



## The Paper Birds education



## **The Paper Birds education**

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## The Paper Birds education

### Who we are

The Paper Birds are an all female collective based in Leeds, UK. We are experienced theatre practitioners and facilitators that deliver workshops to students of all ages.

The company was co-founded in 2003 by a group of women who shared a passion and respect for experimental theatre.

Since forming, the company has continued to devise highly visual, physical theatre; and have been recognised for *Outstanding Innovation in New Writing* with a **Fringe First Award** from The Scotsman in 2008, for the critically acclaimed show *In a Thousand Pieces*.

Alongside our work devising and touring theatre nationally and internationally, we deliver workshops throughout the year to schools within the UK.

Each member of the collective holds a current clean CRB check and is an experienced facilitator in delivering both physical theatre and text workshops. The core team of practitioners each holds a *BA Hons in Theatre Acting* from Bretton Hall, Leeds University; and an *MA in Theatre Collectives* from University of Chichester.

*“The Paper Birds proves itself an accomplished company, capable of devising highly inventive and relevant work.”*

**The Stage**

*“The Paper Birds are an inspirational young company that have been instrumental in helping our students.”*

**Andrew Rogers, former Head of Performing Arts, Ralph Thoresby**



## The Paper Birds education

### What we do

The Paper Birds have been touring theatre since 2004 and alongside this strand we have been delivering workshops in schools, colleges and universities throughout the UK.

As devising specialists, our unique style of theatre encourages students to expand their knowledge of contemporary and postmodern / poststructuralist performance, and to challenge their perceptions of theatrical boundaries. Often, our workshops coincide with our current tour; as each of our shows has a workshop in conjunction allowing participants to explore the themes and techniques.

The emphasis on devising in all of the current GCSE and AS / A Level Specifications means that schools nationwide are frequently tapping in to the potential that can be gained in every student that works with The Paper Birds.

Our workshop sessions can be booked all year round to fit in with the specification you are following. Alongside the range of sessions tailor made for exam levels, we also run various workshops for KS3. These often are required for Arts Enrichment days or as extra curricular opportunities.

The Paper Birds also tour performances into schools. All of our previous productions have played live at schools, colleges and universities; and we offer a show and workshop package. Currently we are still touring *In a Thousand Pieces*.

#### ***USING THIS PACK—***

*Firstly, identify which specification you are following. Then correspond the suitable workshops for YOUR units with the specialist workshops delivered by The Paper Birds. Thirdly, make your booking by contacting our Education Officer on [kylie@thepaperbirds.com](mailto:kylie@thepaperbirds.com)*



## The Paper Birds education

# Which exam specification?

The Paper Birds offer several specialist workshops that can be adapted to each of the major exam specifications. Here, correspond your specification with the correct sessions offered by us.

## Edexcel BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts

UNIT 1 – Starting work in the Performing Arts ( Certificate & Diploma )

UNIT 2 – Working in the Performing Arts ( Diploma )

UNIT 3 – Developing Skills in the Performing Arts ( Certificate & Diploma )

*Recommended workshops:* **Devising Theatre with The Paper Birds, Company Seminar.**

## Edexcel GCSE Drama

UNIT 1: Drama Exploration

UNIT 2: Exploring Play Texts

UNIT 3: Drama Performance

*Recommended workshops:* **Devising Theatre with The Paper Birds, Exploring Play Texts.**

## Edexcel GCE AS/A Level Drama & Theatre Studies

A2 Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance

A2 Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context

*Recommended workshops:* **Devising Theatre with The Paper Birds, Exploring Play Texts for Advanced Level.**



**The Paper Birds education**

## **Which exam specification?**

### **AQA GCSE Drama**

UNIT 1: 42401 *Recommended workshop: Exploring Play Texts,*

UNIT 2: 42401 *Recommended Workshop: Devising with The Paper Birds.*

### **AQA AS/A Level Drama & Theatre Studies**

UNIT 1 – DRAM1 *Recommended workshop: Exploring Play Texts for A Level.*

UNIT 3 – DRAM3 *Recommended workshop: Exploring Play Texts for A Level.*

UNIT 4 – DRAM4 *Recommended workshop: Devising Theatre with The Paper Birds.*

### **OCR GCSE Drama**

UNIT A582: DRAMA IN THE MAKING

UNIT A583: FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION

*Recommended workshops: Devising Theatre with The Paper Birds.*

### **OCR AS/A Level Performance Studies**

AS UNIT G401: Creating Performance—**Devising Theatre with The Paper Birds.**

AS Unit G402: Performance Contexts 1—**Exploring Caryl Churchill.**

A2 Unit G403: Performance Contexts 2—**Postmodern performance since 1960.**

A2 Unit G404: Performance Project—**Devising Theatre with The Paper Birds.**



## The Paper Birds education

# Devising Theatre

The Paper Birds are devised theatre specialists and create work with students of all ages on a regular basis. We deliver Devising Theatre sessions as both independent workshops and longer devising projects. Skills acquired by participants through collaboration with professional artists allows their exam attainment to be maximised. 92% of 14-16 yr olds studying GCSE Drama across West Yorkshire and East Riding said they thought that working with The Paper Birds allowed them to think more creatively.

We offer Devising Theatre workshops in 3 forms;

- i ) as a 2 hour independent session,
- ii ) as a 5 hour session ( usually full school day ), and
- iii ) as a devising project, ( total of 12 hours over 6 weeks ).

