

GCSE Drama

All Set for
2025-26



Agenda



Reflect on the Summer series and 24/25 academic year



Look at the key events and up to date information for this new academic year



Share ideas, resources and approaches to teaching



Q and A

Reflecting on 24/25



2024/25 Headlines



Same standards and expectations as 2024



Number taking GCSE Drama continue to fall: 52,741 in 2024/5



Lead Examiner report contains **examples** of student responses



New exemplars and standardisation materials this term

2024/25 Component 1 Devising

Principal Moderator Report

Choice of stimuli

- Pictures most popular choice
- literary
- music / songs
- video
- quotes
- poems
- single word such as 'surveillance'
- news articles

Popular themes:

- Disability
- Bullying and Outcasts
- Teenage Issues
- Body Image
- Climate Change
- Knife Crime
- Gang Culture
- Fake News
- Social Media
- Mental Health
- Inequality
- Toxic Relationships
- Abuse of Power
- War (WWI & WWII)
- PTSD
- Suffragettes

2024/25 Component 1 Portfolios



cover the six questions and essential areas of coverage



make full use of the word count/ timings



include Health and Safety considerations



Avoid general discussion and a diary like approach



use drama terminology to clearly explain and analyse the 'drama' that took place



stay focused on their performance/ design skill throughout the Portfolio

2024/25 Component 1 Portfolios



Q2: exploration of the stimuli material using still images, hot seating, forum theatre etc.



Q4: characterisation, genre, style, form, structure and language



Q5 and 6: stay focused on their skill in the final performance



Analyse and evaluate how their skill contributed to the final performance and the intention



Use the first person in Portfolios

2024/25 Component 1 Performances



Ensure the work is carefully rehearsed and polished for performance



Engage fully with their role



Work collaboratively



Shape and develop ideas practically



Use their research skills to inform their performance and the development of ideas



reflect on their final performance straight after the performance takes place

2024/25 Component 2 Performance from Text

Popular **monologue** extracts from:

- Five Kinds of Silence by Shelagh Stephenson
- Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- Too Much Punch for Judy by Mark Wheeler
- Teechers by John Godber
- The Curious Incident by Simon Stephens
- Chatroom by Enda Walsh
- Blood Brothers by Willy Russell
- Lord of the Flies adapted by Nigel Williams
- Find Me by Olwen Wymark
- Shakers by John Godber
- My Mother Said I Never Should by C Keatley
- The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband by D Isitt
- 4.48 Psychosis by Sarah Kane
- Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker
- Educating Rita by Willy Russell

Duologues (M/F)

Two by Jim Cartwright

Chatroom by Enda Walsh

That Face by Polly Stenham

The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband by Debbie Isitt

Agnes of God by John Pielmeier

Lovesong by Abi Morgan

The Gods Weep by Dennis Kelly

Duologues (male)

Blood Brothers by Willy Russell

Pass It On by Renée

Blackout by Davey Anderson

Blue/Orange by Joe Penhall

Duologues (female)

Top Girls by Caryl Churchill

Road by Jim Cartwright

Like a Virgin by Gordon Steel

Be My Baby by Amanda Whittington

2024/25 Component 2 Performance from Text

Principal Examiner Feedback

Component 2

Intention of Communication

- Motivations behind the character intention
- Example and detail of physicality and vocal skill
- Clear understanding of the context of the chosen extract.

Popular texts used for **group** extracts were:

- Missing Dan Nolan by Mark Wheeler
- Metamorphosis by Stephen Berkoff
- 4:48 Psychosis by Sarah Kane
- Five Kinds of Silence by Shelagh Stephenson
- Girls Like That by Evan Placey
- Blood Brothers by Willy Russell
- Bouncers by John Godber
- Numbers by Kieron Barry

Design:

Girls Like That by Evan Placey

Five Kinds of Silence by Shelagh Stephenson

Like a Virgin by Gordon Steel

That Face by Polly Stenham

Metamorphosis by Stephen Berkoff

Chatroom by Enda Walsh

2024/25 Component 2 Performers



key factor for success - level of preparation



Students really understood the character they were playing



Control over and appreciation of the chosen style, applying it with security and ease



