



# National Theatre

## Drama Teacher Conference 2021




### About the Drama Teacher Conference

The National Theatre's Drama Teacher Conference provides drama teachers with the opportunity to work with some of the finest artists, makers and companies in the industry every February half term.

We focus on upskilling teachers, encouraging confidence in exploring new and contemporary artists in school and in signposting your students on to further opportunities and careers.

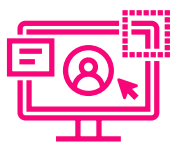
Here, we recognise that drama teachers are not working alone, and are part of an incredible community as diverse and talented as the industry you represent.

The Conference is a time for you to experiment, create and develop your practice. This year, the Conference is entirely digital due to Covid-19 but we hope this opens access to more teachers across the UK. The NT is committed to supporting teachers and look forward to welcoming you soon.



## Format

At this year's Drama Teacher Conference, everything will be delivered digitally with specific activity across the week, including:



### Masterclasses

Pre-recorded videos streamed at set times, most of the masterclasses will be screened twice in the week. They will involve the artist working in a room or digitally, sometimes with other collaborators, to demonstrate their ideas. Here is a unique opportunity to watch theatre-makers at work and hear about their creative process, using practical & transferable exercises for you to use in your own work with young people.

*Approx 1.5-2hours. £5 each or included in £30 Masterclass and Panel Pass.*




### Panels



These are pre-recorded videos in which a panel of artists and a chair will discuss topics pertinent to the industry, young people and teachers. All panels are approximately 1-1.5 hours.




*Approx. 1-1.5hours. £5 each or included in £30 Masterclass and Panel Pass.*

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February		
Time	Title	Format
10am	Katie Mitchell on Naturalism and Multi-Media in Theatre	 Masterclass
2pm	Staging a Revolution: Theatre and Activism	 Panel
5pm	Collaborating and Theatre Making with Marianne Elliott, Bunny Christie and Paule Constable.	 Panel




Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February		
Time	Title	Format
10am	Socially Distanced Theatre-Making with Justin Audibert and Actors on Dennis Kelly's DNA	 Masterclass
2pm	Performing in a Pandemic with the National Theatre	 Panels
5pm	Katie Mitchell on Naturalism and Multi-Media in Theatre	 Masterclass

Please note: There will not be any sessions on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

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Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> February		
Time	Title	Format
10am	Directing Text with Matthew Xia	 Masterclass
2pm	Staging a Revolution: Theatre and Activism	 Panel
5pm	Socially Distanced Theatre-Making with Justin Audibert and Actors on Dennis Kelly's DNA	 Masterclass

Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February		
Time	Title	Format
10am	Exciting Experiments: Directing and Devising Remotely with Nickie Miles Wildin	 Masterclass
2pm	Theatre Reviewing: A Creative Response with Critics, Lyn Gardner and Ava Wong-Davies	 Panel
5pm	Directing Text with Matthew Xia	 Masterclass

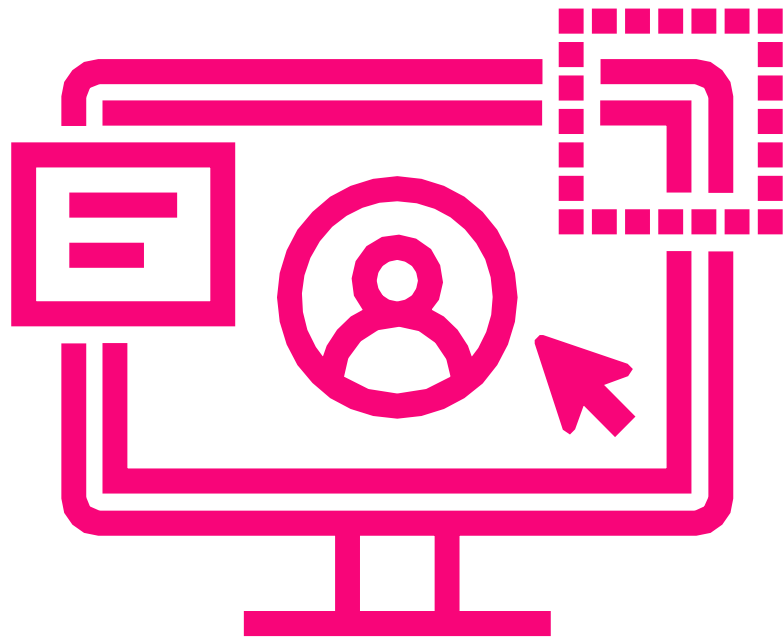
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February		
Time	Title	Format
10am	Theatre Reviewing: A Creative Response with Critics, Lyn Gardner and Ava Wong-Davies	 Panel
2pm	Collaborating and Theatre Making with Marianne Elliott, Bunny Christie and Paule Constable	 Panel
5pm	Exciting Experiments: Directing and Devising Remotely with Nickie Miles Wildin	 Masterclass

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The Mohn Westlake Foundation supports nationwide Learning programmes for young people.



