Southend High School for Girls
Sixth FORM

Course outline

Head of Department:
Mrs N Page

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 in one of the following GCSE Drama, English Language or English Literature

Drama and Theatre

Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course. It is important that potential students are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work and are keen to be involved with performance. This holistic course means all aspects of theatre production are considered; directing, acting, writing and the visual and technical side of theatre; set, costume, lighting and sound. Students should have a desire to develop skills in some or all of these areas. For Components 1 and 2 students can be assessed as a designer or as an actor.

What will you study in Year 12?

The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in almost equal measure. Students will extend their ability to create drama and theatre, choosing either acting or designer pathways. The course will involve participating in drama productions, as well as studying plays, playwrights and styles of performance. There will also be viewings of professional live theatre and workshops by theatre practitioners, to further enhance skills and knowledge of the processes and practices involved in creating theatre. In the first year, **two set texts** are studied, from the practical perspectives of the director, actor and designer. Students also begin work on the first performance assignment where a chosen text is re-imagined using the influence of a significant theatre practitioner or company.

What will you study in Year 13?

In Year 13, the second practical component is assessed by an external examiner. Here, a chosen stimulus leads to the production of two performance pieces; one based on a scripted extract and the other devised by the students. To complete the year, a **third set text** is studied alongside the other set texts, for the 'open book' written examination.

How will you be assessed during the course?

- **Summer Year 12:** Component 1 'Theatre Workshop' internally assessed and externally moderated, 20%. Practical performance and creative log.
- **Spring Year 13:** Component 2 'Text in Action' one text based and one devised piece; assessed by an Eduqas examiner, 40%. Two practical performances, a written report and evaluation.
- **Summer Year 13:** Component 3 'Text in Performance' final written examination that focusses on the production and performance of the three set texts and evaluation of theatre seen, 40%.

Where could this course lead?

Skills learnt in Drama are sought after by universities and employers alike, and a vast array of career opportunities, beyond performing, exist for students with a background in Drama and Theatre, for example, students studying Law have been found to be advantaged with a background in Drama. Around eighty-four higher education establishments, including Russell Group universities, offer degree level studies in this subject. Former students have gone on to direct, perform, design, stage manage and write for theatre and television, had careers within media industries, worked with theatre in education companies, and applied the skills they have learnt to public facing professions, where skills of empathy, communication and presentation are essential.

Additional Information

Exam board

We follow the Eduqas A Level in Drama and Theatre: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre-as-a-level#tab_overview

Drama is housed in our large, bright and airy purpose-built studio. Students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of performance related **enrichment** activities and to take on leadership roles within the performing arts at SHSG. Several times a year, we view professional theatre productions, on a digital platform where a live visit is not possible.

Extension and support

Drama fosters creativity and equips students with enhanced public speaking and presentational skills. It is a collaborative subject which prepares students for an increasingly team oriented work-place. Drama is interdisciplinary and therefore complements the work of other curriculum subjects. The small size of our classes enables this course to be tailor-made for our students and whilst Drama GCSE is useful, it is by no means essential.