

# Theatre Studies

## A Level Preparation Work

The following tasks will prepare you for the A level course.

### Activity 1 - Investigating a Performing Arts Venue Project

Research a Performing Arts Venue and create a short PowerPoint presentation to deliver to others on your course. This could be a local venue (Bristol Old Vic, Bristol Hippodrome, Bath Theatre Royal) or it could be one further afield that you have heard of or visited (The Globe, The National Theatre, The Barbican, Apollo Victoria Theatre).

#### **Areas to research:**

- Where is the venue
- When was it established
- What kinds of Arts events are hosted at the venue?
- If your venue is a theatre, is it a 'receiving' or a 'producing' house? (A receiving house doesn't produce its own repertoire but receives touring companies, usually for a brief period, e.g. between three nights and a week. A producing house produces its own shows in-house.)
- What are general ticket prices?
- How is the organisation funded?
- Are staff employed there? In what roles?
- What is the audience capacity?
- What is the layout of the audience/stage? Can this be changed/adapted to suit different performances?
- What is the ethos/mission statement of the organisation?
- What is the target audience for the venue?
- How is marketing/publicity handled?
- What performance events have been staged there recently? (Find 5)
- Find 2 review of recent productions
- Find any blogs/ articles about the company and their work

# Theatre Studies

## A Level Preparation Work

### Activity 2 – Writing a Theatre Review

You are going to watch a production of 'Rent'. Before you watch this production see if you can find any reviews. You are going to be writing your own reviews of these production, outlining your main impressions of the performance. Below is a suggested structure to help you.

To access 'Rent' use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jWa9A3w2FQ>

Remember a review is all about your opinion.  
Enjoy!

#### **Paragraph 1**

Outline your initial response to the production.

Did you enjoy it?

What was the play about?

Was there a major theme in the play?

What was the mood of the piece?

Was the ending of the plot predictable?

#### **Paragraph 2**

What was the acting like? – Were the characters naturalistic, exaggerated, stereotypical?

Was the acting good? Did any characters impress you? Give specific examples using quotes from the production if you can

Did any characters disappoint? If so, why? and how could they have been improved?

Think about using your key terminology in this paragraph

#### **Paragraph 3**

What was the stage/audience layout? Did this work?

What was the set like and how was it used by the actors?

Did the lighting/sound impact the performance?

Can you give any specific examples of moments where the lighting/sound was really effective?

#### **Paragraph 4**

What were the costumes like? (Focus on 1 or 2 characters)

Were they fitting with the performance?

What did the costume suggest about the character?

#### **Paragraph 5**

Would you recommend it to others?

# Theatre Studies

## A Level Preparation Work

---

### Activity 3: Researching Theatre Companies

You need to research the following theatre companies and create an educational booklet with everything you have found out about the companies. The booklet needs to look nice as well as having all the information in so make sure you include some pictures. Below are some questions to consider as a starting point but see what else you can find out.

#### 1. Frantic Assembly

- Who are Frantic Assembly?
- What is their style of work?
- What performances have they done?
- What is their approach to devising?

#### 2. Kneehigh

- Who are Kneehigh?
- What is their style of work?
- What performances have they done?
- What is their approach to devising?

#### 3. Immersive theatre

- What is immersive theatre?
- What are the key features of immersive theatre?
- Which companies produce work of this style?
- Why might immersive theatre be popular?