



### NAME:

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### ROLE:

Head of English

### INSTITUTION NAME

St Patrick's CBC

### LOCATION

Kimberley, South Africa

“Digital Theatre+ brings drama to life! With more and more students diagnosed with learning barriers, the visual presentations make the teaching of plays much easier”

### WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO DIGITAL THEATRE+?

Our school is in central South Africa, far from any main centres and theatres. Our students do not have access to any quality on-stage drama and the cost of travel is prohibitive. With the lack of freely available digital resources, we looked for a means of showing our students what a production really looks like – an attempt to bring to life the words on the pages of their texts.

### HOW DO YOU USE DIGITAL THEATRE+?

We use Digital Theatre+ in two ways: in the classroom to show a scene from a prescribed drama text and for students to access the productions at home. In this way, absent students do not miss out on in-class screenings (this became more important during the Covid lockdowns) and revising for assessments/consolidating knowledge can be done at home in their own time.

### WHICH RESOURCES DO YOU FIND MOST VALUABLE?

We tend to rely heavily on the filmed productions. It's great to have more than one version of a play too, as this leads to classroom discussions on the different interpretations of the various directors. We had great fun with the cross-dressing Indian witches in one of the productions of *Macbeth*!

The study guides we make available as an optional extra. These are particularly useful for struggling students as they offer additional support.

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

Digital Theatre+ brings drama to life! With more and more students diagnosed with learning barriers, the visual presentations make the teaching of plays much easier. During the pandemic lockdowns, the ability to get pupils to watch sections of the dramas via Digital Theatre+ while at home was an absolute boon!

### WHAT MAKES DIGITAL THEATRE+ PARTICULARLY VALUABLE FOR TEACHING ENGLISH AND DRAMA?

As an English teacher, I am able to SHOW my students their drama texts. Ideally, plays should be seen and not read. The fact that I am able to access every one of our prescribed texts on Digital Theatre+ is particularly valuable.

As mentioned before, during lockdown Digital Theatre+ came into its own, allowing pupils to watch the plays at their own pace. The high cost of travelling to theatres is reduced by having immediate access to the superb quality productions.