

What is The Next Stage – formerly called Block 15

Ages 13-16, 16-18

This course is the next step on from Centre Stage Creative Drama. This becomes a two - hour course, rather than one hour, but continues in the same vein as our Creative Drama courses, in that it is process driven drama rather than performance drama - in other words the emphasis and value is in the process rather than the outcome.

Next Stage is primarily about 'devising' – creating and exploring ideas from an initial stimuli. Using Improvisational skills, the students develop these ideas to generate material for some kind of 'presentation' – This Presentation can be performed, acted, recorded, written down, photographed, videoed, sung, played, displayed, taken home in a portfolio of work etc

The course is project based and very much student led, in that it allows the students freedom to incorporate their own ideas within a group and take them further to develop them creatively, in which ever way is best suited for presentation. This way of working is heavily influenced and inspired by the methods and approaches of the British playwright Mike Leigh, who works extensively with his actors, improvising, devising characters, situations and stories from which he then goes on to write plays and films.

This course has value in it self for everybody AND it is also an important foundation for acting and performance skills.

Next Stage Is the perfect course for students who wish to continue in this creative way of working. It Is the same as Creative Drama in that the skills applied and gained from these classes are broad and immense - Confidence, communication, quick thinking, problem solving, flexibility, team-work, an ability to improvise, apply creativity and imagination. Classes also nurture and develop social and emotional skills as students apply empathy and understanding towards others, in different situations and scenarios, as they happily step in and out of a characters shoes and their story.

All of the above are important life skills and are of value for everyone, especially with the demands of this ever- changing world – Arts for Life!

Next Stage also forms a supportive and complimentary pathway in study towards, IGCSE, GCSE, A'level, IB, or any of our other Centre stage Courses. **Next Stage** is ideal for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the Arts. These classes are the perfect foundation for the student who enjoys creativity, the broader arts and wants to lead on to University or Drama School at 18 + to study drama, Theatre, or other mixed media Arts