These sessions can be tailored to explore the chosen style and content for your class. Our traditional devising methods are shared with students as they explore a range of stimuli, or their chosen area of topic. The Paper Birds are experts at demonstrating the essence of non-naturalistic theatre to students who are reliant on naturalism in style. A focus on thinking physically and attention to mise en scene is always imposed on students working with The Paper Birds. In these sessions students will be challenged to create interesting devised work that demonstrates a clear understanding of it's own social, cultural and historical context.

### **Devising Project ( 12 hours over 6 weeks )**

The Paper Birds ' highly experienced practitioners will engage, excite and develop original material with the student group in preparation for performance. Throughout this 6 week period, The Paper Birds will conduct 5 x 2 hour workshops. The group will be expected to develop their practical work independently of these workshops and rehearse material as a company for presentation. On the final week, The Paper Birds will assist the group in presenting their work to a live audience in a theatrical context.



## The Paper Birds education

# Exploring Play Texts

The Paper Birds are inspirational practitioners that can enhance the study of all dramatic texts. We have a wealth of experience analysing and presenting published texts for performance with young people.

There are two strands to The Paper Birds text workshops;

- i ) an independent text workshop, ( 2 or 5 hours )
- ii ) a longer text project, ( 12 hours over 6 weeks ).

Delivered in either 2 hours or 5 hours, students will look at a variety of texts to develop interpretation skills and gain an understanding of the medium of drama.

Beginning with an eclectic text workshop enabling participants to glance and work on a vast contrast of contemporary and historical texts; students will effectively develop knowledge and experience of the language of drama to communicate ideas, develop performance skills, explore different staging methods, and begin to develop understanding of the social, cultural and historical contexts of the given text.

Each of these learning objectives is then demonstrated at work on the class ' chosen play text for study. Please let us know your chosen play text no later than 4 weeks prior to the scheduled session in order to allow us to create your tailor made text workshop!

## OCR : Caryl Churchill & Postmodern Performance

Working closely in line with the OCR A & AS Level Performance Studies specification, we deliver innovative practical sessions that demonstrate the trends in both the work of playwright Caryl Churchill, and also the trends in Postmodern Performance since 1960. Often these concepts and conventions are difficult for students of the AS and A Level to grasp. Here, The Paper Birds allow students to develop an understanding through challenging and engaging exercises. Using script, movement, music and dance, students will explore either Caryl Churchill or Postmodernism since 1960.



## The Paper Birds education

# Workshop and Performance

The Paper Birds unique brand of theatre is regularly toured to theatres and arts centres nationally. This makes us a perfect choice for teachers of GCSE and A Level, who 's students need to write a response to a live performance. In addition to the shows we perform in theatres, we regularly are invited to perform within school. We offer a range of packages that include both our current touring performance and the accompanying workshop.

### *Current Packages*

- i ) 1 x performance —£900
- ii ) 1 x performance + 1 hour workshop—£1000
- lii ) 1 x performance + 5 hrs workshop—£1400

# Verbatim / In a Thousand Pieces Workshop

The Paper Birds are heralded as contributing to the exciting current trend in theatre, verbatim. Utilising real words from real people, participants will develop and construct original scenes derived from original sourced material. Based on the techniques employed in The Paper Birds critically acclaimed, award-winning production *In a Thousand Pieces*, this session allows participants to explore their own voices and the voices of those around them. The focus is on creating characters and improvisation.

# Others Workshop

This session is delivered in accordance with The Paper Birds current production. Participants will develop and explore what it is to be a woman today; a woman in the East, and a woman in the West; where preconceptions and assumptions are all we know. Do witch hunts belong to the 16th Century or are they lurking on the pages of tabloids and glossy magazines everywhere? From YouTube to the news, come and explore what it is like to be Other.



## The Paper Birds education

# Physical Theatre & Movement

The Paper Birds run a variety of different length sessions that allow participants to explore their creativity through movement and physical theatre. Utilising a performance vocabulary that is chiefly led by physicality, The Paper Birds unique yet simple exercises encourage participants to gain an understanding of choreography and non-naturalism.

# Politics in Performance

As an all-female collective The Paper Birds are only too aware of the meaning of politics in performance. In this session, participants are encouraged to develop an understanding of what politics means on the stage; The Paper Birds demonstrate that politics is not just about Parliament and voting, but an integral component of artistic practice. 'Who we are' and 'how we are defined' is at the essence of every artist and the work they make. Participants will develop material in accordance with these strands.

# Company Seminar

Whether as part of a BTEC or undergraduate course, The Paper Birds have an insightful seminar that explores the legal history of The Paper Birds since its inception. How do you begin to set up a theatre company? Where do you source funding? What opportunities are there for acquiring financial help and advice? How do you become registered? What should you charge, and what should you pay? All these discussions and more are available in this seminar; from 1—3 hours.

# Extra Curricular & Enrichment Days

We also offer clubs, projects and specialist themed drama days for school groups. Our extra curricular activities include drama clubs, Christmas projects and Half Term projects. In the past we have delivered themed sessions to coincide with Black History Month, Aids Awareness and Domestic Violence.



## The Paper Birds education

### Price guide

<b>Workshop</b>
Devising Theatre
Exploring Play Texts
Caryl Churchill
Postmodern Performance
Verbatim Theatre
Others
Physical Theatre & Movement
Politics in Performance
Company Seminar
Enrichment Day
Clubs

Each session can be delivered in 2 hours, 5 hours, or as a project over 12 hours.

**2 Hours : £300**

**5 Hours: £600**

**Project ( 12 Hours ) : Negotiable**

### Making your booking

You can contact us at any point during the year to make a booking.

We aim to have scheduled sessions in advance but are sometimes able to make short notice bookings. Please contact our Education Officer Kylie Walsh for any further info.

#### **Kylie Walsh** *education officer*

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