Believable and committed characters



Vocal and physical skills are fluid and show range and depth

2024/25 Component 2 Designers



confident understanding of the texts and the performances they were studying



lighting students understood the subtleties of how lighting can enhance the performance



Imagination and detail in the completion of the design



clearly had worked with the performance candidates



costumes that showed clearly creative approaches to character enhancement

2024/25 Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Split into two papers for List A and List B

Section A *Bringing Texts to Life*

List A most popular texts

- An Inspector Calls
- The Crucible

List B most popular texts

- DNA
- 100
- Blue Stockings
- 1984

[Lead Examiner reports for 3A and 3B](#)

- Each question evaluated in Lead Examiner Reports
- More exemplars released later this term
- Exam Insights event

2024/25 Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Section B *Live Theatre Evaluation*

Live works included:

- Wonderboy
- The Ocean at the End of the Lane
- The Woman in Black
- Blood Brothers
- Life of Pi
- Dear England
- Frantic Assembly's Metamorphosis
- several productions of Macbeth
- The Play that Goes Wrong
- Dear Evan Hansen
- Matilda

[Lead Examiner reports for 3A and 3B](#)

Works to avoid


- Any set text
- Hamilton
- Sweeney Todd
- Evita
- Come From Away
- Les Misérables

Post-results services and support

Post-results services

Reviews of marking and moderation (ROMM)

- Component 1: Service 3
- Component 2 and 3: Service 2
- Results Plus
- Concern about marking of whole cohort
- Appeals

A photograph of a person with curly hair, wearing a dark blue sweater, writing on a glass wall with a white marker. Another person is visible in the background, looking at the writing. The setting appears to be a modern office or meeting room with large windows and industrial-style lighting.

2025-26 Academic Year

2025-26 Key dates

[Admin Support Guide 25-26](#)

Event	Date	Key information
<u>Component 1, 2 and 3:</u>		
Submission of text choices	<u>Online Text Submission:</u> 1 September 2025 - 6 March 2026	Online text submissions must be submitted to Pearson six weeks prior to planned assessment date for 1DR0/02:
Live Theatre Performance Confirmation	<u>Statement Submission:</u> Before 1 May in year of assessment	GCSE Drama Performance Text Submission Pearson qualifications Submission via Live Theatre Evaluation Confirmation Form
<u>Component 1:</u> Submission deadline for moderation	<u>Submission Deadline:</u> 15 May 2026	Learner Work Transfer: Opens: 15 April 2026 Closes: 15 May 2026

2025-26 Key dates

[Admin Support Guide 25-26](#)

Component 2:
Submission of work

Examination Window:
5 January 2026 -
24 April 2026

Examinations between 6 January and 31 January will require digital submission – there will be no live visits between these dates.

LWT Window to upload materials

31 January 2026
Up to 7 days after the agreed examination date.
LWT will close for submissions on 6 May 2026 (Seven working days after final assessment date)

Centres holding examinations from 1 February will have option of live visit or digital submission.

Live centre visits require a minimum of 4 assessed candidates. Centres with fewer than 4 candidates will require a digital submission.

