

Trinity Drama

Tailored for teachers

transformative for students



At Trinity College London, we have consistently championed the power of performing arts in education. Our drama syllabus embodies this commitment, and we are proud to offer an approach that engages students while providing schools with a structure from which to shape a distinguished drama curriculum. This guide highlights the advantages of our drama syllabus, aiming to equip teachers with the tools needed to champion Trinity Drama and advocate for Trinity exams at their institutions.

WHY TRINITY?

For numerous schools, Trinity is the drama exam board of choice for many schools. Here are some reasons why teachers opt for Trinity graded drama assessments:

- ▶ For over 150 years, Trinity has been at the forefront of performing arts assessments, establishing an unparalleled legacy with a reputation for delivering reliable, fair, and high standards.
- ▶ Our reach extends to over 60 countries, illustrating the global trust in our assessments.
- ▶ We put a real emphasis on innovation, personalisation, and authenticity. Trinity's ethos is that drama exams should be relevant, engaging and authentic, while providing an enjoyable experience where students are able to take control of their own learning.
- ▶ For those considering a future on stage or screen, our exams serve as a useful foundation, preparing students for stage schools and higher-level performing arts education.



Through Trinity, our students learn to be proud of the entire process, not just the end result, which they can then bring into the rest of their schoolwork.



Sasha Oakley, Trinity drama teacher
Walthamstow Hall School



Nikki Bentley

SUCCESS STORY

British actor, **Nikki Bentley**, renowned for her lead role in *Wicked*, trained with Trinity, achieving the Trinity Diploma Level 6 in Professional Musical Theatre at Performers College in Essex. Earlier, Stagecoach in Milton Keynes and the Isle of Wight, nurtured her love for the stage, leading her to a BTEC in Performing Arts.

Her commendable singing and acting prowess secured her a spot on the course, and throughout her college years, Nikki became a triple threat in musical theatre. Before even graduating, she debuted in London's West End in *Mamma Mia!*

Today, Nikki not only celebrates a successful career but also mentors aspiring artists. She advocates for choosing drama schools based on personal fit, emphasising that the right training and dedication can realise dreams.



Denise Gough

SUCCESS STORY

Irish actress **Denise Gough**, a double Olivier Award winner, completed the Trinity Diploma in Professional Acting at Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA). She found her true calling in acting when an improvisation teacher's recognition of her talent led to a scholarship at ALRA.

Pursuing acting since the age of 15, Gough notes that it was the financial support of the Dance and Drama Award (DaDA) scholarship coupled with her Trinity Diploma that propelled her career forward. Gough believes her entire education stemmed from drama school, highlighting the myriad skills, including leadership, public speaking, and social responsibility, she acquired.

WHAT MAKES TRINITY DRAMA UNIQUE?

Trinity stands out amongst other performing arts exam boards for several key reasons, including:

The academic rigour of Trinity Drama

- ▶ We pride ourselves on the meticulous standards maintained throughout our graded exams and assessments.
- ▶ Our team of examiners are experienced industry professionals enabling candidates to receive professional feedback. All undergo rigorous training and standardisation to ensure quality.
- ▶ In 2023, we introduced improved and updated drama specifications reflecting the latest teaching methodologies. Developed in collaboration with educators, these criteria fully reflect current teaching paradigms.

We have designed our qualifications to act as motivating milestones for students, pushing their boundaries while reinforcing their passion for the arts.

Ultimate flexibility, in every sense

Trinity Drama stands apart in the level of choice offered and flexibility offered by our graded drama exams. Some of these include:

- ▶ We don't prescribe exam texts, instead we encourage and support teachers to select content that aligns with students' passions, cultural context, and academic journey.
- ▶ We put students at the heart of our syllabus, striving to ensure that drama remains a deeply personal and relatable experience for every candidate.
- ▶ Our approach is inclusive, welcoming both contemporary and classical scripts, granting educators the liberty to weave a diverse tapestry of performance material.
- ▶ With multifaceted exam formats, we cater for individual, pair, and group assessments, making Trinity a comprehensive choice for both curriculum Drama and enrichment options.

