



DRAMA AND THEATRE AT HURTWOOD

The A LEVEL is divided into 3 components:



Component 1 DEVISING

This is worth **40% of the A Level exam** and is performed in the first term of the second year. Students work in small groups to **devise an original piece of theatre** using the stimulus of an extract from a play together with the techniques of a well-known theatre practitioner.

You are awarded **practical marks** for your performance or design contribution to the piece (worth 10% overall) and **written coursework marks** for a **3000 word portfolio** on the whole process (worth 30% overall).

Component 2 TEXT IN PERFORMANCE

Monologue/Duologue & Group Performance

This is worth **20% of the whole qualification** and is performed in front of a visiting examiner in the second term of the second year. All marks are for practical work. You can opt to be examined in **performance or design**.

The exam is in two parts – a group performance of an extract from a play and a monologue (2 mins) or duologue (5 mins) from a contrasting play.

Component 3 THEATRE MAKERS IN PRACTICE

Written Examination

The written exam is worth **40% of the whole A Level** and is sat during the usual Summer exam period in June. It consists of a **2 and half hour paper** which examines your understanding of **the role of a performer, a designer and a director** as well as being a member of an audience.

It consists of 4 essays written under timed conditions.

Section A – Live Theatre Evaluation

written in the light of a given statement on a production you have seen. You can take in up to 500 words of notes to help you answer this.

Section B – Page to Stage.

Two responses to the performance text studied (we are currently studying *Equus* by Peter Shaffer) from the perspective of a performer and a designer.

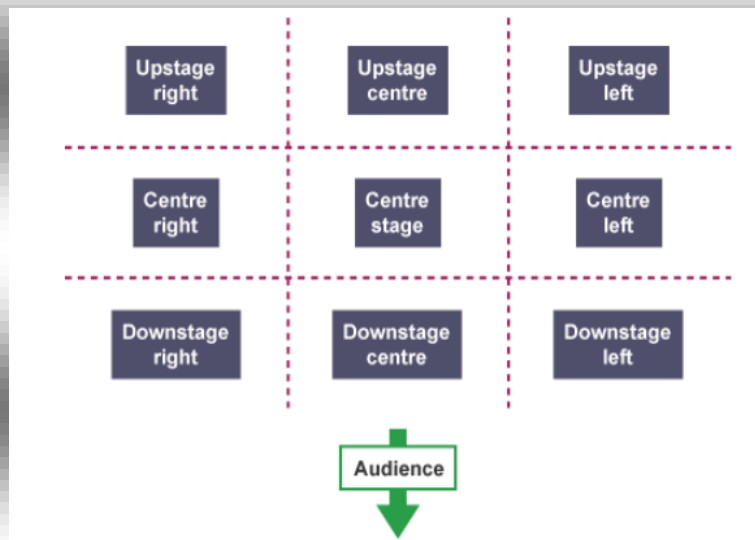
Section C – Interpreting a Performance Text.

You write from the perspective of a director using the methods of a well-known theatre practitioner. The text we are currently studying is the Ancient Greek tragedy *Antigone* by Sophocles.



At Hurtwood we believe it is through practical engagement and performance work that we learn best, and this is at the forefront of all the work we do.

Help to get you started...



CONSIDER THE LAST PLAY YOU READ/STUDIED.....could you comment on all of the following?

- genre
- structure
- character
- form
- style
- language
- sub-text
- character motivation and interaction
- the creation of mood and atmosphere
- the development of pace and rhythm
- dramatic climax
- stage directions
- original performance conditions
- writer's intentions



These are just some of the things we look at when studying performance work.

USEFUL AREAS TO RESEARCH:

Before we begin in September you may find it useful to make yourself a little more aware of the roles and responsibilities of theatre makers in contemporary professional practice. Why don't you visit The National Theatre Website - <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/learning/schools/secondary-and-fe/resources> and there you will find resource packs and rehearsal diaries in which you can discover more about how plays are created by different members of the teams such as: the playwright, performers, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, costume designer and more.....

KEEPING THEATRE ALIVE – EVEN DURING LOCKDOWN:



National Theatre At Home – enjoy world class theatre, for free at home. This is also great in terms of preparation and inspiration for the studies you have ahead, so take advantage of what's on offer... <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>

And for Musical Theatre Lovers...

https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=YuyAPTKj&id=FC61E2D438429E5FA89E3A802F6F3A88E29D2174&thid=OIP.YuyAPTKjwYNV_uj--4sgoAEjEs&mediaurl=https%3a%2f%2fcdn.euroweeklynews.com%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f04%2fshow.jpeg%3fx24447&exp=600&expw=583&q=the+shows+must+go+on+lloyd+webber&simid=608009657563611518&selectedIndex=0

Tune in at 7pm, every Friday
#TheShowsMustGoOn
www.youtube.com/TheShowsMustGoOn

Theatres across the UK have closed their doors and productions have been paused as the country battles the coronavirus crisis, but there's still a whole world of drama at your fingertips - and we're not just talking about Netflix.