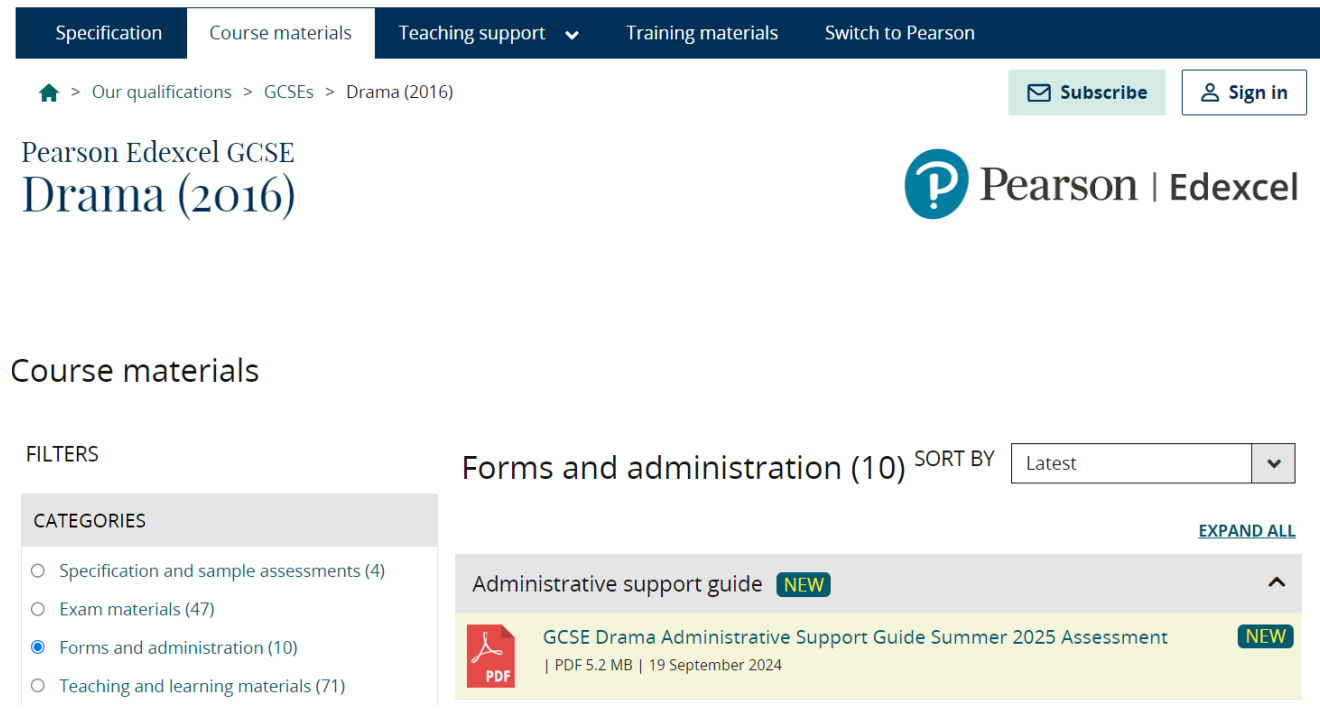
Centre exam **entries must be made before** examination takes place.

Component 3:
1DR0/03 Examination

Examination Date
Friday 8 May 2026 (PM)

Candidates to complete Live Theatre Notes Form to be attached to Live Theatre Notes: [GCSE_Drama_Comp 3_Live_theatre_evaluation_notes_form.docx](#)

GCSE Drama qualification page



Specification Course materials Teaching support Training materials Switch to Pearson

Home > Our qualifications > GCSEs > Drama (2016) [Subscribe](#) [Sign in](#)

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
Drama (2016)

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Course materials

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CATEGORIES

- ☐ Specification and sample assessments (4)
- ☐ Exam materials (47)
- ☒ Forms and administration (10)
- ☐ Teaching and learning materials (71)

Forms and administration (10) SORT BY Latest

[EXPAND ALL](#)

Administrative support guide **NEW**

 GCSE Drama Administrative Support Guide Summer 2025 Assessment **NEW**
| PDF 5.2 MB | 19 September 2024

Component 1 Duologues

- Students may complete this component as part of a duologue performance (2 performers) or a group performance (3–6 performers)
- The duologue performance option will be for first teaching September 2025, first assessment 2027

Group size	Recommended minimum performance times	Maximum performance times
2 performance students (duologue)	6 minutes	8 minutes
3–4 performance students (group)	10 minutes	15 minutes
5–6 performance students (group)	20 minutes	25 minutes

GCSE Drama qualification page

[GCSE Drama page](#)

Specification



DOWNLOAD

PDF | 1.5 MB

Teaching from: September 2016
External assesment from: 2018
Availability: UK and International

Here, you'll find everything you need to prepare for GCSE Drama from 2016, including our Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Drama specification, sample assessment materials and support materials.

Our specification offers:

- inspiring creativity and confidence
- clear and straightforward assessments
- supports progression and develops transferable skills

Performance text choices 2025/26

Submit your performance text and set text choices for 2025/26.

