
Theater History, Text Analysis, Stagecraft, and Theater Visits
Gaiety School of Acting - National Theater School of Ireland Course Description
Course Description Provided by the Gaiety School of Acting**THEATER HISTORY****Module aims:**

The module aims to present a series of lectures on Theater History in a roughly chronological fashion from the ancient classical periods to 19th century melodrama. Each topic is covered in terms of playwrights, plays and characters, genre, themes, influences, innovations, costuming, architecture, actors and theater practitioners of the period. Each topic aims to provide the student with a brief overview of each specific period, so that students can understand and contextualize each text that they study in all other modules on the program.

Theater History enables students to understand and explore a percentage of the major works within the canon of theatrical history texts, and it also encourages students to develop their own creative talents in order to explore possibilities for play-writing, text analysis, interpretation and improvisation as professional actors and theater innovators.

Learning outcomes:

The students will develop the ability to thoroughly research and present both oral and written work. The students will develop the skills to identify characteristics which typify periods and genres for the purpose of auditions and acting work. They will be able to critique plays and playwrights, form opinions and conduct analysis about Theater History from an objective perspective. This will improve their understanding of how world events are often reflected on, through the medium of drama and an awareness of how each period of Theater History has left its own legacy to the professional theatrical world. The students will be given written assignments, practical presentations and end of term exams for the purpose of assessment.

They will be able to present short excerpts of text in class, devise characters from each era, and expand on themes explored in class.

TEXT ANALYSIS**Module aims:**

- To develop practical skills on approaching dramatic text as actors
- To foster the ability to envision a play as a live performance
- To make the students conversant in the vocabulary of theater
- To understand the genre, style, mechanics, significance, structure, and value of a play

Learning outcomes:

- The student will be able to identify and assess the textual elements necessary in theatrical text.
- The student will be able to make defensible acting choices based on textual understanding.
- The student will be able to have the ability to envision a final production, imagining artistic, academic, practical, and technical considerations.
- The student will be able to be conversant and knowledgeable on theatrical style, movements, genres, and criticism.
- The student will know how dramatic structure has developed since ancient times.
- The student will have the critical ability to articulate what makes a good or problematic text.
- The student will know how to approach text as an actor and glean the information available to develop character.
- The student will be able to identify the structural elements of a play.

STAGECRAFT**Module aims:**

- To give students an understanding of the technical skills involved in acting.

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- To outline the terminology appropriate to theater.
 - To illustrate the various stage areas/types that actors may work in.
 - To understand how important the use of appropriate gesture is on stage.
 - To realize how important the use of timing is on stage.
 - To discover the importance of focus and status.
 - To outline the discipline and work ethic required by professional actors.
 - To give students the experience of working in different theater spaces.
 - To give students further understanding of the technical skills involved in acting.
 - To stress the importance of open resonance and vocal clarity on stage.

Learning outcomes:

- The student will be able to draw on a wide range of technical skills.
- The student will be able to have a better understanding of role of the Actor in Professional Theater.
- The student will be able to understand and cope with working in a variety of styles and spaces.
- The student will be able to have a clearer understanding on how to use their body on stage.
- The student will have an improved sense of concentration and focus.
- The student will be able to behave in a professional manner, having respect for their craft.
- The student will be able to work in and understand the physical and vocal requirements in different performance areas.
- The student will be able to draw on a wide range of technical skills.
- The student will be able to have a better understanding of the role of the Actor in Professional Theater.
- The student will be able to have a clearer understanding on how to use their body and voice on stage.

THEATER VISITS

Students are required to attend mandatory theater performances.