National Theatre Collection

Welcome - Secondary English

Welcome to the National Theatre Collection.

Here you can find the best of British theatre available for you and your students to watch whenever you'd like. Our unique collection presents high-quality recordings of 30 world-class productions, giving you the best seats in the house from the comfort of your classroom. The collection enables students to see and understand text in performance and understand how a play can be interpreted in different ways.

You'll find an incredible selection of productions, with something suitable for all students from Key Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5. Many of the productions featured as part of the Collection are GCSE and A-Level set texts for English. We hope that you might also use the Collection to introduce your students to plays that you might not have thought of exploring before, expanding their theatrical language and literacy.

Key Stage 3 and above

- Introduce Shakespeare with productions of *Romeo and Juliet* and The Winter's Tale, specially adapted for younger audiences. These productions use Shakespeare's original text, but are only an hour long so are very accessible for younger students.
- Explore a novel brought to life on stage with Bryony Lavery's adaptation of Treasure Island.

Key Stage 4 and above

- Explore Shakespeare set texts, including a thrilling, fast-paced 90-minute production of *Macbeth* created specially for students studying the play for GCSE.
- Bring novels like *Frankenstein* and *Jane Eyre* to life for students.

 Introduce students to the Windrush generation and their experiences in post-war Britain in *Small Island*, Helen Edmundson's adaptation of Andrea Levy's novel.

Key Stage 5

- Explore A-Level set text Shakespeare plays in full, looking at the director's interpretation and how this is realised on stage. You watch and analyse productions of Othello, Hamlet, King Lear, Coriolanus and Twelfth Night.
- Watch and explore productions of twentieth century drama set texts in performance, including A Streetcar Named Desire and Translations.
- Introduce exciting texts that students are unlikely to have encountered before, including Lorraine Hansberry's *Les Blancs* and Simon Stone's adaptation of Federico García Lorca's *Yerma*, sparking debate on the power of theatre to examine society, politics and culture.

You can use this list to find out whether the Collection includes a production of the set text that you are studying:

Productions of Set Texts - English GCSE and A-Level

Set Text	Production, Date and Venue	Director
Coriolanus (William Shakespeare)	2014, Donmar Warehouse	Josie Rourke
Frankenstein (adapted by Nick Dear)	2011, National Theatre	Danny Boyle
Hamlet (William Shakespeare)	2010, National Theatre	Nicholas Hytner
Jane Eyre (adapted by Sally Cookson and the Company)	2015, National Theatre	Sally Cookson
Julius Caesar (William Shakespeare)	2018, Bridge Theatre	Nicholas Hytner
King Lear (William Shakespeare)	2011, Donmar Warehouse	Michael Grandage
Macbeth (William Shakespeare - in a new version by Justin Audibert and the company)	2017, National Theatre	Justin Audibert
Othello (William Shakespeare)	2013, National Theatre	Nicholas Hytner
Romeo & Juliet (William Shakespeare - in a new version for younger audiences by Bijan Sheibani and Ben Power)	2017, National Theatre	Bijan Sheibani
She Stoops to Conquer (Oliver Goldsmith)	2012, National Theatre	Jamie Lloyd
A Streetcar Names Desire (Tennessee Williams)	2014, Young Vic Theatre	Benedict Andrews
Translations (Brian Friel)	2018, National Theatre	lan Rickson
Twelfth Night (William Shakespeare)	2017, National Theatre	Simon Godwin

You might also like to use this quick reference guide, which includes details of all of the productions featured, including useful information like Key Stage suitability recommendations, production genre and running times.

