

Enjoy Opera in the Classroom

Classroom activities relating to the skills required for the National Curriculum, Key Stage 3, 4 and years 12/13

This is just a small sample of some of the many ways in which opera can be used to develop the skills required of your students for the National Curriculum. The types of skills that can be covered in the classroom include listening, performance and composition skills but also those of team-building, business skills and critical awareness. The activities can concentrate on one specific area of the curriculum (everything from music, drama, history and English to Citizenship and design and technology) or can be developed into larger, cross curriculum projects.

There are in depth Opera Packs available on the Inside Out and ENO websites giving more detailed information relating to past ENO productions and operas this season as well as other downloadable resources. For more detailed ideas for activities why not download some of the resources on this site?

Some suggestions...

Song

- vocal warm up
- listen to and learn to sing an extract from the opera
- use lyrics from opera as a base for song-writing and composition work
- vocal improvisation
- exercises to build vocal and physical stamina
- sing an song from the opera in your own style

Music / Instrumental

- listen to and learn to play part of the opera
- base compositions on thematic and harmonic material
- improvise using themes/characters/story line
- use the structure of opera to analyse and compose different types of music (overture, recitative, aria, dance, chorus)
- research composer and compare to other music of the time



INSIDEOUT

Drama/text

- improvise on central characters and key dramatic moments of the plot
- use role play
- create original lyrics for music
- devise tableaux
- relate themes and characters to personal experience
- respond dramatically to a musical impetus
- explore narrative of plot

Movement / physical

- warm up
- develop character work choreography through movement
- engage in physical tasks whilst singing
- physical response to musical impetus
- learn dances relating to the music and the time

Design

- design props inspired by themes
- set design for production / specific scenes
- costume design for characters
- create a world inspired by a theme
- draw up plans of stage
- set schedules for design and production
- build model box for opera

Administration / business

- devise marketing plan for a specific opera
- design web site to promote show
- plan education workshop for a production
- put on your own show

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