



DIGITAL THEATRE+

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Guidance Pack to Virtual Learning for Drama/Theatre

Moving to a virtual classroom and online/distance learning? Below is a list of resources and suggestions on ways to use Digital Theatre+ to help you create meaningful and engaging online learning for your students.

In addition to the 250+ productions on DT+, which can be assigned to students to watch from home, below are suggestions on how you can make use of our other content and resources in your virtual classroom.

- [Audio Theatre](#)
 - [Auditioning](#)
 - [Concise Introductions](#)
 - [Director's Notebooks](#)
 - [Documentaries](#)
 - [Graphic Novels](#)
 - [Guides](#)
 - [Lesson Toolkits](#)
 - [Masterclasses & Workshops](#)
 - [Play Texts](#)
 - [Practical Guides & Lesson Plans](#)
 - [Study Guides](#)
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LESSON TOOLKITS

Each toolkit contains a lesson plan and supporting resources including:

- Quizzes
- Extension questions
- Relationship maps
- Links to relevant content on DT+ to use during the lesson.

The lesson plans are broken down into individual activities, which can be separated, assigned individually, and adapted for distance learning.

If an activity requires group discussion, this could be done virtually in a chat room or video call with students participating remotely.

USEFUL TIPS

- If an activity calls for post-it notes to be put up on the wall, there are a number of online resources where virtual post-it notes can be used. Students could also collaborate in an online document to list the information they would have put onto the post-it notes.
- Discussions based on a particular prompt can be turned into writing assignments or journal entries.
- Open discussion can be completed in an online chat room/hangout.

DT+ LESSON TOOLKITS

- [A Doll's House](#)
- [An Inspector Calls](#)
- [Frankenstein](#)





- *Hamlet*
- *Macbeth*
- Shakespearean Tragedies
- *The Crucible*
- *Things I Know To Be True*

Note: if an activity is practical and unable to be adapted for virtual learning, please feel free to reach out to us and we can help you tailor the activity to your individual needs.





STUDY GUIDES

DT+ has over 25 [study guides](#) on a variety of texts, which can be used in multiple ways to deepen understanding of a given text. Here are some suggestions on how to use study guides in your virtual classroom:

- Each of the sections within the individual study guides includes questions which can be posed to students. Students can respond to them in short answer or essay form, or can discuss them in an online forum.
- You could make individual sections of the study guide available for students to read through and pose questions to them at the end.
- Questions can be pulled out and turned into quizzes or worksheets for students to complete and hand over to you.

DT+ STUDY GUIDES

[A Doll's House](#)

[A Midsummer Night's Dream](#)

[All My Sons](#)

[Antigone](#)

[As You Like It](#)

[Beautiful Thing](#)

[Billy the Kid](#)

[Death of a Salesman](#)

[Far from the Madding Crowd](#)

[Ghosts](#)

[Hamlet](#)

[Into the Woods](#)

[King Lear](#)

[Long Day's Journey into Night](#)

[Macbeth](#)

[Merrily We Roll Along](#)

[Much Ado About Nothing](#)

[Private Lives](#)

[Romeo and Juliet](#)

[The Comedy of Errors](#)

[The Crucible](#)

[The Taming of the Shrew](#)

[True West](#)





PRACTICAL GUIDES & LESSON PLANS

Digital Theatre+ [Practical Workshop Guides and Lesson Plans](#) encourage students to approach material using the practical, investigative and interpretive methods of an actor, director or voice coach. This applied approach creates a deep and thorough understanding of a play as a blueprint for performance.

The exercises and activities found in each of the practical guides can all be adapted for the virtual classroom.

CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

These can be completed via video conferencing, for example:

- **Pass the Beat** – instead of standing in a circle together, assign students numbers and pass the beat to each other in number order during a video conference on your chosen platform.

DISCUSSIONS

Discussions can happen in any number of ways. Some examples are:

- Video conferencing
- Google chat
- An online collaborative document such as Google Docs.

PAIRS AND SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Students can coordinate working with their partner or group and return the assigned work to you upon its completion.

- Written work can simply be completed and turned in;
- Rehearsal type work can be filmed and recorded via video conferencing, on FaceTime for example, and sent to you.



USEFUL TIPS

Other exercises/activities can be turned into written work. For example: if students are asked to retell the story in performance, this could become a writing assignment. You could have them write a monologue, a short play, a fairy tale version, a motivational speech, an election/rally speech, or any number of prompts to have them retell the core story of the play.