From Broadway to the West End, some of the world's best plays and musicals can be streamed straight into your home. So when you're searching for yet another box set to watch during lockdown, why not tune in to one of these instead?

- <https://globeplayer.tv/>
- <https://www.marquee.tv/freetrial?msclkid=ed65fd0486b71e477eb8a3a62ddc5684> (they are offering a 14 day free trial)

LOG IN DETAILS FOR DIGITAL THEATRE:

USERNAME – DIGITALTHEATRE@HURTWOOD.NET

PASSWORD - HURTWOOD



FOR ALL HURTWOOD STUDENTS:

In order to help you prepare for studying live theatre, we would like to point you towards the website www.digitaltheatreplus.com – where you can find some of the world's finest theatre productions and stream them onto your home devices. Those who studied GCSE Drama may have already used this resource but if not all you need to do is enter our Hurtwood details (see above) to log-in and start watching.

WRITING CHALLENGE: Chose a production to watch with your family (Things I Know To Be and after some discussion about what everyone thought of the show write a theatre review in which you can use direct quotes from you and your family as the audience. You might like to search the internet for some theatrical reviews on the show too. Try to mention specific moments that stood out to you and explain what happened and why this was memorable or what it communicated?

backstage★



<https://www.backstage.com/monologues/>

Why not record your monologue and send it to us?
We would love to see what you're getting up to!

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE: LEARN AND PERFORM A MONOLOGUE

During your studies at Hurtwood there will be the opportunity to learn and perform several monologues, so why not get a head start and prepare one over the summer!! This is also a great opportunity to read a play and understand a character and then bring it to life.

Follow these key points to help you prepare:

1. Who am I?
2. Where am I?
3. When is it?
4. Where have I just come from?
5. What do I want?
6. Why do I want it?
7. Why do I want it now?
8. What will happen if I don't get it now?
9. How will I get what I want?
10. What must I overcome?

Keep an eye on the 'new starters' area where you will find additional resources to keep you busy and keep the love of theatre and performance alive 😊

THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT

The Hurtwood Theatre Department consists of a team of experienced theatre makers. They each have an area of specialism and all are experts in their field.

As a department we pride ourselves on our variety of professional expertise and training. Our aim is to enable and equip our students with a broad range of skills and theatre practice. One way of doing this is to share the experience of the department across all teaching groups in the first four week introductory course. In addition to this we practice team-teaching for all our components to ensure that every student gets the very best support possible!

HEAD OF THEATRE

Alison Winter

Alison is an experienced professional with a background in acting, directing, teaching and broadcasting. She has a degree in Drama from Exeter University and a PGCE from London University. In her first teaching job she taught Dave Fonseca his A level English! She worked with a number of theatre companies before working for the BBC. Her experience of teaching and broadcasting combined with her theatre background ideally suited her to working at Hurtwood and she now leads the department and is a tutor at Peaslake House.



HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS/ DEPUTY HEAD OF THEATRE

Doug Quinn



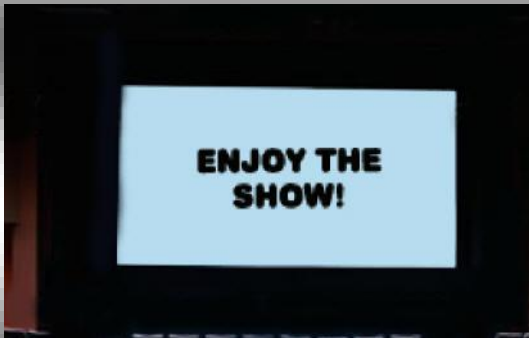
Doug trained at The Central School of Speech & Drama after completing a degree in Drama, Theatre & Philosophy at The University of Surrey. Doug began his directing career in New York at the prestigious Stagedoor Manor. Doug is a Principal Moderator for Edexcel examinations and an associate tutor at The Guildford School of Acting. He is also Housemaster of The Lodge and responsible for all Hurtwood's extra-curricular productions.

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THEN PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH



<https://vimeo.com/408917925>

<http://www.strangeface.co.uk/participation/media/>



A LITTLE EXTRA FOR YOU:

Free performance link and resource from
STRANGEFACE THEATRE COMPANY

We are lucky to be able to share with you the full show 'The Hit' (45 mins), which is a black comedy about a hitman who presciently finds himself 'self-isolating' and reviewing the events that made him (think Scorsese meets Krapp's Last Tape).

The piece was funded initially by the Wellcome Trust as an investigation into cognitive dissonance and pulls together the work of extraordinary puppeteers and some of the creative team for Warhorse.

Just copy the links to the left and we have also included a link to their resources page where there are four little films about puppetry and the making of the show.

ENJOY!

YOU COULD ALSO LOOK AT SOME OF OUR PRODUCTION WORK – EXAMPLES OF HURTWOOD SHOWS!

<http://www.hurtwood.info/archive>