

CREATIVE INSIDER

Issue 5 | June 2020

Welcome

Welcome to edition number 5 of your ***Creative Insider***. We hope you have been able to enjoy the warm weather and fresh air over half term, and that you are ready to continue with your creative endeavours with renewed vigour.

Let's start things off with a quick question: Why are art and culture important to you? For some, this is easy to answer. Imagine trying to get through the last few months without music to lift your spirits or the smiles brought about from the many rainbow paintings and chalk drawings outside homes up and down the country. However, art taps into bigger things too, with rewards including proven health benefits. Good mental health continues to be of vital importance in navigating our way through these challenging times. Whether it be the escapism of being transported by others' stories or developing your own works of art, creativity is powerfully therapeutic, and an effective way of responding to the world around us. With this in mind, we hope you enjoy what's on offer in this latest edition.

A Monster Hit from *The Old Vic*

'Stories are wild creatures, the monster said. When you let them loose, who knows what havoc they might wreak?'

One night, at seven minutes past midnight, Conor is woken up by something at his window. A monster has come walking. It has come to tell him tales from when it walked before. When it's finished, Conor must tell his own story and face his deepest fears...



With dazzling insight into love, loss and healing, the story of thirteen year old Conor's experiences have been given a powerful new dimension in the theatrical adaptation of the novel ***A Monster Calls***.



From Friday 5th June at 7pm, the Old Vic Theatre will be releasing ***A Monster Calls*** for free streaming from their youtube channel. The show is available to watch for one week only so act quickly before it's gone.

Featuring incredible, part-devised ensemble theatre work and a heart-wrenching plot, this adaptation for the stage gained a series of 5 star ratings when it

premiered at Waterloo's *The Old Vic Theatre* back in 2018. With superb acting and an imaginative set design, it is particularly suitable for prospective GCSE Drama students.

You can access the performance via the link below.

Please note, this play is unsuitable for family members under 11 years of age.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmh6MmjVkJAnzTNyKHIIOruw>

Free Online Workshops



Staying with our friends at *The Old Vic*, budding directors need look no further for help as, for a limited time only, the theatre is giving students free access to a series of workshops including **An Introduction to Directing**. Originally developed for GCSE Drama students, the workshop is suitable for anyone with an interest in

directing.

The series of guided videos will help you understand both the nature of directing and the kind of director you might want to become. With tips and exercises to work with text, the process is well sequenced and engaging. Students can even liaise with professionals from *The Old Vic* as they experiment with their own ideas.

As the organisers say themselves, *'This isn't about getting things right, it's about your artistic ideas. Good luck and have fun.'*

https://www.oldvictheatre.com/introduction-to-directing?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ECSchoolsClub-Workshops&utm_content=version_A&promo=14771

Own the News!

Open to Year 7 only, our friends at *The Southbank Centre* have just announced an exciting opportunity for students to create recordings for a radio programme featuring their own versions of the news.

A resource pack including five days' worth of resources with games and exercises guides participants through the project in a step by step way.

Each day a new part of the recording will be produced to allow students to work up to the finished project in a manageable way.



The journalistic skills and ideas addressed might encourage you to consider our current situation from new perspectives. What a fantastic way to record for posterity what it feels like living through this incredible part of our shared history!

Click on the link below to take you to the project entitled ***Here is the News News News Reporters Club***. (Yes, you read that correctly!)

https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/blog/here-news-news-news-reporters-club?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CultureFix30%2F05%2F20T1main&utm_content=version_A

Wasted Time?

This is the Brontës as you have never seen them before.

Key Stage 4 English Literature enthusiasts and GCSE Drama students alike are in for a treat this month with *Southwark Playhouse's* musical offering of ***Wasted***.

Through the lens of a rock documentary, the show gives an 'in your face', access-all-areas account of the famous Brontë siblings. Brought up in a remote, poverty-stricken town in Yorkshire, without money or opportunity, they fought ill-health, unrequited love and family feuds to write some of the world's most celebrated literature including *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*.