[> Learn more](#)

Course materials

- **Specification and sample assessments (5)**
- **Exam materials (55)**
- **Forms and administration (9)**
- **Teaching and learning materials (90)**



GCSE Drama Text Submissions

GCSE Drama - Component 3 Text Choices:

Please select your Component 3 set text choices below by ticking the appropriate tick boxes.

Text choices

- ☐ List A 1DR03A (pre-1954) A Doll's House
- ☐ List A 1DR03A (pre-1954) An Inspector Calls
- ☐ List A 1DR03A (pre-1954) Antigone
- ☐ List A 1DR03A (pre-1954) The Crucible
- ☐ List A 1DR03A (pre-1954) Government Inspector
- ☐ List A 1DR03A (pre-1954) Twelfth Night
- ☐ List B 1DR03B (post-2000) 1984
- ☐ List B 1DR03B (post-2000) Blue Stockings
- ☐ List B 1DR03B (post-2000) DNA
- ☐ List B 1DR03B (post-2000) Gone Too Far!
- ☐ List B 1DR03B (post-2000) The Free9
- ☐ List B 1DR03B (post-2000) 100

Back

Next

GCSE Drama Text Submissions

GCSE Drama - Component 2 Performance Text Choices

Component 2 performance texts must be contrasting to the texts studied in Component 3 as outlined by the contrast requirements in the specification. Centres are also reminded that Component 2 performance texts cannot be any of the set texts across both 1DR0/3A and 1DR0/3B.

Please select your chosen performance text(s) from the drop down list below. If your chosen performance text(s) appears on the list, this choice is a pre-approved combination with your Component 3 text and you can continue to deliver this component in confidence that your texts are approved. No further action is required once the Text Choice Form has been submitted.

DNA texts

Select items

****You can submit all of your chosen performance texts using this form so please select all the chosen performance texts for your centre ****

If a chosen performance text is not on the pre-approved list, there may be an issue with the contrast requirements for Component 3.

Please either choose another text from the pre-approved list or request approval from Drama Assessment.

To request approval, please email drama.assessment@pearson.com with the following information:

- Centre Number and Centre Name
- GCSE Drama Paper Entry (1DR0/3A or 1/DR03B)
- Set Text studied for Component 3
- Details of performance text requiring approval including play text title, playwright, genre and publication date

Please wait for approval from Drama Assessment before delivering this text choice for Component 2.

[Text submissions 2026](#)

GCSE Drama Approved Play Lists

[Performance Text Lists](#)



GCSE (9–1) Drama

Pre-approved Component 2
Performance Texts for List B Set Text:

DNA

by Dennis Kelly

Summer 2026 series

Version 2.1



Churchill Caryl	Vinegar Tom	Social Drama	1976
Clapham Peter	Little Women	Social Drama	1986
Clark Brian	Whose Life is it Anyway	Social Drama	1978
Cleago Pearl	Blues for an Alabama Sky	Social Drama	1995
Coleman Elizabeth	Secret Bridesmaid's Business	Comedy	1999
Cookson Catherine	The Fifteen Streets	Drama	1959
Coward Noel	Fallen Angels	Comedy	1925
Coward Noel	Present Laughter	Light Comedy	1943
Coward Noel	Private Lives	Drama	1930
Coward Noel	Blithe Spirit	Comedy	1942
Crimp Martin	Dealing with Clair	Tragedy	1994
Crimp Martin	No One Sees the Video	Verbatim Drama	1992
Crimp Martin	Attempts on her Life	Drama	1997
Crimp Martin	Cyrano De Bergerac	Comedy	1897
Cross Beverley	Boeing-Boeing	Farce	1962
Crowley Mart	The Boys in The Band	Comedy	1968
Dahl Roald	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Children/Fantasy	1964
D'Andrea Paul	The Trouble with Europe	Comedy	1981
Daniels Sarah	Head Rot Holiday	Dark Comedy	1991
Daniels Sarah	Masterpieces Dark	Comedy	1983
Daniels Sarah	Taking Breath	Political Drama	1999
Daniels Sarah	The Gut Girls	Drama	1989
Davis Jack	Honey Spot	Drama	1987
Davis Stephen	Juice	Social Drama	1998
de Angelis April	Playhouse Creatures	Dramatic Comedy	1994
de Angelis April	The Positive Hour	Comedy	1997
Deegan Denise	Daisy Pulls It Off	Comedy	1983
Delaney Shelagh	A Taste of Honey	Social Drama	1958
Denthy Wayne	Heroin Lies	Social Drama	1991
Din Ayub Khan	East s East	Drama	1997
Dorfman Ariel	Death and the Maiden	Drama	1991
Dorfman Ariel	Widows	Drama	1997
Dowie Claire	John Lennon is Wearing a Skirt	Drama	1996
Dowie Claire	Adult Child/Dead Child	Drama	1988
Dowie Claire	Death and Dancing	Comedy	1996
Dowie Claire	Why is John Lennon Wearing a Skirt	Drama	1996
Dowie Claire	All Over Lovely	Feminist Drama	1998
Dryden Ellen	The Power of the Dog	Drama	1996
Duffy Carol Ann	Collected Grimm Tales	Fairytale	1997
Duffy Carol Ann	More Grimm Tales	Fairytale	1997
Dunbar Andrea	Rita, Sue and Bob Too	Comedy	1982
Dunn Nell	Steaming	Comedy	1981
Durang Christopher	Laughing Wild	Comedy	1987
Durang Christopher	The Actor's Nightmare	Comedy	1981
Durrenmatt Friedrich	The Physicists	Comedy	1963

