

IB Theatre



Frantic Assembly Drama Workshop

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What is the course about?

IB Theatre at BISC is aimed to blend knowledge and skills about a wide range of Theatre conventions from a variety of cultures, both contemporary and from the past. Much of the knowledge will be determined by students' individual choices of research and we will endeavour through practical experimentation to find connects between these cultures and, above all, through practical workshops to deepen our understanding of how and what Theatre can communicate and achieve.

How is the course structured?

In the first term all students will work practically to develop their acting/devising/designing skills and gain an in depth knowledge of one theatre tradition/play text which will serve as an introduction to the collaborative task to be completed in year 2. This work will lead to some form of performance before the end of term 1. HL students will

research a range of Theatre Theorists and Practitioners after having experienced practical workshops run according to the ideas of Stanislavski. They will have the opportunity to devise a short workshop session of their own which the group will try out and evaluate.

In term 2 they will work on a trial Director's Notebook where each student will choose their own text to study in depth and work on the director's perspective of bringing that play to performance through an understanding of context, playwright's background, themes and meaning of the play and how they will use all theatre elements to realise an intention for the play with an awareness of its effect on an audience.

In term 3 all students will explore an aspect of a theatre tradition of their choice with a view to demonstrating individually their chosen aspect of a convention which makes it unique, for instance, Pantomime or Kabuki. This will be centred on performance techniques such as voice or gesture and lead to a presentation for their peers. HL students will develop a Solo Project which will consist of a 4-8 minute theatre piece and a report which analyses and evaluates the success of the performance. The year one work can form the basis for the final performance and report completed in Term 5.

In term 4 all Students will work together on a collaborative project which will lead to a devised ensemble performance of 13-15 minutes and a portfolio of the process and effectiveness of the piece. After this the students will deliver their finalised Research Presentations.

Term 5 will involve the completion of the Solo Project for HL and the submission of Director's Notebook for all students. This is where the course ends since there are no formal examination requirements.

What distinguishes this course from others?

It is the only course BISC runs which has no end of course final examination and as such places a premium on developing other skills such as cooperation, flexibility, organisation and resilience. All of these will be needed to meet the academic, emotional and practical requirements of completing this rigorous course. You will have the

chance to enjoy a wide variety of Theatre from the perspective of audience, actor, director and designer.

How is the course assessed?

All students need to produce:

- **Director's Notebook** based on a published play that they have not previously studied which will be a maximum of 20 pages. There must also be a list of all sources cited.
- **Research Presentation** lasting a maximum of 15 minutes. They must submit a continuous unedited video recording of the presentation and a list of all sources cited.
- **Collaborative Project** where the students together create an original piece of theatre lasting 13-15 minutes. Each student submits a process portfolio (15 pages max), a video recording (4 minutes max) evidencing their contribution to the piece and a list of all sources cited.

HL only:

- **Solo Theatre Piece** where each student submits a report (3000 word maximum), a continuous unedited video recording of the whole solo piece (4-8 minutes) and a list of primary and secondary sources cited.

Are there any requirements?

This course requires strong written and oral language skills so you need to show you are able to write well in English and have a good command of spoken language. You do not need to have studied Drama previously although this is helpful. At higher level but need have at least a B in English or English for Speakers of other Languages.

What materials will I need?

Courage, patience and a willingness to work with others are personal qualities which will enable you to flourish in Theatre. There is no set text but some course material will be provided. Much of what the student uses will be acquired through personal research.

What will I learn?

The theme running through the course is how and why human beings in all societies, now and previously, develop ways of telling stories through the and meanings as well as empathise with those of others.

In what ways does the Theatre syllabus promote the attributes of an IB learner?

It promotes the attributes in the following ways:

1. *Curiosity* is developed through in all areas where you need to research unknown texts, cultures and conventions.
2. *Balance* is reflected in classroom discussions of practical work and the strengths and weaknesses therein.
3. *Reflection* is developed in the Theatre Journal where students explore their practical learning.
4. *Principles* are reflected within their academic honesty and the individual insights into the moral values explored within the content of classes.
5. *Caring* is developed through the ways in which each student responds to the others at times of vulnerability during workshop processes.
6. *Open mindedness* is developed by exposure to a wide range of cultures and beliefs as expressed within texts studied.
7. *Knowledgeable attribute* is developed by looking at play texts which make intellectual demands.
8. *Communication* is developed in practical workshops and in particular through the Collaborative Project.
9. *The inquirer* is reflected in choice of topic for the Director's Notebook and Research Project.
10. *Thinking* is required on the many occasions when each student will be called upon to problem solve to achieve a task during a workshop or performance.

Can an interest in Theatre lead to a CAS Project?

Certainly! Some form of Theatre Project can increase your skills and confidence as well as providing entertainment and service in the wider community.

What is the relationship between Theatre and TOK?

Theatre asks for creative approaches and challenges how we know things. It offers many perspectives.

What career paths are open to me?

Theatre offers many transferable skills for a range of careers such as law teaching or business. It is so much more than being an actor.

Where can I find more information about the course?

You can download the subject guide for more information or come and see the theatre teacher who will be glad to answer your questions.