

SUBJECT: GCSE Drama

Course details: Eduqas

Teacher: Ms K Goodfellow

kgoodfellow@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

A very important part of GCSE Drama is watching live theatre. Much of the inspiration for our work comes from what we see and allows us to embed a range of styles and conventions into original drama. The more professional work that you have seen, the better.

[Drama Online - National Theatre Collection \(dramaonlinelibrary.com\)](http://dramaonlinelibrary.com)

Username: CRPNQB

Password: SIPHGU

The website above has a range of National Theatre productions that you can view. I would like you to watch at least one of them. You can watch any of the plays available in any of the 3 collections, but here are some recommendations.

A Streetcar Named Desire (Young Vic/NT) - *A Streetcar Named Desire* shows a turbulent confrontation between traditional values in the American South - an old-world graciousness and beauty running decoratively to seed - set against the rough-edged, aggressive materialism of the new world. Through the vividly characterised figures of Southern belle Blanche Dubois, seeking refuge from physical ugliness in decayed gentility, and her brutal brother-in-law Stanley Kowalski, Tennessee Williams dramatises his sense of the South's past as still active and often destructive in modern America.

After Life - If you could spend eternity with just one precious memory, what would it be? A group of strangers grapple with this impossible question as they find themselves in a bureaucratic waiting room between life and death. Encouraged by enigmatic officials, they must sift through their past lives to choose their forever. Adapted from Hirokazu Kore-eda's award-winning film, *After Life* is a surreal and powerfully human look at the way we view our lives, and a haunting meditation on what it is to live – and to die.

Antigone - The sun rises on Thebes the morning after a war. The new king takes the first decisive step of his government, and a young woman slips out of the city to find her brother's body on the battlefield. By the next sunrise, her act of devotion will have destroyed the ruling family and brought the state to its knees.

Barber Shop Chronicles (NT) - *Barber Shop Chronicles* is a generously funny, heart-warming and insightful new play set in five African cities, Johannesburg, Harare, Kampala, Lagos, Accra, and in London. Inspired in part by the story of a Leeds barber, the play invites the audience into a unique environment where the banter may be barbed, but the truth always telling. The barbers of these tales are sages, role models and father figures who keep the men together and the stories alive.

Chewing Gum Dreams (includes audio-described version) - Meet Tracey Gordon. Friendship, sex, UK garage, school, teachers, periods, emergency contraception, raves, tampons, white boys, God, money. Friendship.

The more she learns about the world the less she understands. Michaela Coel plays Tracey in this one-woman play that recalls the last days of innocence before adulthood.

Consent (NT) - Why is Justice blind? Is she impartial? Or is she blinkered? Friends take opposing briefs in a rape case. The key witness is a woman whose life seems a world away from theirs. At home, their own lives begin to unravel as every version of the truth is challenged. Nina Raine's powerful, painful, funny play sifts the evidence from every side and puts justice herself in the dock.

Frankenstein - Childlike in his innocence but grotesque in form, Frankenstein's bewildered Creature is cast out into a hostile universe by his horror-struck maker. Meeting with cruelty wherever he goes, the friendless Creature, increasingly desperate and vengeful, determines to track down his creator and strike a terrifying deal. Urgent concerns of scientific responsibility, parental neglect, cognitive development and the nature of good and evil are embedded within this thrilling and deeply disturbing classic gothic tale.

Home - Bullet doesn't want to call a hostel home. Eritrean Girl was smuggled here in a lorry. Singing Boy dreams of seeing his name in lights and Garden Boy just wants to feel safe. Homelessness amongst young people in the UK is at a record high, so when the big society doesn't work – where do you go? An inner-city high-rise hostel, TargetEast, offers a roof. Nadia Fall's verbatim play used more than 30 hours of interviews to give a blistering insight into life inside a homeless hostel.

Our Generation - Alecky Blythe follows the success of *London Road* with her astonishing new verbatim play that tells the stories of a generation. Created from 5 years of interviews with 12 young people from across the UK, *Our Generation* is a captivating portrait of their journey into adulthood. Often too extraordinary to be fiction, this funny and moving play is for anyone who is – or has ever been – a teenager.

Paradise - Philoctetes: once a celebrated wartime hero, now a wounded outcast on a desolate island. When a young soldier appears, his hope of escape comes with suspicion. And as an old enemy also emerges, he is faced with an even greater temptation: revenge. Kae Tempest, the astonishing writer, recording artist and performer, forges an epic new take on Greek legend

Shut Up, I'm Dreaming - *Shut Up, I'm Dreaming* leans into the hopes and feelings we hold, and those we are forced to squash. Full of laughter, joy, grief and silliness, this is *The PappyShow*'s love letter to a new generation. Throughout 2022, artists from *The PappyShow* spent time with 100 students across 3 schools in Sunderland, Wakefield and Walsall to have conversations about dreams and ambition in an uncertain world. The tour was directed by Kane Husbands and was based on the views, ideas and experiences of teenagers across England.

The Crucible - A witch hunt is beginning in Salem. Raised to be seen but not heard, a group of young women suddenly find their words hold a terrible

power. As a climate of fear spreads through the community, private vendettas fuel public accusations and soon the truth itself is on trial. Olivier Award-winner Lyndsey Turner directs this electrifying new production with designs by Es Devlin in a restaging of Arthur Miller's masterpiece – a gripping parable of power and its abuse.

Top Girls - Set in the early Thatcher years, *Top Girls* is a seminal play of the modern theatre, revealing a world of women's experience at a pivotal moment in British history.

The play opens with an anachronistic dinner party hosted by Marlene, the newly-promoted manager of the 'Top Girls' employment agency. Her guests are five women from the past: a transvestite Pope, a courtesan-cum-nun, a tireless adventurer, an obedient wife from Chaucer and the leader of a charge into hell from a Bruegel painting. The feminist themes introduced by this cacophonous scene echo throughout the more contemporary action of the play, as Churchill uses the setting of the 'Top Girls' agency to allow a glimpse into the lives of several very different working women

wonder.land (NT) - Aly is struggling with all the pressures of being a teenager: family, school, friends and her own insecurities. Then she discovers wonder.land – a mysterious online world where, perhaps, she can create a whole new life. The web becomes her looking-glass – but will Aly see who she really is?

A new musical inspired by Lewis Carroll's iconic story, Moira Buffini's *wonder.land* was created with Damon Albarn and Rufus Norris.