GCSE Drama Design Support

[Design Support](#)

Costume Design – GCSE

Component 1

Documentation

- A minimum of 2-character designs.
- A costume list stating what each actor will wear & any costume changes.
- Research into the chosen topic in a mood board format.
- Sketches of ideas with annotations of how these support the devising work.
- Photographs of the design process & performance.
- Health and safety risk assessment.



EXAMPLE SKILL SET

Sewing
Applique
Painting
Pattern making
Sticking/Gluing

Component 2

Documentation

- A minimum of 2-character designs.
- A costume list stating what each actor will wear & any costume changes.
- Research into the chosen topic in a mood board format.
- Sketches of ideas with annotations of how these support the devising work.
- Photographs of the design process & performance.
- Health and safety risk assessment.

The supporting gives the exam moderator (co of the process through. It is e process for ac

GCSE Design & Acting Process

Designer

Design Objectives

- Interpret a stimuli or playtext
- Consider how design impacts character
- Consider how design supports the plot
- Consider how the action can occur within the design
- Support the actors to create their roles.

Introduction

- Choose design pathway
- Work with group, actors & other designers on initial ideas
- Research stimuli/playtext as a group & share results as a whole group.

Initial Stages

- Research into design area and further into theatrical style.
- Work with actors to create practical material, acting as a director to support actors and design ideas

Actor

Actor Objectives

- Interpret a stimuli or playtext
- Consider characters & create a
- Consider plot
- Consider action
- Work with designers to support

Introduction

- Choose acting style (possibly r
- Work with whole group of actors on initial ideas
- Research stimuli/playtext as a group as a whole group

Initial Stages

- Research into acting/role/playwright and turner into theatrical style.
- Work with designer(s) to create practical material to ensure designer(s) can support the performances chosen style/theme/genre

GCSE Drama

Supporting Students on Design Routes

Pearson
Edexcel



Design idea example

LOW LEVEL SKILL

Sourcing a shirt & tie from a charity shop.

MID LEVEL SKILL

Fabric Painting on a t-shirt or adding iron-on items.

Subject Advisor page

[Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts](#)

Overview

News

BTEC in Performing Arts

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Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts

**GCSE and A level Drama
September 2025 update**

BTEC Performing Arts
September 2025 update

Appointment booking service
with your subject advisor

GCSE and A level Drama September 2025 update

My latest update for September 2025 includes confirmation of the duologue option for Component 1, new training and support events for GCSE and A Level teachers this term, support for post results, and much more



[➤ Access September 2025 update](#)

Qualifications

Sort by: ▼

A Level (1) +

BTEC Entry Level and Level 1 (1) +

BTEC Firsts (1) +

BTEC Higher Nationals (8) +

Live Theatre Evaluation and Confirmation

Section B - Live Theatre Evaluation

It is a regulatory requirement that students are required to watch a live theatre performance. Centres must submit a confirmation of visiting live theatre to Pearson by 1 May 2026. This form is available here: [Live Theatre Evaluation Confirmation Form](#)

Students must have attended live theatre by 1 May.

