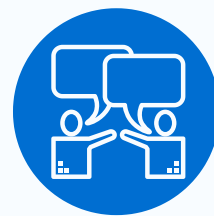


SPEECH & COMMUNICATION



Course Outline

OVERVIEW

Our Speech & Communication programme is for students looking to develop their skills in communication and comprehension by bringing texts to life through performance. Students will engage with a variety of forms of texts including poetry, prose and play extracts in a range of styles from different periods.

Over the course of the 8-session programme, students will hone their ability to deliver talks and presentations, to develop and express their own ideas and to listen, assimilate information and respond appropriately in discussion on familiar and unfamiliar topics.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Verbal and non-verbal communication skills
- Conversation and discussion skills
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Research and reflection skills
- Presentation skills
- Persuasion and negotiation skills
- Planning and preparation skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Development of key skills for English language and literature development e.g. comprehension & analysis skills, oral speaking skills, vocabulary building, understanding of persuasive speech

LOGISTICS

- 1.5 hr sessions
- Online



HOST

Issy

Issy is a University of Cambridge English Literature graduate and current theatre director (co-Artistic Director of a theatre company 'Fishbowl Theatre'), with a Grade 8 Distinction in Speech and Drama. Nurturing interpersonal, expressive and practical speaking skills is something Issy does regularly, transferring her strong directorial skills of clear and concise communication, an ability to give constructive feedback and a capacity to adapt her working style to whom she is working with.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Tasks are set between some sessions, to enhance students' research and written skills
- Each student will receive a grade and feedback on their final performance
- Students will receive a certificate on completion of the course with their final grading



SPEECH & COMMUNICATION

Lesson Plans



LESSON 1: WHY DO WE TELL STORIES? HOW DO THE STORIES WE TELL INFORM OUR CULTURAL, MORAL, POLITICAL AND PERSONAL IDENTITIES?

- Skill focus: **Interpersonal and Reflective skills**
- The group will read aloud a number of prepared extracts
- Using the online whiteboard, Miro, students will carry out a number of exercises exploring the thematic similarities and contrasts between the texts
- Students will discuss how the texts interrogate 'storytelling' as a means of representing different forms of identity
- **Homework:** each student will find a story to bring to the next lesson

LESSON 2: FINDING STORIES AND THEMES THAT INTEREST THE CLASS

- Skill Focus: **Interpersonal and Reflective skills**
- The students will read aloud the stories they prepared
- Students will discuss what drew each of the students to their stories and conduct a textual analysis of each extract as a group
- Students will explore the imaginative possibilities for interpretation in each of the texts



LESSON 3: PERFORMING STORIES

- Skill focus: **Expressive speaking**
- Exploring and developing dramatic methods which one can use to tell stories: This includes voice, expression, gesture, pacing, movement and engagement techniques
- Students will develop performances of the range of texts they have selected

LESSON 4: ENGAGING WITH NON-FICTION TEXTS

- Skill focus: **Interpersonal and Reflective Skills**
- Issy will prepare a selection of non-fiction pieces which thematically resonate with the texts chosen by the students to perform
- Students will conduct a number of 'debate' style exercises around the thematic questions posed by the texts

LESSON 5: WRITING AND DEVISING STORIES

- Skill focus: **Practical speaking**
- Issy will bring to the class a range of stimuli, from non-fiction and fiction (chosen to engage in some way with the areas of interest expressed by the students in their chosen performance text)
- Students will brainstorm different methods of presenting the information in an engaging way and constructing narrative from data
- Students will draft a range of stories that can be devised from the stimuli

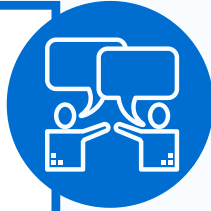
LESSON 6: WRITING AND DEVISING STORIES, PART II

- Skill focus: **Practical and Expressive Speaking**
- Students will continue developing the devised stories they began in the previous lesson
- Each student writes their own short story from the text
- Students will share progress as a group



SPEECH & COMMUNICATION

LESSON 7: CHECKING IN ON STUDENTS' PROGRESS



- Issy will set a few interpretative tasks for the group to work on in 'break-out room' pairs while she focuses each individual student's development on their devised and performance pieces
- Students will have another discussion as a group about what they have learnt in the week thus far with regards to speech & communication

LESSON 8: SHOWCASE LESSON



- This will mirror the format of an Speech Communication Arts (SCA) 5 assessment, but will be done in a very relaxed and welcoming way
- Each student will perform their piece and tell their story to the group
- Issy will lead a general discussion on the value of stories

THE SHOWCASE

- Examination in Communication Skills (Grade 5)

Factors for Grading:

- **Communication:** The ability to express yourself in a clear and concise manner using appropriate vocal and physical skills
- **Interaction:** The ability to relate to other people, demonstrating ability to listen, show understanding and respond appropriately in discussion
- **Analysis:** The ability to assimilate and evaluate information from a variety of sources and to develop and express your own ideas
- **Performance:** The ability to prepare and deliver a presentation, pulling together own ideas in a creative manner to engage your audience

