

Drama and Theatre

Summer Assignment 2018

To help you prepare for the wonderful challenges and depth of the course, we would like you to do the following over the summer. Please complete this assignment by your first lesson back in September.

1. Widen your knowledge of playwriting: Read a play. Your choice, it can either be a classic or a piece of new writing. Bring the play to the first lesson and prepare a 1 minute summary of its plot, performance style, and the themes the playwright explores to share the class.

You can buy plays from Amazon for 99p, or borrow one from the library!

2. Widen your knowledge of theatre performance styles: See a LIVE piece of theatre and write a 500 word review of it. There are lots of performances on in and around Frome, and beyond. Try to find scripted and original devised performances. You need to be evaluating the production in terms of acting, design, costume and use of technology.

You can find cheap tickets last minute. Apart from the Merlin, see what's further afield in Bath, Bristol, Salisbury or an outdoor production. Here are some links to help find something to see....

<http://www.merlintheatre.co.uk>

<http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk>

<http://www.rondotheatre.co.uk>

<http://www.bristololdvic.org.uk>

<http://tobaccofactory.com>

<http://www.salisburyplayhouse.com>

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/whats-on>

If you absolutely can't get to a live performance, then soak up YouTube's amazing offering on Frantic Assembly, or The Globe or National Theatre online

Book a ticket to see the NT Live performance of 'Julie' at The Merlin Theatre on Thursday 6th February. We have reserved tickets for you for £5! We are all going and will be doing some work on it in the second week. Go to the Merlin box office and ask to buy a reserved Frome College A Level Drama ticket.

3. Sharpen up your performance skills: Learn a monologue. Your choice. 2-3 minutes in length. We don't mind if it is from a play or a film script, but make sure you know what the whole play/film is about, and it's a little out of your comfort zone.

4. Read around the subject: buy this book and dip into it, make some notes in a shiny new Drama and Theatre notebook. It's a great introduction to Drama and Theatre theory – it's £2.44 second hand on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Theatre-Directions-Warwick-Dobson/dp/0340758619>

Wider reading list: here are some books that could/should/would-be-good if you read....

An Actor Prepares; Stanislavski

The Year of the King; Anthony Sher – easy to read diary of this great actor playing Richard III

The Empty Space; Peter Brook

The Theatre and It's Double; Antonin Artaud

Improv; Keith Johnston –great for devising

Games for Actors and Non-Actors; Augusto Boal

5. Access the course specification online have a look and read over it. You will get an edited copy as part of your course guide in September

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/drama-and-theatre-2016.html>

6. Email me...if you have any questions

ktarrant@fromecollege.org

I look forward to seeing you all soon!