Our ambition was to make sure our tasks reflect current teaching, rehearsal and preparation practices. It's very important, of course, our exams respond to developments and changes in our field and in education contexts more broadly – we want our assessments and the skills they engender to be properly useful for candidates wherever their training takes them.

Professor Gregg Whelan
Director of Performance, Trinity College London



The perfect preparation for drama school and beyond

The Trinity Drama syllabus is designed to perfectly prepare students for the rigours of drama schools and the professional performing arts landscape. This is enabled through:

- ▶ A structured progression pathway guides students, nurturing their growth at every step.
- ▶ Trinity has forged strong connections with the professional performing arts community through our prestigious PPAD diplomas, which provide rigorous professional training.
- ▶ Alumni, including notable figures such as Lashana Lynch, Claire Foy and Drew McOnie, serve as living proof of our commitment to excellence.
- ▶ Trinity graded exams are meticulously designed to replicate real-world performance scenarios, effectively preparing our students for success in the industry.

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Matt Henry

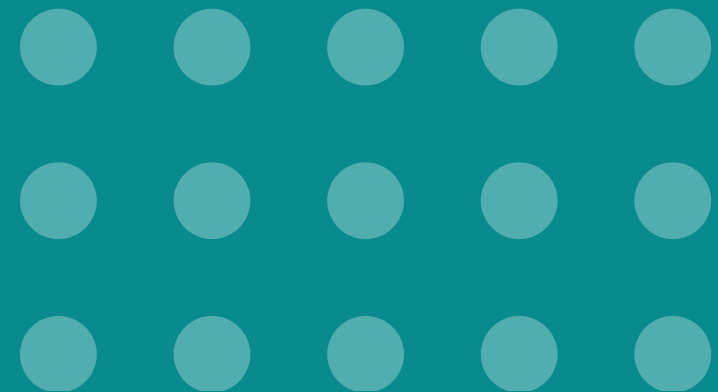
SUCCESS STORY



Laurence Olivier Award-winner **Matt Henry** has shone in the musical theatre scene, co-creating and performing in *The Drifters Girl* and playing the role of the doctor in the film adaptation of *Matilda The Musical*. Matt achieved the Trinity Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre via a scholarship at Urdang Academy, London.

Passionate about music from childhood, Matt's studied Drama and Sociology at University of Roehampton. Later, while at Urdang, an audacious move saw him landing an understudy role for Simba in *The Lion King* during his Academy years.

This spirit of enterprise and the rigorous training from Urdang honed Matt into an all-rounder. His credits span performances in *Kinky Boots*, *Saturday Night Fever*, and even a grand finale appearance on BBC's *The Voice UK*. Matt's education not only honed his artistic skills but instilled discipline, emotional intelligence, and a zeal to continually improve.



A HOLISTIC SYLLABUS

The Trinity Drama syllabus offers a diverse range of graded assessments, encompassing all genres from Musical Theatre to Performance Arts and Speech & Drama.

For each grade, there are well-defined attainment descriptors that serve to provide clear and focused learning objectives, ensuring that exam preparation is straightforward and streamlined.

Comprehensive support for teachers and students

We place a high level of importance on supporting our teachers and students alike, ensuring they feel supported and valued, in the following ways:

- ▶ We provide educators with a library of resources, from our online anthology of suggested pieces for all grades, to our sample exam programmes.
- ▶ Our free resources offer invaluable insights, tips and advice, and a closer look into the examination process.
- ▶ Our dedicated online support pages house a wealth of useful resources for educators and students.
- ▶ Our scheduled webinars, featuring Trinity experts, are platforms for continuous professional development and curriculum updates.

Embracing Trinity's **Drama syllabus specifications** means becoming a part of a legacy that is deeply rooted in excellence in performing arts education. By prioritising a student-centric approach, stringent academic standards, and supportive resources, we are dedicated to fostering a transformative learning experience for all involved.

If you would like to learn more about how Trinity Drama could support students to shine at your school, please get in touch to arrange an informal conversation.