<https://southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/archive-2018/wasted/#tab-2-1>



In a gutsy production that takes a series of risks, ***Wasted*** is a great example of the stylistic choices available to actors and directors. The theatrical conventions and strategies used are extremely relevant to those preparing to embark on their *Component 1 - Devised Plays* section of the GCSE Drama course.

Mushy: Lyrically Speaking

If you were one of the thousands who tuned into *Educating Yorkshire*, you might remember Mushy.

Like many of us, life for Mushy is not straightforward, a fact highlighted by the television documentary where his debilitating stammer makes public speaking seem an impossibility. In a moment of inspiration from Mr Burton, he starts to unlock a rhythm in his voice through the power of music.



This inspirational tale is authentic, heart-warming and highly entertaining. Infused with rap and lyrics by award-winning rapper Raxstar, this is sure to bring joy and hope, reminding us of what we all know to be true - that attitude really *does* determine altitude.

<https://vimeo.com/404543319>

Ballets from *The Royal Opera House*

Trying new things in lockdown is a familiar concept and popular with people of all ages. For some, opera and ballet seem strange and inaccessible, but they offer much to those willing to explore them.

This week, the *Royal Opera House* is back with the next in their series of world class shows. Moving onto less well-known pieces, this week they are streaming ***The Cellist***, an astounding and heart-breaking one act ballet that is sure to inspire.



The story portrays the life of renowned cellist Jaqueline du Pré, whose glittering career was cut short when she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Marston's fascinating choreography personifies the relationship between cellist and cello, with the principal male dancer embodying the instrument itself.

<https://www.roh.org.uk/tickets-and-events/the-cellist-stream-details>

Art in Isolation

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/talking-point/making-art-isolation>

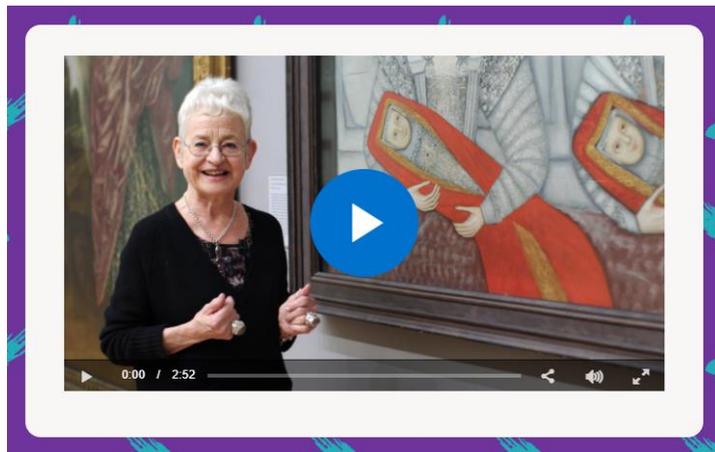
The
Tate
Gallery

online has a wealth of fantastic resources showing how artists through history have responded to solitude. The depth and breadth of work highlights how to take inspiration from the current situation to create pieces that pay homage to each individual's personal circumstances.



Jaqueline Wilson's Magical Tour

Sometimes it can feel hard knowing where to start when viewing pieces in a gallery. Luckily, the much loved children's author Jaqueline Wilson has provided a guide to help get students started in understanding how to recognise the various ways of approaching works of art.



Focusing on works in the *Tate Britain*, her short video is a great way of preparing to create your own masterpieces for the online gallery, also accessed via the same page.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/kids-view/jacqueline-wilsons-magical-tour-tate-britain>

What DO Artists Do All Day?

Artists and illustrators are probably far more used to working alone than many of us were at the start of lockdown. For some, adapting to the current circumstances has been a relatively easy transition, with the additional hours inside being put to good use at the easel, in the dark room or at the potter's wheel.

Working sometimes from home and sometimes from artists' studios, the artists featured in the *youtube* series *What do artists do all day?* give valuable insight into life in the profession, further encouraging us to use this time in extraordinary ways.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdHX7D66IXc>