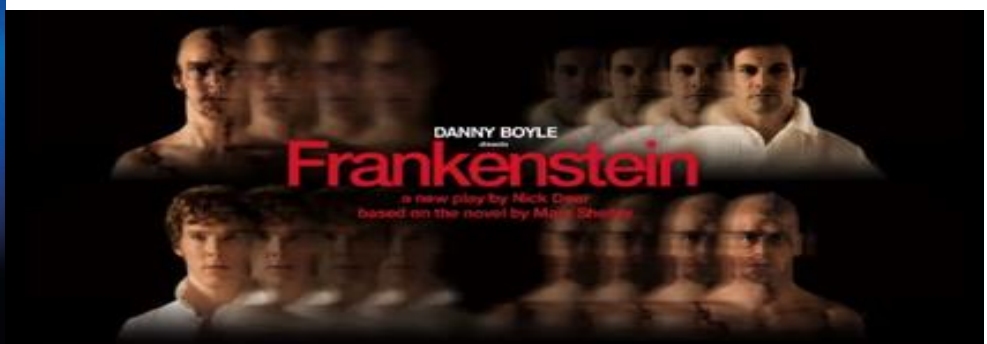
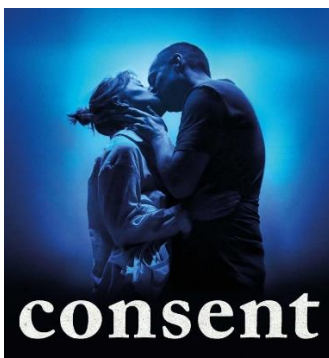
The Frantic Method is approaching devising as a series of tasks, each broken down into building blocks. This is designed to establish progress from the simplest discoveries.

Performers are encouraged to take a moment back to its simplest truth and build from there. This places dancers, actors, students, teachers and all participants on the same starting point.

Using these building blocks they are empowered to find and create complex work through a process that is safe, fun and constantly illuminating.

<https://www.franticassembly.co.uk>

TASK: Try one or two of these and use it, as well as your own experiences, to write your essay!



# SMALL ISLAND



## Small Island

Hope and humanity confront cold reality in three intricately connected stories: Hortense yearns for a new life away from rural Jamaica, Gilbert dreams of becoming a lawyer, and Queenie longs to escape her Lincolnshire roots.

**Helen Edmundson's** stage adaptation, featuring a company of 40 actors, traces the tangled history of Jamaica and the UK throughout the Second World War until 1948 – the year HMT *Empire Windrush* docked at Tilbury.

Watch the play!

Use the following link to access the NTLive collection (there are plenty of other things to watch as well, if you feel so inclined!)

**Your access details are:**

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/series/national-theatre-collection-iid-190464>

**Username: 5Tk\$9Tt\* Password: 5Nx,3Kz.**

Read this review from [The Guardian](#). Watch the [trailer!](#). Read the [rehearsal diaries!](#)

**REVIEW:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2019/may/02/small-island-review-andrea-levy-windrush-national-theatre-london>

**WATCH:** <https://www.ntlive.com/>

**REHEARSAL DIARIES:**

[https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/sites/default/files/small\\_island\\_rehearsaldiaries\\_lowres.pdf](https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/sites/default/files/small_island_rehearsaldiaries_lowres.pdf)



See you in September!