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Using this resource

This resource has been developed by the St James Theatre for use by schools that bring students to music theatre performances at the theatre.

The general aim is to provide classroom teachers with learning activities that they can adapt for their students to study aspects of music theatre, with the specific aim of preparing students to appreciate live performances in the theatre and to reflect on them afterwards in classroom work.

The activities are supported by background information, illustrations from the St James programmes archives, and a list of recommended resources.

Curriculum links

The learning activities in this resource are labelled with applicable strands and disciplines in *The Arts in the New Zealand Curriculum* (Ministry of Education, Wellington: Learning Media, 2000).

However, this resource does not attempt to be a complete teaching unit fulfilling all the requirements of the curriculum — rather it provides material from which a unit can be developed.

Arts disciplines

Learning activities are provided within the following three disciplines, focusing on the following aspects:

- Music – “Literacy in music involves the development of knowledge and skills relating to styles, genres, technologies, and musical structures. It implies an appreciation of the conventions that relate to creating, to performing, and to critically evaluating musical compositions and performances.” (*The Arts in the New Zealand Curriculum*, page 53)
- Drama – “As they participate in and interpret their own and others’ drama, students develop cognitive skills and gain understandings about themselves and their wider communities. They investigate the forms, styles, and contexts of drama, and recognise that it can affirm or challenge attitudes and values.” (*The Arts in the New Zealand Curriculum*, page 37)
- Dance – “In learning *about* dance, students investigate the forms, purposes, and significance of dance in past and present times. ... Education in dance ... aims to foster [students’] enthusiasm as participants, creators, viewers, and critical inquirers, and to develop their lifelong interest in, and appreciation of, dance.” (*The Arts in the New Zealand Curriculum*, page 19)

The discipline/s to which each learning activity applies is noted under the learning activity title.

Strands

The strands of the curriculum relevant to each learning activity are also noted under each activity heading, using the following abbreviations:

- PK = Developing Practical Knowledge in ...
- DI = Developing Ideas ...
- CI = Communicating and Interpreting in ...
- UC = Understanding ... in Context

Levels

In order to ensure the broadest use of this resource, the learning activities have not been written for specific curriculum levels. Instead, they have been written generically so that teachers can adapt them to meet the specific needs of their students within the range of levels 5–8 of the arts curriculum.

NCEA links

The learning activities in this resource can be used in the teaching and learning process in preparation for assessment against the following NCEA Achievement Standards. (For up-to-date information about NCEA, see the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) website at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about>.)

Drama

- AS 90008: Demonstrate knowledge of a drama/theatre form through a practical demonstration (version 2)
- AS 90010: Perform a technical or production role
- AS 90302: Apply knowledge of a drama/theatre form or period through performing a role within a presentation (version 2)

Music

- AS 90017: Demonstrate knowledge of music works
- AS 90270: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of music works
- AS 90497: Examine the contexts that influence the expressive qualities of music
- AS 90498: Compare and contrast music works
- AS 90499: Research and present a music topic

Dance

- AS 90004: View, interpret and respond to a dance performance
- AS 90005: Demonstrate knowledge of a dance genre or style
- AS 90295: Perform an ethnic or social dance
- AS 90296: Perform in a theatre dance work
- AS 90297: Analyse and discuss a dance performance
- AS 90298: Demonstrate knowledge of influences on a selected dance genre or style
- AS 90594: Produce a dance for performance
- AS 90595: Perform a solo or duet dance work to an audience
- AS 90597: Critically analyse dance performance