If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent a candidate from referring to a live theatre performance for this component, please contact drama.assessment@pearson.com

Live Theatre Evaluation requirements:

- Production chosen must not be a live performance of any of the 12 set texts.
- Free choice of any other live peer, amateur or professional production, as long as the choice enables students to access the demands of this component.
- Sung-through musicals are not permitted for the Live Theatre Evaluation.
- Copies of any performance texts are not allowed in the examination.
- Authenticated live theatre performance notes may be used in the examination.
- 15 marks are available.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance

Course materials

FILTERS

CATEGORIES

- ☐ Specification and sample assessments (4)
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- ☐ Teaching and learning materials (71)

CONTENT TYPE

- ☒ All
- ☐ Administrative support guide (1)
- ☐ Component 1 (4)
- ☐ Component 2 (3)
- ☐ Component 3 (1)

Show more

Forms and administration (10)

SORT BY

Latest



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Administrative support guide

NEW



Component 1



Component 2



Component 3



Guidance for centres

NEW



GCSE Drama and A level Drama & Theatre Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance

NEW

| PDF 231.7 KB | 30 September 2024

Training and support

[Book a place](#)

GCSE (9-1) Drama


Free

GCSE Drama: Coursework Marking Training – Component 1 - November 2025

By Pearson

12 November 2025 at 16:30-18:30 GMT
This free online event, delivered by one of our subject specialists, supports teachers delivering Pearson Edexcel...

 2hrs

 12-Nov-2025

 Live Online

GCSE (9-1) Drama


Free

GCSE Drama: Exam Insights Summer 2025

By Pearson

17 November 2025 at 16:00-17:30 GMT
This training is for teachers of Pearson Edexcel GCSE Drama and provides feedback and insights on the summer...

 1hr 30mins

 17-Nov-2025

 Live Online

GCSE (9-1) Drama

Free

GCSE Drama: Preparing for Component 2 November

By Pearson

20 November 2025 at 16:00-18:00 GMT
This free online event, delivered by one of our subject specialists, supports teachers delivering Pearson Edexcel...

 2hrs

 20-Nov-2025

 Live Online

GCSE (9-1) Drama

Free

GCSE Drama: Engaging with Purpose – Preparing Students for Component 3 Succ...

By Pearson

03 December 2025 at 16:00-17:30 GMT
This free online event, delivered by one of our subject specialists, supports teachers delivering Pearson Edexcel...

 1hr 30mins

 03-Dec-2025

 Live Online

FAQs



My year 10 students have completed Component 1 and we have a new student who has transferred. How can they be supported?

Why is a live theatre visit compulsory for Edexcel when other exam boards allow digitally streamed theatre productions to be used for the Live Theatre Evaluation?

Can all students have 500 words of notes?

