

Welcome to A-level Drama 2026.2027

We follow the Pearson/EdExcel specification. This bridging work will focus on Component 1: Devising, worth 40% of your A-Level grade. In Component 1 you will:

- Devise an Original Performance
- Study the play *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill (which will be the stimulus for your devised piece)
- Use the theatre company/practitioner *Complicite* as your chosen practitioner (your performance will be influenced by their style)
- Complete a 'portfolio' following 6 statements (coursework) which explains your process of creating the final performance.

Bridging Work

Total time: approx. 2–3 hours

This work is designed to introduce you to your key Component 1 practitioner of *Complicite* who we will study in Year 12. It is not formally assessed, but we will refer to it in lessons in September. It will be an important grounding of understanding for you starting the course.

Task 1: Examples of Complicite Work (40 mins)

Complicite is a touring theatre company based in London. They have produced and toured work in the UK and internationally, and they are well known for their distinctive performance styles and inventive production designs. The company was founded in 1983. They were initially focused on physical performance and mime but soon expanded into other theatrical forms. Since then, with McBurney at the helm as Artistic Director, Complicite has become one of the most compelling and widely celebrated theatre companies in the world.

The only way to truly appreciate the work of Complicite is to see some examples of their work. You will see how different all their productions can be, however – You will also notice lots of similarities. Watch the following links below (you may need to do this a few times) and then make 350 words of notes under the following three headings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mqTCoM3zd0> (Complicite show reel).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKWv001zJ_Y&list=PLLEx0tB8K9bQ-q3XszdKnPwY6ygLqdcfS (Trailer for their production 'The Encounter')

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZW-OGOOcInI&list=PLLEx0tB8K9bQ-q3XszdKnPwY6ygLqdcfS&index=11> (Trailer for their production 'A pacifist's guide to the war on Cancer')

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkouyIM8qNE&list=PLLEx0tB8K9bQ-q3XszdKnPwY6ygLqdcfS&index=177> (Trailer for their production 'Shun Kin')

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGYMizsAf_A&list=PLLEx0tB8K9bQ-q3XszdKnPwY6ygLqdcfS&index=18 (Teaser for production 'Master and Margarita')

Also have a good look around their website [Home - Complicité](#)

What are your first reactions to Complicite's style of performance? (350 words). What did you make of their performance style? How could you define it? What words/sentences could you use to describe it? (350 words). What did you notice about their production design (set, costume, lighting, projections, effects, sound etc.)? How would you describe it? What aspects stood out to you? (350 words). Try and use Drama vocabulary in your answers.

Task 2: Simon Mc Burney (20 minutes)

Watch the following you tube link to Complicite's founder Simon McBurney TWICE. The first time, just watch and listen. The second time create a 'wordle' of key words or quotes Simon McBurney uses in the interview pausing the interview at intervals to make your notes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnbPAGeA6Ec&t=715s>

Task 3: Digital Theatre Plus – A Concise Audio Introduction to Complicite (30 minutes)

[A Concise Audio Introduction to Complicité | Digital Theatre+](#)

user@beaconsfieldhigh.bucks.sch.uk

Password - luckymice39

Listen carefully to this Audio Introduction Complicite. Use the e-mail address username above and password. Create a spider diagram of information whilst you listen. This will be a really useful reference point in the course.

Task 4: Digital Theatre Plus – A Disappearing Number / Complicite's Style (60 minutes)

[Annabel Arden on Complicité's A Disappearing Number | Digital Theatre+](#)

Use the same log in for digital theatre plus that you have been given above. Watch through all of the video clips in the above link. Make notes on key facts which help you understand Complicite's origins as a company and their style.

Optional Extension (not included in time):

You can purchase and read the plays you will study over the 2 year course.

Equus (Penguin Modern Classics) <https://amzn.eu/d/0ckBFajq>

Antigone (Student Editions) <https://amzn.eu/d/095VmTi8>

Top Girls (Student Editions) <https://amzn.eu/d/0gfwrPsL>

Have a look around Digital Theatre Plus (see previous log in) and watch some different pieces of theatre. The more performances/productions you see... the better!

Investigate student discounts for live theatre in the west-end (nearly all theatres do discounted tickets for under 25s). National Theatre (£5 tickets), Young Barbican (£5 tickets), Young Vic Theatre (£10 tickets), Almeida Theatre (£5 tickets).