DT+ PRACTICAL WORKSHOP GUIDES

A Streetcar Named Desire

A Taste of Honey

A View from the Bridge

An Inspector Calls

Antigone

Art

As You Like It

Blithe Spirit

Blood Brothers

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Cloud 9

DNA

Edward II

Frankenstein

Hamlet

King Lear

Loot

Measure for Measure

Mother Courage and her Children

Much Ado About Nothing

Othello

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

The History Boys

The Homecoming

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

The Winter's Tale

Top Girls

Waiting for Godot

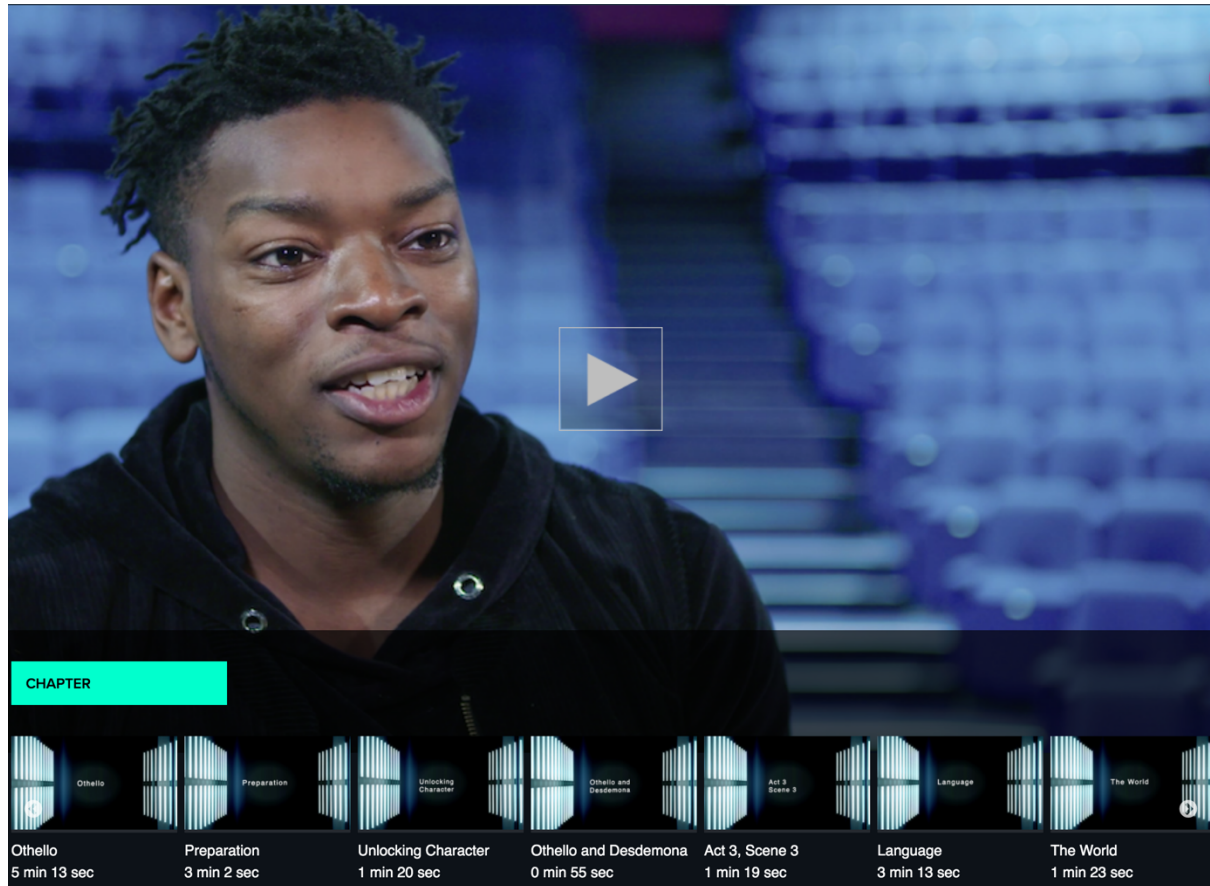
DT+ LESSON PLANS

Lesson Plans: Devising

Lesson Plans: Genre and Style

INTERVIEWS

Use our in-depth [interviews](#) to gain additional information about interpretation, process, texts, and careers. Interviews are broken into chapters and can be watched in short segments, or viewed in full.



On Othello: An Interview with Victor Oshin

Some of our interviews can be watched alongside the relevant production in order to delve deeper into the individual choices and interpretations made by the director, actors and designers, which is a key learning outcome for students.

