



NAME:

Gretchen Nordleaf-Nelson

ROLE:

IB Teacher

INSTITUTION NAME

West Sound Academy

LOCATION

Washington, USA

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

In 2015 when our school joined Digital Theatre+, I was looking for a way that I could expose my IB Theatre students to live theatre performances. While we are only an hour from a major city with professional theatre, it can also be a transportation nightmare. Organizing field trips is near to impossible. Accessing live theatre performances to watch in my classroom meant that I either had to purchase DVDs or pray that YouTube would have something I could use. My dream was to find a platform that included different styles and genres from various theatre companies. Digital Theatre+ was the solution.

HOW DID YOU APPLY DIGITAL THEATRE+ IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

I use Digital Theatre+ in a multitude of ways in and out of my classroom. Within my IB Theatre course, I have incorporated several resources that are now available in the curriculum. I use different productions so students can study technical production elements for their Directors Notebook, Solo Project, or Collaborative Projects. Students can explore a specific style of theatre for their Research Presentation and can also research a theorist's theory and criticism for planning their Solo Project. I am now able to introduce the devising process and the Collaborative Theatre Project resources like An Interview with Scott Graham of Frantic Assembly. I also use Digital Theatre+ in 9th English while we are reading a text. We watch the text in performance after we read each act. This specific resource has been a fantastic support for students learning English for the first time, especially when reading older texts like Shakespeare. With IB Language and Literature students, I have used Digital Theatre+ to flip the classroom by setting them homework in preparation for class discussion the next day.

As Digital Theatre+ has expanded its resources, my use of it in the classroom has also expanded.

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

The combination of productions and interviews with the practitioners involved in creating the production has been the most valuable to my students. My favorite example is The Comedy of Errors! I have created lessons using the recording of the production and all of the supplemental interviews and discussions on different production elements. This specific set of resources has been invaluable in introducing and teaching the intention and impact concept, which is at the core of the IB Theatre assessment pieces.



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ROLE:

IB Teacher

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LOCATION

Montana U.S.A

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

I've been able to see the difference in how each of my students perceives theatre and creative performance, it's been very powerful. From reading an IB Theatre Directors Notebook and having a student discuss the lighting in Casanova as an element they want to include in their production – to the impact of interviews with Augusto Boal on student's Solo Project. Digital Theatre+ has worked to include resources on all of the facets that go into making a production and as a result, my students have felt empowered by their newfound knowledge. They are more willing to be risk-takers. My students' work is richer and more personal because they feel they have made new discoveries.