Ideas, resources
and approaches
to teaching the
three components



Useful resources

National Theatre Collection



Resource Packs and Rehearsal Diaries



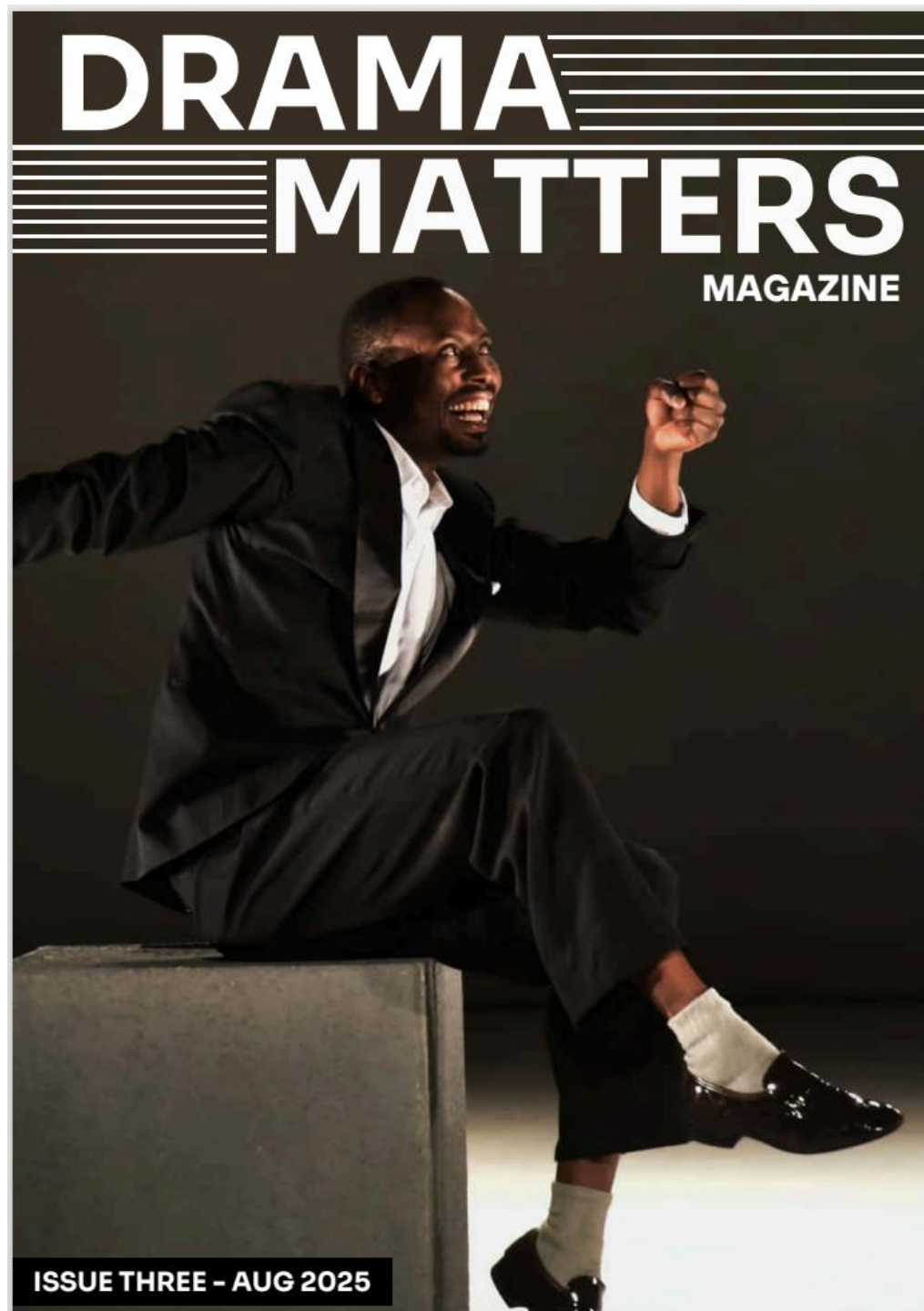
**National
Theatre**



Practitioners in Practice: Katie Mitchell (Education pack)

[Katie Mitchell film for students](#)

Useful resources



[Drama Matters](#)

NT student conference

[Book a place](#)

Hamlet student conference 2025/26

This year's student conference will take place on Thursday 6 November 2025, exploring **Robert Hastie**'s fearless new production of **Hamlet**.

Featuring exciting practical demonstrations and interactive talks, this conference is designed to support both **A-Level Drama** students working on their Live Theatre review or **A-Level English** students studying *Hamlet*. Aiming to provide a new outlook on a classic text, the conference will:

- Provide insight into the directorial decisions, performance choices, and creative elements of this production.
- Explore how the structure and form of the text shapes meaning for the audience.
- Explore interpretations of *Hamlet* over time and how contextual factors shape meaning.



Useful resources

[Theatre Craft 2025](#)



Theatre Craft 2025
Monday 3rd November 2025
Royal Opera House and across the West End

Drama teacher conference

[Book a place](#)



Subject Advisor

Paul Webster

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Telephone: 03330 463 2535

Facebook: [Pearson Edexcel Drama and Theatre Teacher Group](#)

[Bookings 1:1 appointments](#): 15 mins, available Mon-Fri

[Monthly Updates and newsletters](#)





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