

Creative Drama Classes - What is Creative Drama? - Course Information for Parents – Updated 2023-24

What is Creative Drama?

Your child is on the Creative Drama course – Arts for life!

What is Creative Drama? - It is process driven drama, rather than performance drama - in other words the emphasis and value is in the process rather than the outcome.

In the first place, it takes, books, stories, characters & situations and brings them to life, by 'playing out' the narrative, through structured play, in a highly, fun and interactive way. For younger students this 'structured play' and 'playing out' of a situation, often then goes on to be called improvisation or devising, as students get older and as they move on up through the Centre Stage, stages. In addition, the students, without realizing it, are beginning to develop the imagination, the belief and playfulness which are the vital skills required in Acting – the basics. Step two of the process, is then to take the ideas and themes from the chosen stories or stimulus and go on to creatively explore these further, always including the students own ideas & experiences where possible. We often incorporate, poetry, music and pictures as a spring-board to jump off from.

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, the soft 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!

Creative Drama is not intended for the spectator, unlike Acting or Performance is. Creative Drama, can often look chaotic and a little messy from the outside eye. However, It should be chaotic and messy looking and we want it to be, playful, energetic and fun, as the students fully involve themselves, wholeheartedly, in the process. Although seemingly energetic and chaotic from the outside, In fact there is lots going on for those involved in it and this should not be underestimated by what an observer views. The value and experiential learning, which takes place through this, structured play, is our overall aim, when the students are involved fully *in* the action, belief & activity. For Creativity to take place, we need to create a safe space for our students; one where confidence can build, where students don't feel observed, or judged, somewhere with freedom to express and the flexibility to allow this to happen, in order to be able to fulfill the aims properly.

Although our Creative Drama provides all important life skills, in themselves, these classes can also form a supportive and complimentary pathway much further down the line in the study towards, IGCSE/ GCSE, A'level, IB, Trinity & LAMDA Exams etc and are ideal for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the Arts and the Creative Industries. These classes are also the perfect foundation for anyone wanting to learn the basics and the craft of Acting.

These carefully planned sessions, have very clear aims and teaching outcomes and are delivered by enthusiastic teachers with a passion for the Arts. Centre Stage Creative Drama lessons and courses have been carefully written, developed, and continually honed over the twenty + years that Centre Stage has been in operation, by the founders and directors Alison & Pete who continue to be fully involved in teaching and teacher training.

At Centre Stage, we stay up to date with new approaches and new ways of thinking, with regards to training and to the teaching of the Creative & Performing Arts, so that we remain current in our delivery. Along side our passion for the arts and the teaching of young people, we continually bring in these fresh new ideas in arts training, together with our energy, enthusiasm, combined with a wealth of experience from our senior team, in a desire to impart the very best training and experience for our students. All our teachers are trained in the Centre Stage approach to Creative Drama, so they are able to share their passion and skills, and are closely monitored to make sure their delivery meets our high standards.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Alison & Pete
And The Centre Stage Team