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Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.



DRAMA & THEATRE

COURSE GUIDE 2017

“Acting is discovering the character you’re playing through your own experience, so we’re all different.”

IAN MCKELLEN

Drama & Theatre

Exam Board AQA

Why choose Drama and Theatre at Carmel?

Studying A Level Drama and Theatre allows you to acquire knowledge and skills for further study and/or future employment in this industry. The course looks at the practices and theories of classical and contemporary practitioners and deepens your knowledge and appreciation for theatre's history and its development. You will be encouraged to develop your acting, creative and collaborative skills and will create innovative theatre pieces that will entertain and challenge audiences.

What will the course involve?

Throughout the course you will devise and perform scripted pieces of work, read plays and analyse theatre productions. You will also develop your performance skills whilst theoretically learning about the various styles, techniques and features involved in theatre practice. The 'Drama' part of the course focuses on creating and developing theatre and the 'Theatre' aspect focuses on the analysis of theatre productions and the impact on the audiences.

What will I study?

You will cover four units over the two year course.

The First Year:

Live Theatre Production Seen and Prescribed Play

Students gain knowledge and understanding of various aspects of live theatre seen during the course. They will enhance their understanding of live theatre from the perspective of an actor, director and designer.

Presentation of an Extract from a Play

A practical performance is rehearsed and performed from a set work on the course. Students will be involved in the acting, directing and designing of this performance.

The Second Year:

Further Prescribed Plays including Pre-Twentieth Century

A history of theatre from pre-twentieth century is studied alongside twentieth century/contemporary plays.

Presentation of Devised Drama

Students work on a devised piece of performance which they will improvise, rehearse and perform in response to a given stimulus/commission.

How is the course examined?

- 60% practical examination
- 40% written examination

Written coursework forms part of the practical assessment. All examinations will take place in the second year and could be from any topic studied over the two years.

What can I do with this qualification?

This course offers a foundation to build on for progress to university to study a Drama/Theatre related course or for progressing to drama school and then potentially into a career in the industry (for example: actor, play writer, director, stage manager or teacher).

Additionally, you will develop a range of skills which will appeal to future employers: confidence, creativity, charisma, communication, listening and working as part of a team.

What is the Drama department like?

This is a lively and ever expanding department. Currently there is one designated tutor who teaches on the Drama and Theatre course. The department has a large purpose built theatre that has an audience capacity of 200. Students are encouraged to use this space for additional rehearsals when they desire. The theory classroom is well resourced with relevant scripts, plays, DVDs and textbooks. Additionally, students have access to the changing rooms which have locker and shower facilities.

What support will I receive?

A range of supportive measures are designed for you to succeed. Lessons are only one aspect of course delivery. Tutorials are offered to enable students to discuss their progress in more detail. Homework provides the opportunity for a weekly assessment and feedback on progress, whilst unit feedback is more detailed. Opportunities exist for students to work in the theatre space over lunch, break times and after college. The tutors offer support in suggesting suitable theatre visits and sources of information for research purposes.

Tutors are open and friendly and lessons are lively and engaging. We have received the highest praise for student support in inspections of the department.

What other activities will I get involved in?

Studying Drama and Theatre inevitably means that you will be given opportunities to get involved with extra-curricular activities and this is actively encouraged. Students gain valuable experience and confidence in performing and we place great importance on students' ability to become more involved with the wider community.

Performances are supported by the whole college and you will be encouraged to take part in these throughout the year and support your peers. Each year Carmel hosts performance evenings and lunchtime concerts, a Creative Arts evening and also a variety of college services.

The Performing Arts department stages a college musical production each year with acting, dancing and singing roles. This also provides enrichment opportunities in production with the option to assist with lighting, sound, advertising and box office administration. Other departmental enrichment activities will also be offered throughout the year.

The Drama & Theatre department organises many trips and workshops to support and enrich learning. The department arranges theatre trips to watch professional works. In addition, professional companies and practitioners, along with ex-students, are invited to come into college to lead workshops and classes.

Additionally there is a Gifted and Talented Programme within the faculty and selected students have the opportunity to perform and participate in a wide range of other exciting opportunities.





Meet the Tutor

Erinna Delaney
Head of Drama and Theatre

Erinna graduated from Liverpool University with a BA Hons in Fine Art and Drama and then went on to study a Masters Degree in Theatre at Goldsmiths' College, finally gaining her PGCE at UCLAN. Erinna has taught within the Performing Arts for 22 years alongside her professional career in acting. In addition to teaching, Erinna is also a qualified Person Centred Counsellor.

What are the entry requirements for this course?

GCSE grade 5 in English Language.



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More Information

For details of the course specification visit www.aqa.org.uk