



### NAME:

Katharine Low

### ROLE:

Senior Lecturer,  
Applied Theatre  
and Community  
Performance

### LOCATION:

Royal Central School  
of Speech & Drama

“Digital Theatre+ formed part of the basis of the unit. I chose four different digital productions and we saw three live productions, and those were the foundation of our seminars.”

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

I developed a new unit called *Reading Performance* for our first year students. It is a series of seminars in which we look at and consider different approaches to theatre-making. During my planning, I dreamt big and decided that we were all going to go to the theatre and then the cost of taking 90 students to the theatre on eight different occasions was clearly prohibitive. Through the unit, we wanted to encourage our students to develop their language, critique and critical analysis of performance from a shared starting point. This is where Digital Theatre+ has been really useful because by watching the same production students can speak from and share an understanding of the performance.

Key challenges for our students are the financial costs of attending the theatre and accessing theatres across London. So what Digital Theatre+ offers is a way to mitigate against these challenges. As a cohort, we have all been able to watch the same piece of theatre and that's been great.

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

Digital Theatre+ formed part of the basis of the unit. I chose four different digital productions and we saw three live productions, and those were foundation of our seminars. We critiqued each piece of performance in the seminar, spoke about how they were made, considered the dramaturgical choices, directing, what the play asked us to look at, why this is an important play, and so forth.

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

I was so delighted to see *The Man Who Almost Killed Himself* was on Digital Theatre+. It is based on a practice-as-research, visual anthropological project by Andrew Irving and it then became a piece of performance. This play is a great example of a different approach to performance making and I really valued being able to share this approach with our students. We also looked at *Over There* by Mark Ravenhill, *Ghosts* by Henrik Ibsen and *Iphigenia in Splott* by Sherman Cymru Theatre.

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

There's a financial aspect, so it's been incredible as a teaching resource but also for the students to be able to access a wide range of performances. Then there's the accessibility aspect, as for some people getting to the theatre can be quite challenging. It's had an impact in terms of the number of students we've been able to take to the theatre, it has felt more equal – students have been able to access a wider range of theatre. Fundamentally, we have been able to see more theatre which has been excellent.