



ABINGDON

From: Director of Drama: Ben Phillips

10 September 2021

Drama OH opportunities 2021-22

Dear Parents

Lower School Drama Club: Monday Period 5 or Thursday Period 8

The Lower School Drama Club gives pupils an opportunity to be part of a creative ensemble, where playing lots of drama games and having fun is the top priority. We will use teamwork skills to create mini improvisations and sketches each week and gain confidence performing in front of others. Members of the club can audition for a large-scale production which will begin rehearsals in January and be performed in May.

3rd and 4th Year production

This year's middle school production is a new satirical play by John Donnelly about the fear of saying the wrong thing in public. ***A series of public apologies*** pokes fun at those who find themselves caught out whilst in charge, and having to say sorry. Presented quite literally as a series of public apologies, the play welcomes inventive and imaginative interpretations, is very flexible in how it can be cast and staged, and spirals inexorably towards an absurdist conclusion. It's a darkly comic play about words, conventions, manners, control, institutions, and the times we live in.

The play is open to pupils in third and fourth year, and will be performed in the Amey Theatre at the end of November 2021. Full details are as follows:

AUDITIONS

FOURTH YEAR

Audition 1: Monday 13 September, 1.10pm-2pm

Audition 2: Thursday 16 September, 5.15pm-6.30pm

THIRD YEAR

Audition 1: Tuesday 14 September, 1.10pm-2pm

Audition 2: Thursday 16 September, 5.15pm-6.30pm

To sign up for an audition, please add your name to the appropriate list on the drama department notice board outside room A218 in the Arts Centre.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will follow the same pattern as the auditions, so there will be TWO weekly rehearsals for each year group, as follows:

FOURTH YEARS: Mondays, 1.10pm-2pm & Thursdays, 5.15pm-6.30pm

THIRD YEARS: Tuesdays, 1.10pm-2pm & Thursdays, 5.15pm-6.30pm

PERFORMANCES

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

There will be TWO performances in the Amey Theatre, as follows:

Performance 1: THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER, 7pm-8pm

Performance 2: FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 7pm-8pm

DRESS & TECHNICAL REHEARSALS

These will take place during the school day on **Monday 22 November and Tuesday 23 November**. There will be a final run-through immediately before the first performance on Thursday 25 November, and all those involved will need to stay on after the end of normal school on both performance days. A hot meal will be provided in the School Dining Hall on both occasions.

If you have any questions, please email Mr Jeremy Taylor as soon as possible.

5th Year, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth productions

The extra curricular Drama production offerings for 5th Year, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth at Abingdon and SHSK this year are as follows:

Abingdon: *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, adapted by Rona Munro. Rehearsals: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 5-7pm. Performance dates **Wednesday 9-Friday 11 February 2022**. **Open to Lower and Upper Sixth**. Joint with SHSK. Look out for an audition sign up sheet and audition materials outside the drama office in the Arts Centre from Monday 13 September.

Lower and Upper Sixth pupils are invited to audition for a joint production taking place at Abingdon of Rona Munro's inventive adaptation of Mary Shelley's Gothic masterpiece "Frankenstein", which places the writer herself amongst the action as she wrestles with her creation and with the stark realities facing revolutionary young women, then and now.

St Helen's: *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare. Rehearsals: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 5-7pm. Performance dates **Wednesday 2-Friday 4 February 2022**. Open to **5th Year, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth**. Joint with SHSK. Look out for audition sign-up sheets and audition materials outside the drama office in the Arts Centre from Monday 13 September.

5th Year, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth pupils are invited to audition for a joint senior production of William Shakespeare's "As You Like It" which will take place at St Helen's. This is Shakespeare – but not as you know it! It will be a bold, colourful play with music set against the backdrop and soundtrack of late 1960s London. The plot follows a host of characters who leave the stuffy, backward looking corridors of Westminster behind, looking for the chance of a freer life amongst the artistic and fashion communities in London's Carnaby Street. This play will involve actors, singers, dancers and musicians.

There will also be a joint 5th Year production with SHSK launching later in the term – details coming soon.

Middle and Upper School "Page to Stage" Wednesday afternoon activity

Pupils who are keen on drama and performance but don't have time to commit to one of the extra-curricular productions we are offering might like to come along to *Page to Stage* on a Wednesday afternoon. We will look at different plays and playwrights and rehearse and perform extracts from a number of different works, as well as perhaps looking at devising some of our own work. Pupils can choose this instead of or as well as being in one of the productions!

3rd and 4th Year Page to Stage will be Wednesday Period 7

5th, L6 and U6 Page to Stage will be Wednesday Period 8.

Yours sincerely

Ben Phillips
Director of Drama