Production	Date	Suggested Key Stage Suitability	Director	Writer	Genre	Running Time
Antigone	4th July, 2012	KS4+	Polly Findlay	Sophocles/ Don Taylor	Greek Drama	1hr 31 mins
Cat on the Hot Tin Roof	22nd Feb, 2018	KS4+	Benedict Andrews	Tennessee Williams	Twentieth Century Drama	2hrs 31 mins
The Cherry Orchard	30th June, 2011	KS4+	Howard Davies	Anton Chekov	Twentieth Century Drama	2hrs 33 mins
Consent	9th May, 2017	KS4+	Roger Michell	Nina Raine	New Writing	2hrs 6 mins
Coriolanus	30th Jan, 2014	KS4+	Josie Rourke	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	2hrs 27 mins
Dara	17th Mar, 2015	KS4+	Nadia Fall	Tanya Ronder/ Shahid Nadeem	New Writing	2hrs 10 mins
The Deep Blue Sea	1st Sept, 2016	KS4+	Carrie Cracknell	Terence Rattigan	Twentieth Century Drama	1hr 57 mins
Frankenstein	17th Mar, 2011/ 24th Mar, 2011	KS4+	Danny Boyle	Adapted from Mary Shelley's novel by Nick Dear	Literary Adaptation	1hr 55 mins
Hamlet	24th Mar, 2011	KS4+	Nicholas Hytner	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	3hrs 16 mins
Jane Eyre	8th Dec, 2015	KS3+	Sally Cookson	Adapted from Emily Bronte's novel by Sally Cookson and Company	Literary Adaptation	2hrs 52 mins
Julius Caesar	22nd Mar, 2018	KS3+	Nicholas Hytner	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	2hrs 2 mins
King Lear	3rd Feb, 2011	KS3+	Michael Grandage	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	2hrs 36 mins
Les Blancs	10th May, 2016	KS4+	Yaël Farber	Lorraine Hansbury	Twentieth Century Drama	2hrs 23 mins
London Assurance	28th June, 2010	KS3+	Nicholas Hytner	Dion Boucicault	Comedy	2hrs 9 mins
Macbeth	20th Feb, 2017	KS3+	Justin Audibert	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	1hr 23 mins
Madea	4th Sept, 2014	KS4+	Carrie Cracknell	Euripides/ Ben Power	Greek Drama	1hr 24 mins
One Man, Two Guvnors	15th Sept, 2011	KS3+	Nicholas Hytner	Richard Bean	Comedy	2hrs 53 mins

Production	Date	Suggested Key Stage Suitability	Director	Writer	Genre	Running Time
Othello	26th Sept, 2013	KS3+	Nicholas Hytner	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	2hrs 57 mins
Peter Pan	10th June, 2017	KS2+	Sally Cookson	Adapted from JM Barrie's novel by Sally Cookson and Company	-	2hrs 15 mins
Romeo & Juliet	21st Feb, 2017	KS2+	Bijan Sheibani	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	1hr 6 mins
She Stoops to Conquer	29th Mar, 2012	KS3+	Jamie Lloyd	Oliver Goldsmith	Comedy	2hrs 28 mins
Small Island	30th May, 2019	KS4+	Rufus Norris	Adapted from Andrea Levy's novel by Helen Edmundson	Literary Adaptation	2hrs 49 mins
A Streetcar Named Desire	16th Sept, 2014	KS4+	Benedict Andrews	Tennessee Williams	Twentieth Century Drama	2hrs 47 mins
Translations	31st July, 2018	KS4+	lan Rickson	Brian Friel	Twentieth Century Drama	2hrs 6 mins
Treasure Island	l 22nd Jan, 2015	KS2+	Polly Findlay	Bryony Lavery	Literary Adaptation	1hr 41mins
Twelfth Night	6th Apr, 2017	KS3+	Simon Godwin	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	3hrs 2 mins
The Winter's Tale	26th Feb, 2018	KS2+	Justin Audibert	William Shakespeare	Shakespeare	1hr 8 mins
wonder.land	9th May, 2017	KS3+	Rufus Norris	Damon Albarn, Moira Buffini and Rufus Norris	New Writing/ Musical/ Literary Adaptation	1hr 58 mins
Yerma	31st Aug, 2017	KS4+	Simon Stone	Simon Stone after Federico García Lorca	Twentieth Century Drama	1hr 36 mins

You can watch a trailer for each of the productions <u>here</u>, if you would like to get a sense of them before watching the full-length piece.