Other interviews focus on a particular practitioner, theatre company or practice such as costume design, lighting design, set design, and staging.

DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOKS

Our **Director's Notebooks** provide invaluable insight into a professional director's rehearsal notes, personal processes, directorial concepts and dramaturgy for staging a play. Students can look to them as examples of how to create their own Director's Notebook, research interpretation, and gain insight into the context of the piece.



Costume designs by Dora Schweitzer from Director's Notebook: A Passage to India ©

DT+ DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOKS

- [A Passage to India](#)
- [Babe, the Sheep-Pig](#)
- [Death of a Salesman](#)
- [Julius Caesar](#)
- [Much Ado About Nothing](#)
- [The Birthday Party](#)
- [Translations](#)

DOCUMENTARIES

We have several documentaries which will aid students in gaining additional information on a text and/or topic, helping them to deepen and enrich their studies.



My West End: An Insight into Stage Management



Some key documentaries to look at are:

- [Active Analysis in Rehearsal: A Documentary Learning Resource](#)
- [Arthur Miller](#)
- [English File: Red Hook not Sicily - A View from the Bridge](#)
- [Learning Zone: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time -- From Page to Stage](#)
- [Lyric 360](#)
- [Muse of Fire](#)
- [My West End series](#)
- [Othello: Preparing for Performance](#)
- [The Lively Arts: Tennessee Williams](#)
- [The Making of Julius Caesar](#)

CONCISE INTRODUCTIONS

Our **Concise Introductions to Theatre & Performance** bring world-class writers and scholars to DT+, providing authoritative introductions, with bibliographies, to the most significant topics and practitioners for students. Each essay provides a web of connections and links across the site to productions, interviews and documentaries.

Suitable for advanced learners, and/or extension work, these resources can be used for self-directed research into people, theatre companies and topics. Several of them include questions – written by our specialist contributors – to guide students in developing a more critical response.



QUESTIONS

1. What is *The Oresteia*?
2. Is there anything today, in theatre or other cultural activity, that compares to the Greek Festival of Dionysus?
3. Is tragedy, as practised by Aeschylus and others, still a relevant form of theatre?

These questions can be used to help students move beyond description, towards evaluation and critical analysis. They test comprehension, develop synthesis with other areas of knowledge and encourage critical application of ideas, offering teachers a carefully scaffolded resource which will challenge and extend a student's learning.

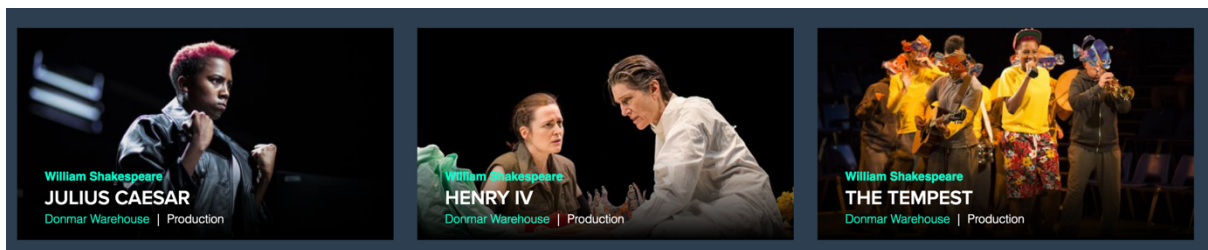
A current list of Concise Introductions which include questions is below:

- **Acting**
- **Aeschylus**
- **Applied Theatre**
- **Butoh**
- **Boal, Augusto**
- **Catharsis**
- **Churchill, Caryl**
- **Copeau, Jacques**

GUIDES

Our '**A Guide To...**' series provides specific teaching information, including detailed examples of how to apply particular teaching tools in the classroom, and how to use our resources alongside your teaching requirements. A few specific guides to refer to when planning your lessons are:

- **"All the World's a Stage": A Guide to Teaching World Theatre**
- **How to Read, Watch and Write About Plays: *The Tempest***
- **Teaching *Antigone* with DT+**
- ***Things I Know To Be True*: Resource Pack**



The Donmar Shakespeare Trilogy, all-female versions of ***Henry IV***, ***Julius Caesar***, and ***The Tempest***, are set in women's prison, with the prisoners putting on each of the plays. Each guide listed below contains ready-made lesson plans and activities for you to use.

