



### NAME:

Dan Stanley

### ROLE:

Head of Drama

### LOCATION

Kent, UK

### INSTITUTION NAME

Dane Court Grammar School

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### WHAT CHALLENGES WERE YOU LOOKING FOR DIGITAL THEATRE+ TO ADDRESS?

I had always heard good things about Digital Theatre+ and in the first instance didn't know what to expect. We received a free trial and were incredibly impressed with the content and accessibility of the platform. We were hoping that it would allow students who couldn't afford expensive trips access to theatre in the classroom and at home – both these challenges have been addressed. We were also in need of lesson plans that were accessible and could be adapted for a variety of audiences and students and again this has been fulfilled. We wanted Digital Theatre+ to spark debate and to allow students to discuss theatre in a variety of different genres and styles, and this has developed over the years with more and more resources being added to the site.

### HOW DID YOU APPLY DIGITAL THEATRE+ IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

We use Digital Theatre+ regularly across three primary subject areas: Drama/IB theatre at all key stages, English at all key stages, and lastly ICE, our own bespoke, individual curriculum enrichment programme. We are able to watch, discuss, evaluate, debate and explore theatre in the comfort of our classrooms. We are also able to look behind the scenes with interviews and alternative versions of the same scenes which creates debate and topics for discussion. It allows students to watch and rewatch scenes in preparation for specific aspects of their GCSE exams. IB Theatre requires students to approach theatre from different perspectives, director, designer, lighting etc. and there are interviews with industry specialists which have been really interesting and useful.

### ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RESOURCES ON THE PLATFORM THAT YOU FOUND MOST VALUABLE?

I am a huge fan of Frantic Assembly and the variety of resources available for both *Lovesong* and *Things I Know To Be True* have been massively influential and valid. I love the interviews which offer a fantastic insight into the making of theatre and the process of devising. Scott Graham's approaches to making theatre have been of particular importance to my department. Most recently we've explored Complicité's *A Disappearing Number*, and the additional resources that go with it. We were lucky enough to have had a recent workshop with Complicité and so to cross reference this with my IB students in relation to the performance was invaluable. I know that the English department have used loads of the Shakespeare resources and that the recently added *An Inspector Calls* toolkit has also been a huge help. We are looking forward to the gentle trickle of RSC performances coming through as we are an RSC associate school and so the viewing of performances that we will be performing or be a part of will be hugely influential.

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### HOW HAS DIGITAL THEATRE+ DRIVEN POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

Allowing students to borrow, steal, develop and identify good theatrical practice is an invaluable tool for learning. Our students obsess over perfection, so watching theatre and interviews allows them to understand what a complex process the making of theatre can be. I like to think that our studio is a space in which students can feel confident enough to trust their instinct and that making mistakes or producing theatre that doesn't always fulfill their artistic intention is okay. Digital Theatre+ allows this to be part of their and my learning, and that is always going to have a profoundly positive impact on their lives in the drama studio and beyond.