

29/04/2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Theatre Productions

I am pleased to inform you about some opportunities to watch high-quality theatre from home. These plays will naturally complement our English curriculum, and where they coincide with specific curriculum study, I have made a note. Please bear in mind that our curriculum does evolve, and exam texts often change from year to year.

Royal Shakespeare Company

You may be aware that the RSC has released six shows on BBC iPlayer, some of which are studied on our curriculum. <https://www.rsc.org.uk/news/six-shakespeares-now-on-bbc-iplayer>

- 'Macbeth' – currently studied for GCSE Literature at the end of Year 10 (this is the version that Y10 boys watched at school recently)
- 'Hamlet' – currently studied for A Level Literature in Year 12
- 'Much Ado About Nothing' – currently one of the options teachers may choose towards the end of Year 9
- 'Merchant of Venice' – currently one of the options teachers may choose towards the end of Year 9

National Theatre Collection

We have signed up for the National Theatre's free school access and are therefore releasing to you a login and password which we have agreed not to share with anyone outside RGS, and certainly not share on social media.

Please find attached full instructions for accessing the shows. There are clear guidelines on the website about age recommendations – something to be aware of for younger audiences, especially Years 7 and 8. This is the main reason for my writing to parents, rather than simply sharing this information with the boys via their class 'Teams'. There are lots of shows available, so do have a good look. Below I am drawing attention to shows that coincide with our RGS English curriculum.

- 'Frankenstein' (Two versions: one starring Benedict Cumberbatch and one starring Jonny Lee Miller) – both relevant to A Level Literature
- 'Hamlet' – as explained above – studied for A Level Literature
- 'Jane Eyre' – relevant to the Gothic unit studied in Year 12/13 for A Level Literature
- 'Macbeth' – as above – GCSE
- There are a number of shows that are suitable for younger audiences (such as 'Peter Pan', 'The Winter's Tale', 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Treasure Island') so please take a look at the details on the website by logging in.

I hope you can take advantage of this opportunity to have an informal theatre trip!

Best wishes,
Jo Holdsworth

Instructions for accessing the National Theatre Collection

Please note, the RGS English Department have agreed with the National Theatre that these access details will only be used within our institution, and definitely not shared on social media. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Our access details are: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com>

Username: 5Fq#6Qhla#

Password: 9Rf)0Ix+g)

(The Log-in button is in the top right-hand corner of the landing page. Please insert your username and password in the left-hand option of the login pop-up.)

Please ensure you are typing in the credentials rather than copying and pasting them, as this can insert invisible spaces which invalidate the details. These should be entered under the 'access log in' and not the 'personal log in'. If you have any difficulties, please test in another browser as some are known as having issues.

Once you have logged in, please see the 'News and Updates' area and click on 'find out more' (see screenshot below).

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with four menu items: 'National Theatre Collection', 'The Donmar Shakespeare Trilogy on Screen', 'The Classic Spring Oscar Wilde Collection', and 'The RSC Live Collection'. Below this is a dark banner with a Twitter icon and the text 'Follow @dramaonlinelib on Twitter' and 'Sign up to our newsletter'. To the right of the banner are two links: 'Need a monologue for an audition? Find monologues' and 'Have a specific cast size in mind? Find plays'. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Video Guides' with a sub-section 'Overview of playtext features' and a video player thumbnail; 'Collections' with sub-sections 'Playtexts' and 'Core Collection', and a paragraph describing 'Nearly 1,700 plays from Bloomsbury, including Methuen Drama, and Arden Shakespeare, and Faber & Faber, plus production stills from the Victoria and Albert Museum and the American'; and 'News and Updates' with a sub-section 'April 2020: 6 new films now live in the National Theatre Collection' and a paragraph about 'Drawing on 10 years of NT Live broadcasts, this collection has now completed with 30 titles.' A 'Find out more' link is present at the bottom of the 'News and Updates' section.

Next click on 'Explore the collection' (see screenshot below) to view the full range of plays available.



National Theatre Collection



[Explore the collection](#)

Please note the free access is only to the National Theatre Collection, not the whole of Drama Online.

These username and password details are permanent for RGS, and will continue to work once schools reopen, but after this time the National Theatre will apply restrictions to our access details which only permit viewings in school.

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