

# INTRODUCTION TO 'A' LEVEL DRAMA

Okehampton College



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# A BIT OF INSPIRATION...



Acting - What is it? How to do it?  
Why do it? | David Wenham |  
TEDxSydney



Don't strive to be famous, strive  
to be talented | Maisie Williams |  
TEDxManchester



The Art of Creativity | Taika  
Waititi | TEDxDoha

# WELCOME!

Hello and welcome to A Level Drama!

**Don't forget:**

- ★ to **switch to the 'Slide Show' view** to see all of the videos in this PowerPoint (PPT) **(ESSENTIAL! And give them a few seconds to load...)**
- ★ to **log in to MS Teams** (see help sheet) and check out the 'New Year 12' Team
- ★ to **log in to the National Theatre Collection** to explore all of the resources as well as watching some amazing plays (for FREE!)
- ★ To **print out (or save) 5 copies of 'Ophelia's Speech'** (1 copy per practitioner) to annotate OR **you can add comments to the Word document**
- ★ To **hand in work** on one practitioner per week.



## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FIVE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL EUROPEAN THEATRE PRACTITIONERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY?

- How would these five directors work with the actress playing Ophelia in the famous mad scene in Shakespeare's Hamlet?
- What would they ask the actress to do and how would they ask the actress to behave?
- A video installation looking at these questions, called Five Truths and commissioned by the V&A in partnership with the National Theatre was created by a group of contemporary theatre makers lead by director Katie Mitchell.
- The multi-screen installation brings together five interpretations of Ophelia's madness in Hamlet. Ten screens of varying sizes simultaneously play films of Ophelia interpreted dramatically through the lens of Constantin Stanislavski, Antonin Artaud, Bertolt Brecht, Jerzy Grotowski and Peter Brook.
- Curated by Kate Bailey, created by director Katie Mitchell, video designer Leo Warner, set designer Vicki Mortimer, lighting designer Paule Constable and sound designer Gareth Fry, starring Michelle Terry as Ophelia.

# OPHELIA'S SPEECH

## TASKS:

- The National Theatre has created 5 different versions of Ophelia's 'madness' speech in 'Hamlet'. **As you study some of these practitioners, you will annotate a copy of this speech with the key features of the style as seen in the video.**
- **Submit your annotated copy of the speech weekly, either as a Word document or upload a photo on Teams.**
- For your final assignment, you will **rehearse, record & submit your own version of this extract**, applying the style of **one** chosen practitioner.

'Hamlet' Act 5 sc 5]

Extract from Ophelia's Last Speech

(for use with the National Theatre's '5 Truths' clips)

They bore him barefac'd on the bier

(Hey non nonny, nonny, hey nonny)

And in his grave rain'd many a tear.

Fare you well, my dove! There's rosemary, that's for remembrance.

Pray you, love, remember. And there is pansies, that's for thoughts.

There's fennel for you, and columbines. There's rue for you,

and here's some for me. We may call it herb of grace o' Sundays.

O, you must wear your rue with a difference! There's a daisy.

I would give you some violets, but they wither'd all when my father died. They say he made a good end.

[Sings] For bonny sweet Robin is all my joy.

And will he not come again?

And will he not come again?

No, no, he is dead;

Go to thy deathbed;

He never will come again.

**Practitioners:**

**Konstantin  
Stanislavski**

**Bertolt Brecht**

**Antonin Artaud**

**Peter Brook**

**Jerzy Grotowski**

# KONSTANTIN STANISLAVSKI & NATURALISM

Watch...

Read...

[Naturalism & Stanislavski](#)  
(pages 1-9)  
BBC Bitesize

NT's '5 Truths' **Stanislavski**



National Theatre Production  
in this style...

'A Streetcar named Desire'  
[National Theatre Collection](#)



Apply...

Annotate your **Stanislavski**  
copy of Ophelia's speech  
with key techniques seen in  
the '5 Truths clip'.



# BERTOLT BRECHT & EPIC THEATRE

Watch...



Read...

[Epic Theatre & Brecht](#)  
(pages 1-10)  
BBC Bitesize

NT's '5 Truths' **Brecht**



In what way is Grusha an anti-heroine?

Theatre Production in this style...

'**Macbeth**'

[Vimeo Homepage](#)

Apply...

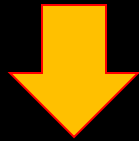
Annotate your **Brechtian** copy of Ophelia's speech with key techniques seen in the '5 Truths clip'.

# ANTONIN ARTAUD & THEATRE OF CRUELTY

Watch...



NT's '5 Truths' **Artaud**



Read...

[Theatre of Cruelty](#)  
[Conventions](#)



Apply...

Annotate your **Artaudian** copy of Ophelia's speech with key techniques seen in the '5 Truths clip'.



# PETER BROOK

Watch...



NT's '5 Truths' Brook



Read...

[The Stage interview with Peter Brook](#)

'The Empty Space' by Peter Brook



Apply...

Annotate your **Brook** copy of Ophelia's speech with key techniques seen in the '5 Truths clip'.

# JERZY GROTOWSKI

Watch...

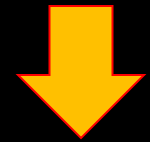


NT's '5 Truths' **Grotowski**

Read...

[Culture.PL Article on Grotowski](#)

'Towards a Poor Theatre'



Apply...

Annotate your **Grotowski** copy of Ophelia's speech with key techniques seen in the '5 Truths clip'.



# YOUR TURN: OPHELIA'S SPEECH

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**Bertolt Brecht**

**Antonin Artaud**

**Peter Brook**

**Jerzy Grotowski**

# FUN STUFF: WATCH PRODUCTIONS!



(full production)

[Teachers by Blackeyed Theatre](#)

(full 2018 production)

[Globe Theatre Productions](#)

