

DIGITAL THEATRE+

Digital Theatre+ Insights: Creativity and Collaboration

Creative Compilations and Discussion Questions



Designed to offer insights into key aspects of the artistic and collaborative process, our [Creative Compilations](#) are a great starting point to engage students in the process behind bringing a production to life.

This guide lists discussion questions and related resources that students can use as prompts for independent and self-directed learning, or as small-group discussion topics on a video conferencing platform.

Navigate to the relevant section using the links below:

- [Writers - Practice and Process](#)
- [Directors - Practice and Process](#)
- [Designers - Process and Practicalities](#)
- [Actors - Preparing and Playing](#)

WRITERS – PRACTICE AND PROCESS:



CREATIVE COMPILATION:

- Lee Hall on Dreams
[On Writing: An interview with Lee Hall](#)
- Diane Samuels on a Writer's Life
[Kindertransport: An interview with Diane Samuels](#)
- Alecky Blythe on Form
[London Road: An interview with Alecky Blythe](#)
- Bryony Lavery on Making Words Work
[Stockholm & Beautiful Burnout: An interview with Bryony Lavery](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) How do outside influences and personal experience impact how a writer writes?
- 2) What are the main motivations for creative action?



- 3) How does writing for theatre contribute to society?
- 4) Describe some of the techniques that playwrights use to develop their writing.
- 5) How can routine and order enhance creativity in playwriting?

RELATED RESOURCES:

- [An Interview with... Meera Syal](#)
 - [Face to Face: Arthur Miller](#)
 - [Face to Face: Harold Pinter](#)
 - [How to Read, Watch and Write about Plays: *The Tempest*](#)
 - [Play Writers Series](#)
 - [Talking About Plays Series](#)
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DIRECTORS – PRACTICE AND PROCESS:



CREATIVE COMPILATION:

- Declan Donnellan on Directing
[Cheek by Jowl: An interview with Declan Donnellan](#)
- Nancy Meckler on Practice
[Shared Experience: An interview with Nancy Meckler](#)
- Scott Graham on the Emerging Process
[An interview with Scott Graham](#)
- Jenny Sealey on Process
[Graeae Theatre Company: An interview with Jenny Sealey](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What is the core purpose of the role of a theatre director?
- 2) Describe the range of ways that directing can be approached.
- 3) How do directors help prepare actors during a rehearsal process?



- 4) Is having a theatre director vital for the realisation of a play on stage? Why?
- 5) Which collaborators are essential to a theatre director and why?

RELATED RESOURCES:

- [Director's Notebooks](#)
 - [Donmar Shakespeare Trilogy](#)
 - [Lyric 360](#)
 - [On Directing Series](#)
 - [Practitioners on Practice Series](#)
 - [Theatre Lives Series](#)
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DESIGNERS – PROCESS AND PRACTICALITIES:



CREATIVE COMPILATION:

- Bob Crowley on Set
[On Design: An interview with Bob Crowley](#)
- Katrina Lindsay on Set
[On Costume Design: An interview with Katrina Lindsay](#)
- Natasha Chivers on Lighting
[On Lighting Design: An interview with Natasha Chivers](#)
- Gareth Fry on Sound
[On Sound Design: An interview with Gareth Fry](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What key elements come under the term ‘theatre design’?
- 2) What core function does design serve in the theatre?
- 3) How is technology used by theatre designers?



- 4) Who is the key collaborator for a designer?
- 5) What do you think is the key skill set for a designer?
- 6) How do all the elements of design come together to create naturalism? Discuss.

RELATED RESOURCES:

- [A Guide to Theatre Design](#)
 - [How to Read, Watch and Write about Plays: *The Tempest*](#)
 - [Lyric 360](#)
 - [My West End Series](#)
 - [Practitioners on Practice Series](#)
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ACTORS – PREPARING AND PLAYING:



CREATIVE COMPILATION:

- Laurie Metcalfe on Character Development
On Acting: Laurie Metcalfe
- Amber James on the Rehearsal Process
A Streetcar Named Desire: Amber James on Playing Stella
- Katy Stephens on Understanding Character
On Acting: Katy Stephens
- Victor Oshin on Playing Othello
On Othello: An Interview with Victor Oshin

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What preparation can an actor do before rehearsals begin?
- 2) How can the text guide the actor in terms of understanding a character?



- 3) What does a rehearsal process enable an actor to do and why is this of value?
- 4) How can actors draw upon their own life experience to enhance the portrayal of a character?
- 5) How does an audience contribute to the development of a character in performance?

RELATED RESOURCES:

- Audition Doctor:
 - [A Guide to a Career in Acting](#)
 - [First Steps with the Audition Doctor](#)
 - [Interview with Tilly Blackwood](#)
 - Barbara Houseman Masterclasses:
 - [Developing your Voice](#)
 - [Bringing Text to Life](#)
 - [On Acting Series](#)
 - [Theatre Lives Series](#)
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