

# Keeping drama creative

## Exploring texts for the NEA in OCR GCSE and A Level Drama performance

By **Marie Bessant**, OCR Subject Advisor

Welcome to the **third** in our series of resources to support you and your students to explore texts beyond those traditionally taught for **GCSE Presenting and Performing Texts, A Level Practitioners in Practice, or A Level Exploring and Performing Texts.**

This time, I'll be signposting you to some exciting resources out there to aid your planning and teaching. So thanks to our friends at [Methuen Drama and Bloomsbury](#) for the update and links to resources for this edition.

There are lots of exciting new books publishing at Methuen Drama over the coming few months - you will find their [2023 English and Drama for Schools catalogue](#) - a good place to look for inspiration!

They have also hosted some exciting Lit in Colour events over the last few months with playwrights including Tanika Gupta, and Benjamin Zephaniah. All the recordings are saved on their [Lit in Colour YouTube playlist](#).

**Lemm Sissay's** adaptation of **Benjamin Zephaniah's 'Refugee Boy'** is a popular text on the Drama Text Management service, as is **Tanika Gupta's** version of **'Hobson's Choice'** ([read more here](#)).

### More from Methuen

#### Publishing April:

- [Beyond the Canon's Plays for Young Activists](#). Combining three award-winning plays by Mojisola Adebayo, Hannah Khalil and Amy Ng with online learning guides and toolkits, this anthology offers young global activists aged 16+ the opportunity to explore plays that will inspire them to create change.

#### Publishing June:

- [Educating Rita Methuen Drama Student Edition](#). This updated Student Edition includes an introduction covering the play's context; critical reception; production history; and looks at the key themes such as class and identity, popular culture and education.
- [The Big House Anthology: Diverse Plays for Diverse Casts](#). A celebration of the last decade of work and plays by a unique theatre company, The Big House, this anthology features five original plays that offer a chance for stories with diverse casts to contribute to the canon of theatre's literature.
- [National Theatre Connections 2023](#). This 2023 anthology features all ten plays included in the National Theatre 2023 Connections Festival, as well as comprehensive workshop notes that give insights and inspiration for building characters, running rehearsals and staging a production.



## And in case you missed last term's publishing update - now available:

- An updated Student Edition of Tennessee Williams's popular play, [A Streetcar Named Desire](#).
- A new series of pocket-sized introductory guides to key aspects of theatre-making in collaboration with the National Theatre, starting with [Wigs, Hair and Make-Up](#) and [Playwriting](#).

## New modern plays you may also be interested in, perfect for GCSE/A Level study:

- [Trouble in Butetown](#): A new play from the George Devine award-winning playwright, Diana Nneka Atuona, published to coincide with the world premiere at Donmar Warehouse in London, in February 2023.

## Other resources

We have recently created people galleries for many subjects, comprising of posters and videos featuring diverse contributors to this subject to inspire classroom conversation.

You can find these on the Drama webpage under the [Planning and Teaching section](#)

A [blog](#) to guide you through the Drama Text Management Service and text choices.

## Previous editions

[Keeping Drama Creative \(Overview\)](#)

Keeping drama creative - Exploring texts for the NEA:

[Autumn 2022 edition](#)

[Spring 2023 edition](#)

- [Pick N Mix](#): A coming-of-age story of sisterhood, this play was recently reviewed in Drama and Theatre magazine as 'a realistic depiction of young people, perfect for A Level students to try out.'
- [Moonset](#): Finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize 2023, this is a blazing, coming-of-age tale filled with love, rage and self-discovery, as four young women search for the power they were promised.

## Stay connected

If you have any questions, suggestions or queries about delivering the Drama and Theatre qualifications, or would like to suggest a play or two for the next edition, please get in touch at [drama@ocr.org.uk](mailto:drama@ocr.org.uk) or follow us on Twitter [@OCR\\_PerformArts](#).

Spread the word – encourage your colleagues to [sign up to Teach Cambridge](#) too! All our current teacher resources are there.

Spread the word – encourage your colleagues to [sign up to Teach Cambridge](#) too!

All our current teacher resources are there.



OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored. ©OCR 2023 Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registered office The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA. Registered company number 3484466. OCR is an exempt charity.

OCR would like to acknowledge the following content: Mourning woman - Bob Thomas/Gettyimages.com

OCR operates academic and vocational qualifications regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA as listed in their qualifications registers including A Levels, GCSEs, Cambridge Technicals and Cambridge Nationals.