- **Exploring the Director's Process**
- ***Henry IV*: Education Pack**
- ***Julius Caesar*: Education Pack**
- **Origins of the Trilogy: Exploring All Female Casting**
- **Prison Context: Education Pack**
- ***The Tempest*: Education Pack**

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Graphic Novels can be used when studying a given text. Published by SelfMadeHero, each of the 20 graphic novels available on DT+ tell the same story in illustrated form, providing a different and engaging twist on a familiar script. We have 14 Shakespeare plays and 6 novels for you to choose from.



Manga Shakespeare: The Tempest – SelfMadeHero ©

Graphic novels provide an excellent alternative to students who need to read a shortened version of a story, or who thrive with illustrations which help propel the story visually. They also provide excellent inspiration for interpretation and choices in where the story is set.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- [Crime and Punishment](#)
- [Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde](#)
- [Manga Shakespeare](#)
- [Pride and Prejudice](#)



- *The Complete Don Quixote*
 - *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
 - *The Trial*
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PLAY TEXTS

Use any of our four **Play Texts** to aid you in teaching a variety of skills which require a full script: script analysis, character analysis, dramatic structure, monologues, interpretation, design, and more.

Three of the four scripts have productions available for viewing on DT+: *Lift*, *From Up Here* and *Things I Know To Be True*.



Things I Know To Be True | Frantic Assembly

Students can follow along with the script as they watch the production, noting down the choices made by the director and the design team. This could also be turned into a review and could include whether the student agrees or disagrees with the choices made and if they would have done anything differently.

The play texts available include two plays and two musicals, so you will be able to work with both kinds of scripts in your lessons.

Links to the texts can be found below:

- *Things I Know To Be True*



- *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*
 - *Lift - Perusal Script*
 - *From Up Here - Perusal Script*
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AUDIO THEATRE

We have 176 [audio theatre productions](#) for students to listen to from L.A. Theatre Works. These can provide you with several teaching options:

- Students can listen to the play as they design it, so they are not influenced by someone else's design choices.
- Students can listen to the play as an alternative to reading it. Sometimes a text isn't available for reading, but you can listen to it instead. These also provide an excellent alternative for students who struggle with their reading skills – they can listen to the story and still use their imaginations to envision what the scene looks like.

USEFUL TIPS

When working with students on the voice, listening to how actors use their voice when you cannot see them can help students understand the variety of vocal choices they can make for a character.

Have them listen and focus on one or two particular characters, noting the variety of vocal techniques used, how and when they used them and what effect it had on the listener as far as setting the mood of the scene and keeping a listener engaged.



MASTERCLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Our [Masterclasses](#) and [Workshops](#) give you a practical reference point to create and inspire your own engaging and dynamic lessons on key topics, themes and texts.

With the virtual classroom, students can call in via video conferencing and participate together, or they can follow along and take part in the activities on their own. Some activities require more than one person to be involved, and this will need to be adjusted for the virtual classroom, but a great many can be done individually, and we encourage students to continue building their knowledge and skills by watching and participating as much as possible.

DT+ MASTERCLASSES

- [A Masterclass in Theatre Direction with Eugenio Barba](#)
- [Barbara Houseman Masterclass: Bringing Text to Life](#)
- [Barbara Houseman Masterclass: Developing Your Voice](#)
- [In Rehearsal: *Othello* Act 3, Scene 3](#)
- [Masterclasses in the Michael Chekhov Technique](#)

DT+ WORKSHOPS

- [CPD Resource: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*](#)
 - [CPD Resource: Exploring Female Roles in *Othello* & *Macbeth*](#)
 - [First Steps with the Audition Doctor](#)
 - [A Frantic Assembly Warm Up](#)
 - [Shakespeare in your Space: *Macbeth*](#)
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AUDITIONING

Students wishing to work on monologues and auditioning can refer to our collection of resources created by experienced actor and founder of the Audition Doctor, Tilly Blackwood. The available resources are:

- **Interview with Tilly Blackwood:** Tilly gives an insight into the audition process based on her experience and that of her clients.
 - **First Steps with the Audition Doctor:** In this workshop, Tilly helps two aspiring actors bring their chosen speeches to life. Blackwood guides the students through various ways of approaching and connecting to a character, prompting them to make interpretive choices with the texts and highlighting the importance of exposing true vulnerability on stage to engage with an audience.
 - **A Guide to a Career in Acting:** This resource offers a whole host of information on how to get the best foundation training for performing on stage. Focus on the sections entitled **The Audition** and **Career Development**.
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