# Masterclasses

## **Katie Mitchell on Naturalism and Multi-Media in Theatre**

*Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10am and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm*

Katie Mitchell creates feminist work combining Stanislavski's naturalism and experimental multi-media techniques. An esteemed theatre and opera director, working across the UK and Europe, she is also a prescribed practitioner on many exam boards. This is a rare chance to watch Katie at work and learn about her process through practical examples and ideas.

## **Socially Distanced Theatre-Making**

**with Justin Audibert and Actors on Dennis Kelly's DNA**

*Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 10am and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm*

Justin Audibert is the Artistic Director of the Unicorn Theatre; an experienced and exciting director of everything from children's theatre and new writing to Shakespeare. Observe Justin's work with actors in a socially distanced rehearsal room as they explore the classic GCSE text, Dennis Kelly's DNA. This session will include practical exercises for working at a distance and using these parameters as creative opportunities, all of which are designed to be directly applicable to working with young people in schools.

## Directing Text with Matthew Xia

*Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10am and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm*

The script is an instruction manual, a blueprint for a theatrical experience. Using a series of borrowed, stolen and adapted exercises and methods, Matthew will unlock the meaning in the text with professional actors. These are the processes Matthew has used in the creation of work such as *Blue/Orange*, *Into The Woods*, *Frankenstein* and most recently *Amsterdam*. Matthew will be using Katherine Soper's *Wish List* with two actors in this session.

Matthew Xia is a brilliant theatre director. He is the Artistic Director of the Actors Touring Company and an Associate Director at Nottingham Playhouse; his directing work has included credits at the Orange Tree Theatre, the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool and the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. Matthew is deeply committed to making theatre more representative of the world we live in. Matthew's work is influenced by Stanislavski stylistically and Brecht politically.

## Exciting Experiments: Directing and Devising Remotely with Nickie Miles Wildin

*Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 10am and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm*

How can we make devising remotely fun, creatively accessible and feel like an ensemble?

Join Graeae Theatre's Associate Director Nickie Miles-Wildin and an ensemble of professional, young actors to explore techniques for directing and devising remotely. From warm up games to movement exercises, Nickie will share her practice with you which she has refined for remote working. This session aims to equip you with confidence and a range of exercises you can utilise with your students to maintain creativity and spontaneity remotely.

Nickie Miles-Wildin is a director, actor and writer. Her wealth of experience includes developing new writing, directing the Royal Exchange's Young Company and performing in the Para-Olympics opening ceremony.



## Panels

### Staging a Revolution: Theatre and Activism

*Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm*

In a time of immense change, how can we use theatre to encourage young people to use their voice to highlight the issues they really care about? What stimulus do these professional artists and companies use when making a show?

Keisha Thompson is a Manchester based writer, performance artist and producer. Her work includes poetry, music, collaboration and one-woman shows.

LUNG is a campaign-led verbatim theatre company that tours work nationally. They work closely with different communities to make verbatim theatre and hidden voices heard. Matt Woodhead, Co-Artistic Director, joins this panel.

Maxine Peake is a stage, film and television actor committed to social change. Maxine made her name as Twinkle in Victoria Wood's sitcom Dinner Ladies. Further work includes The Welkin at the National Theatre, the lead role in BBC legal drama Silk and appearing in Channel 4's Shameless.

Travis Alabanza is a performer, writer and theatre maker. Their unique mixture of performance, poetry, style, political views and risk-taking performances has given them a unique placement both nationally and internationally.

## **Collaborating and Theatre Making** **with Marianne Elliott, Bunny Christie and Paule Constable**

*Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm*

Marianne Elliott, Bunny Christie and Paule Constable have a wealth of experience of collaborating across shows and styles to make incredible theatre. This conversation will detail their own experiences of theatre-making and how these can be used if studying one of these practitioners at A Level.

The three panelists worked together to direct and design *The Curious Incident on the Dog in the Night-Time*. Beyond this -

Bunny Christie is a multi-award-winning Production Designer. Her work includes *People Places and Things*, *The Red Barn* and *The Welkin* at the NT.

Marianne Elliott is a celebrated theatre director, with credits such as *War Horse*, *The Light Princess* and *Company* to her name.

Paule Constable is an Olivier award winning lighting designer and an Associate Designer at the National Theatre where she has designed *wonder.land*, *Ocean At The End of the Lane* and *The Red Barn* among many others.

## **Performing in a Pandemic with the National Theatre**

*Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm*

As teachers around the world have adapted theatre-making in schools within new restrictions, so have theatres. Hear from the backstage team and creatives working at the National Theatre about their experience and key learning during this time. This will include an insight into specific backstage roles, the impact this time has had on what work the NT can make and what we are hopeful for in the future.

## **Theatre Reviewing: A Creative Response with Critics** **Lyn Gardner and Ava Wong-Davies**

*Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 10am*

Reviewing theatre is a key part of every syllabus for GCSE and A Level Drama; join Lyn and Ava as they are interviewed by Chris Holman, Head of Drama at Heathland School, to hear their tips and techniques to making reviewing exciting for all students. This includes suggestions of digital theatre to watch during this time, a range of approaches to reviewing and practical exercises to use when exploring writing your first review.

Lyn Gardner is Associate Editor of *The Stage* and has over 30 years' experience writing as a theatre critic.

Ava Wong-Davies is a freelance theatre critic who writes for *Exeunt*, *The Independent* and more.