DIGITAL THEATRE+

HOW TO USE DIGITAL THEATRE+

Digital Theatre+ gives you the opportunity to pick and choose how you want to teach - theoretically, practically or both. Our carefully selected collection of full-length plays, supporting texts and teaching guides can be used for planning lessons, teaching in the classroom and for setting homework. Below are three simple suggestions for how to use Digital Theatre+ during your lessons.

PLANNING LESSONS

Our filmed resource for teachers ‘Shakespeare in Your Space’ is an invaluable resource packed with tried and tested methods for the practical teaching of Shakespeare, led by our Creative Producer Fiona Lindsay – a founder member of the RSC education department.

Get practical

Enabling your students to speak their lines out loud and inhabit characters physically is the best way to support their understanding of a play. The text itself was intended for live performance, and so much of the meaning of the language and the context of the action is revealed when students get out of their seats and engage practically with the play and when they begin to ask questions about why their character behaves the way he/she does.

Try it yourself

When preparing your lesson, set aside time for a practical exercise about character motivation. Push the desks back and set up a pair of chairs in the middle of the room. Encourage your students to think of a few answers to the questions below:

1. What does my character want?
2. What is my character frightened of?

When you clap your hands, a pair of students should sit on the chairs and speak aloud one of their wants and one of their fears, quickly followed by another pair, and then another. Allow no empty seats and keep the exercise active and fast moving – this will encourage your students to speak out more freely and less self-consciously. Not only will this help your students understand more about the characters within the play, but it will develop their confidence, reactions and communication skills too.
TEACHING IN THE CLASSROOM

So now put your preparation into practice inside the classroom. Our full-length productions can be watched all the way through, or you can use our scene selection feature to study specific key scenes and speeches. In addition, our filmed interviews with the cast, creative and technical teams of our productions further learning about how theatre is made and how professionals take a script from page to stage.

Set the scene

What marks out DT+’s full-length filmed productions are the quality: all our productions are captured in High Definition, with excellent sound quality and starring actors your students are likely to know; David Tennant, Catherine Tate, David Morrissey, Zoe Wanamaker and Suranne Jones among many others. Set the scene by turning down the lights and arranging the seats to feel like a more authentic theatre experience.

Try it yourself

Explore our scene selection and key speeches features. Working from the text alone can leave students unclear as to the meaning of some of the language and actions written down. Seeing scenes and speeches acted out by professional, familiar actors illuminates the contemporary interpretation of language and builds enthusiasm for plays that may, having only ready the text, seem hard to understand.
SETTING HOMEWORK

Now you know you can use Digital Theatre+ for planning lessons and inside the classroom – but did you also know you can also use our written study guides in tandem with our filmed content outside your school?

Unlimited access

All Digital Theatre+ resources can be accessed outside your institution via the website and our app for iOS making it available on iPad and iPhone as well. Never has it been easier to access theatre and supporting learning resources – in the classroom, on the move, or at home.

Try it yourself

Our theoretical study guides are written by theatre practitioners and professionals and offer detailed information on the production your students are studying; including character overviews and relationships, plot summaries, close text analysis and biographies of playwrights. Try setting homework using Digital Theatre+ detailed written study guides as a resource – suggestions for questions can be found in the ‘characters’ section of the study guides.