



Devising with
The Wardrobe Ensemble
Schools Pack

Workshops with The Wardrobe Ensemble

The Wardrobe Ensemble is a Bristol-based group of theatre artists working together to make and tour new plays.

They explore the big ideas of our time through intimate human stories and bold imagery. They consist of nine core members, one producer and a constantly growing community of associate artists. They work as a democratic devising ensemble wherein every member contributes to the research, writing, structuring, and performing of a show, creating a unique shared theatrical language and aesthetic from show to show. They have made a variety of productions for all ages and at the heart of all our work is a desire to tell a compelling story in a visually engaging and inventive way.



Our workshops are fun, physical and theatrically rigorous. We aim to empower young people to discover and utilise their creative voice to make theatre that they're excited by. At the end of each workshop, students will have learnt a range of devising tools and techniques and created a new piece of theatre, collaboratively!

Our company members have over 10 years experience teaching devised theatre in schools, universities and arts organisations across the UK. They have worked with students at Rose Bruford College, Plymouth Conservatoire and Bath Spa University. The company has also run engagement and community projects with Royal and Derngate, Age UK and the National Theatre

In this pack, you will find information on three workshops that will give an insight into how the company makes its work and will support students as they face that scary unit called...

DEVISING!

1) The Devising Toolbox

This workshop supports:

- AQA: A-Level - Component 2: Creating Original Drama; GCSE - Component 2: Devising Drama
- Eduqas/WJEC: A-Level - Unit 3: Text in Action; GCSE - Devising Theatre

2) Methodology and Techniques

This workshop supports:

- AQA: A-Level - Component 2: Creating Original Drama & Component 3: Making Theatre (Extract 3)
- Eduqas/WJEC: A-Level Unit 1 & Unit 3

3) Show specific

This workshops supports:

- AQA: A-Level - Component 1: Drama & Theatre Section 3
- Eduqas/WJEC: A-Level - Component 1: Theatre Workshop

This pack also included information on projects and company resources.

1) The Devising Toolbox

This workshop will provide students with a range of devising tools and techniques to help them create their devised pieces. By giving students some structured tools to devise with, we hope to provide them with the confidence to make bold choices and thoughtful material, so they can craft it into unique and exciting final pieces.”

We can deliver:

- > A toolbox of devising tools and techniques that will set students up for the beginning of their devising process, working with any stimulus.
- > Tailored support to groups half way through their devising process to give them a boost with their pieces.

Supports: AQA - Component 2: Creating Original Drama | Eduqas/WJEC - Component 2: Text in Action

Example devising workshop:

- > Warm up
- > Creating an ensemble
- > Exploring the stimulus
- > Generating material
- > Putting that material together
- > Reflection and where do we go next?

For a more detailed workshop plan, email Emily.

Tools

- > Physical Theatre
- > Ensemble Techniques
- > Devising & Writing
- > Creating Movement
- > Developing Character
- > Form & Structure
- > Directing/Outside Eye

If you are interested in using The Wardrobe Ensemble as a recognised company or practitioner, the workshop below will give students a detailed insight into how we make our work and how we work together.

2) Methodology & Techniques

Through interactive tasks and discussion, this workshop will provide students with in-depth knowledge and understanding of The Wardrobe Ensemble's methodology and techniques to apply to their own devised pieces, play extracts or for reflective writing and working notebooks.

Supports: AQA - Component 2: Creating Original Drama & Component 3: Making Theatre (Extract 3) | Eduqas/WJEC - Component 1 & 3

This workshop can be facilitated on its feet using practical exercises or as a class room/seminar style workshop.

What is The Wardrobe Ensemble's **style and methodology**?

Find some suggestions below about what we *think* our style or methodology is. Although, it's important to say that students often find aspects in our work that we hadn't even noticed. So what you see in the production is just as 'correct' as what we say about ourselves and our work!

Creative

- > Physical Theatre. We were trained in techniques, influenced by French movement practitioner Jacques Lecoq.
- > Using film techniques to devise and stage (camera angles, editing)
- > Popular culture references
- > Our personal experience of the world around us.
- > Use of sound

Process

- > A non-hierarchical company - we have no artistic director and run the company by making decisions together.
- > Collaborative theatre-making - we make and write new plays together rather than relying on a single writer.
- > The company were members of the Bristol Old Vic Young Company and came together as part of the pilot [Made in Bristol Programme](#).

3) Show Specific Workshop

We run show specific workshops alongside all our touring shows. So if your students are watching a production or using it as a stimulus, this workshop will be a great addition to support students' understanding of the show, delve into the themes and explore the techniques we used to make it. However, you don't have to have seen the show to benefit from this workshop.

Supports: AQA A Level - Component 1: Drama & Theatre Section 3 | Eduqas/WJEC - Component 1: Theatre Workshop

*"We've done the exercise - what do we do next?
How is it useful for the final production?"*

Using examples from the show, we will look at a specific exercise that we used to make the production and guide students through our process to the point it reaches the final production.



Info

- > Our workshops are standardly 2 hours long, but we can adapt them to fit in with your drama class.
- > We will tailor our workshops to suit your students' learning as much as possible, so before we visit we'll book in a chat to discuss what stage your students are at and how we can best support them.

Projects

If you'd like to work with us over a longer period, we offer 4 day to 4 week residential projects. We will work with students to create a brand new devised piece that is written and created by them, with plenty of support from us. From writing to directing, movement to stage management, students will challenge themselves in all aspects of the production to explore their creative voice and discover where their interest lies.

We have run engagement programmes such as this at Bristol Old Vic, The North Wall Arts Centre and Rose Bruford College.

Resources

- See production shots of our previous projects [here](#)
- Read James Newton's article about 'Working as a Collective' [here](#)
- Watch our Q&A videos about the company and how we make and produce our work [here](#)
- We have published three of our plays: *1972: The Future of Sex; Education, Education, Education; The Last of the Pelican Daughters*. Available to buy through the Nick Hern Books website [here](#) or through our website [here](#)
- For enquiries about amateur performance rights, please visit the Nick Hern [website](#).

To discuss any of the above, please email
emily@thewardrobeensemble.com.

If you would like to book a workshop, fill out the form [here](#).

We're always up for new projects and collaborators, so if you've got an idea for something to work on together, do let get in touch!

Find out more about the company below:

Website: www.thewardrobeensemble.com

Twitter: [WardrobEnsemble](#)

Facebook: [TheWardrobeEnsemble](#)

Instagram: [thewardrobeensemble](#)

We look forward to working with you!

Company number: 08173131

VAT reg. number: 293264387

