

Theatre Arts

Course Objective

This is the foundation course for the theatre arts. It is designed to provide the student with an exciting overview of live theatre by closely examining the elements of playwriting, acting, directing, voice and speech. The course will demonstrate how these elements are effectively brought together within a process that ultimately leads to a live theatre production. The theatre is a safe and creative laboratory where one may study humanity. A well-produced theatre experience may potentially change lives by questioning individual values, life pursuits, relationships, morals, ethics, opinions, and general attitudes governing our human behaviour. The idea is to give the students a feel of this creativity and prepare them for the stage.

Programme Objective

This course will first analyse the function and meaning of theatre. Students will gain a heightened awareness and understanding of the creative, expressive and artistic experience that the theatre provides. We will discuss its necessity and survival through the ages. In order to facilitate meaningful class discussion, students will learn a shared vocabulary of theatre. Students in Theatre Arts will study some theatre history, archetypes in dramatic literature, the philosophy behind theatre movements, as well as participate in theatrical exercises, readings and class activities.

Unit 1– History of Indian theatre—Communism and Theatre in India---Bengal’s theatre (Raktakarabi, Nil Darpan and Barricade), growth and decay. Understanding of the stage, theatre production, theatre spaces, terms, concepts and Treatments.

Unit 2--Discovering the need for Theatre; Perceptions of art and drama--why does a culture need its theatre. Greek Drama and origins of western theatre.

Unit 3-- Shakespeare and his Theatre, its interpretations and significance today using two plays Macbeth; The Renaissance in England.

Unit 4 -- Restoration and French Theatre (Moliere’s Tartuffe) and Baroque Classism, The Birth of Realism (Ibsen’s Doll’s House), Realism in Russia: Checkhov, The Stanislavsky System, The Moscow Art Theatre, Post-war Theatre and American Realism--Tennessee Williams