Using the Collection – Where to Start

If you're thinking about using the Collection in your teaching, here are a few suggestions for getting started.

Treasure Island - Key Stage 3

- Watch the production with students, or suggest that they watch it at home.
- Use the Key Stage 3 resources, which encourage students to respond to the play in a number of different ways.
 They'll be asked to write a new scene and a newspaper article, research pirates throughout history, consider character and design a costume and discuss attitudes to gender.
- If they know the novel, you can use it as an opportunity to discuss the differences between a novel and a play and the decisions that Bryony Lavery has made in adapting the novel for the stage.

Romeo & Juliet - Key Stage 3

- Use this version of the play, which has been adapted for younger audiences (using Shakespeare's original text), to introduce Shakespeare to your younger students.
- Ask them to think about why they think director Bijan Sheibani chose to interpret the play in this way and how the play resonates with a contemporary audience.

Frankenstein - Key Stage 4

- Use this production as a means of introducing and exploring the gothic genre.
- Use the range of additional short film video resources to support your viewing of the production. These include everything from a biography of Mary Shelley to a character study of Victor Frankenstein.
- Consider how Nick Dear adapted the novel for the stage.

Macbeth - Key Stage 4

- Use this production to introduce the play or look in detail at particular scenes with students who are studying the play for GCSE. You could hone in on key speeches and scenes, including the dagger scene and Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking scene.
- Consider director Justin Audibert's interpretation of the play set in a postapocalyptic world.

Othello - Key Stage 5

- Encourage students to watch the play in full once they have read it, then focus in on particular scenes and speeches, analysing the interpretive decisions that have been made.
- Discuss director Nicholas Hytner's decision to move the action of the play to a contemporary military base and how this affects our understanding of the plays cultural, historical and political context.
- Watch the series of accompanying short films, including the insights into the characters of Othello and lago and the role of the female characters in the play.
- Read the rehearsal insights, written by staff director Natasha Nixon and find out how the company analysed and dissected Shakespeare's text before bringing it to life on stage.

Translations – Key Stage 5

- Watch the production and explore how the key themes of language, communication, culture and identity are enhanced when the play is in performance, as opposed to when it is simply read on the page.
- Watch the short film introduction to the play, with Professor James Moran from Nottingham University, talking about the themes and significance of the play.
- Read staff director Shane Dempsey's rehearsal insights and find out how the company brought the play to life on stage and what research they undertook to understand the context and cultural significance of the play.

Additional Resources

We are constantly expanding the selection of resources to support each of the productions.

If you scroll down the page for each production, you'll find a link to teaching resources. If you click on this link, you'll be taken to a page which lists resources by production.

You'll find a **Learning Pack** for each production, which includes:

- Details of the cast and creative team for each production
- A plot synopsis for each production, with timecodes for significant scenes and particular dramatic incidents or moments
- Suggestions for other productions to watch and links to artists and practitioners who have worked across a series of productions

For some productions you'll also find:

- Rehearsal insights, written by the production's Staff Director, detailing how the production was brought to the stage
- Learning Guides, which, as well as the information in Learning Packs, contains additional material that can be given directly to students to support them as they watch a production. These are particularly useful for students writing a live theatre review.
- Short films and audio recordings including contextual information for the productions and interviews with actors and creatives.

Links to short film resources can be found directly under the production recording.

We will continue to expand this bank of resources and welcome ideas and suggestions from teachers about what additional resources might support your teaching.

We hope that you and your students enjoy using the NT Collection and that the productions they see inspire them to become the next generation of theatre-makers and audience members. We also hope that they will feel inspired to find out about and visit their local theatre.

If you have any questions or feedback on our resources please contact us at ntcollection@nationaltheatre.org.uk.