

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



Midland Actors Theatre and Goldsmiths, University of London present

DOROTHY HEATHCOTE NOW
INTERNATIONAL DRAMA CONFERENCE
7-10 NOVEMBER 2024

Richard Hoggart Building, Goldsmiths, University of London
8 Lewisham Way, London SE14 6NW



AGENCY AND EMPOWERMENT

The theme of this year's conference is agency and empowerment. This is the key to Dorothy's work. She declared: 'If you can't take the power-shift, get out of the kitchen.' Teacher management, she wrote, 'shifts from this is what you will do to we're going to deal with this Some teachers find that shift impossible because it is a big power shift.' This is a shift, then, from 'teacher talk' to 'colleague talk':

'What we're dealing with here - it's not just an alternative, it's a complete, radical, different power-shift ... All information will be given through the "colleague" code, and that is really radical... And it's never: "You'll do it for me"; because I can't use that kind of power... What you think a learning process is, is ultimately what you'll answer - and what will choose you.'

This conference will address the question: How can we make this shift happen, in our own praxis?

HOW IT WILL WORK

ON 7 NOVEMBER, there will be an ONLINE DAY, with an international line-up of speakers and panellists.

ON 8 NOVEMBER, there will be a CREATIVE PRACTICES Day. Delegates will work for a day with a leading practitioner, and will also take part in a drama session in a local school.

ON 9-10 NOVEMBER, there will be a two-day conference weekend, with practical drama workshops and panel discussions.

There are several booking options. You can book separately for the online day, the 'Creative Practices' day, or the Conference Weekend; or you can book for all four days.

Here is the provisional schedule.

SCHEDULE

Draft prepared 21.9.24. Programme may be subject to change. All times are UK times

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER: ONLINE DAY

10.00am – 11.15pm	IONA TOWLER EVANS AND TIM TAYLOR <i>Findings of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Project on Mantle of the Expert</i>
11.30am – 12.30pm	SUKHESH ARORA AND ISHA VERMA <i>Counter Imaginaries – Towards a New Cartography of Agency</i>
12.30pm – 1.30pm	MAGGIE HULSON, RAJA' FARAH AND MUTASEM ATRASH <i>The "Grit" project</i>
1.45pm – 2.45pm	PAUL SUTTON (C&T), DAVID ALLEN (MAT), VAISHALI AND VISHAKHA CHAKRAVARTY (JOY OF DRAMA) <i>Drama in a Digital Age</i>
3.00pm – 4.00pm	CECILY O'NEILL WITH THEO BRYER <i>Workshop with students at UCL</i>

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER: CREATIVE PRACTICES DAY

Delegates will work for a day with leading practitioners, and also take part in a drama session in a school. The workshops are aimed at KS1, KS2 and KS3. There are three different venues for the workshops: School 360 in East London, for KS1; Surrey Square Primary School, Elephant and Castle, for KS2; Goldsmiths University of London for KS3. You should go straight to the venue for your chosen workshop.

8.30am – 9.00am	Registration
9am – 12 noon	<p>WORKSHOP GROUPS Delegates choose ONE workshop group for the whole day NOTE: THE VENUE FOR EACH GROUP IS DIFFERENT</p> <p>GROUP 1: Richard Kieran and Ilse Williams Key Stage One - School 360, 5 Sugar House Lane, London E15 2QS GROUP 2: Tim Taylor Key Stage Two - Surrey Square Primary, Surrey Square, London SE17 2JY GROUP 3: David Allen AND Roberta Luchini Key Stage 3 - George Wood Theatre, Goldsmiths. (The workshop in school in the afternoon will take place in Deptford Green School)</p>
12 noon – 1pm	Lunch
1pm – 3.00pm	<p>WORKSHOP GROUPS CONTINUED (Venues as above) In this session, workshop groups will participate in drama workshops with classes of children.</p>
3.00pm – 3.15	Break
3.15 – 4.15pm	REVIEW OF TEACHING SESSIONS (Venues as above)

CONFERENCE WEEKEND: 9 – 10 NOVEMBER

There will be a two-day conference weekend, with practical drama workshops and panel discussions.

CONFERENCE DAY ONE: SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

8.30am – 9.00am	Registration Studio 1
9am – 10am	<p>KEYNOTE HUMANIZING TEACHING WITH DRAMATIC INQUIRY by Brian Edmiston; followed by panel discussion</p>
10am – 10.15am	Break Studio 1
10.15am – 12.15pm	<p>PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS: ONE * <i>(There are two Practical Workshop sessions – one today, and one tomorrow. Delegates choose one workshop now, and a different one for tomorrow)</i> WORKSHOP 1: Cecily O'Neill George Wood Theatre WORKSHOP 2: Stig A. Eriksson Studio 3 WORKSHOP 3: David Allen AND Roberta Luchini Studio 4</p>
12.15– 1.15pm	Lunch Studio 1
1.15pm – 2.15pm	<p>PRESENTATIONS: ONE DRAMA-IN-ENGLISH: EMPOWERING LEARNERS TO GENERATE THEIR</p>

	OWN READINGS OF TEXTS with <i>Theo Bryer, Jane Coles and Maggie Pitfield</i> George Wood Theatre
2.15pm – 3.15pm	“SISTER DORA”: Theatre-in-Education presentation <i>David Allen, Roberta Luchini and students from Birmingham Newman University</i> George Wood Theatre
3.15pm - 3.30pm	Break Studio 1
3.30pm – 5.30pm	EXPLORATORY WORKING GROUPS: SESSION ONE** (Delegates choose ONE Working Group for the whole weekend) GROUP 1: <i>Iona Towler Evans and Brian Edmiston</i> George Wood Theatre GROUP 2: <i>Bob Selderslaghs</i> Studio 3 GROUP 3: <i>Lisa Hinton, Richard Kieran and Tim Taylor</i> Studio 4
8.30pm	RECEPTION George Wood Theatre

CONFERENCE DAY TWO: SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

9.00am – 9.30am	Coffee Studio 1
9.30 – 11.30am	EXPLORATORY WORKING GROUPS: SESSION TWO Groups and spaces as above
11.30am – 12.30pm	PRESENTATIONS: TWO George Wood Theatre <i>IN TWO MINDS – AND TWO BODIES? WORKING IN ROLE</i> by <i>Amanda Kipling</i> <i>MEETING JOAN OF ARC: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME IN A DRAMA LESSON</i> by <i>Eleonora Mariella Mela and Mariasole Nigro</i>
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch Studio 1
1.30pm – 3.30pm	PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS: TWO Choose from WORKSHOP 1: <i>Cecily O’Neill</i> George Wood Theatre WORKSHOP 2: <i>Stig A. Eriksson</i> Studio 3 WORKSHOP 3: <i>Vaishali AND Vishakha Chakravarty</i> Studio 4
3.30pm – 4.00pm	PLENARY George Wood Theatre

* ABOUT THE PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

The workshops are designed to be self-contained. The first workshop session will take place on Saturday (10.15-12.15) and the second on Sunday (1.30-3.30). You will be sent an Options form to select which workshops you would like to attend.

**ABOUT THE EXPLORATORY WORKING GROUPS

There will be three working groups. You will join a group, and stay with the same group throughout. Groups will meet together for two sessions over the two days. You will be sent an the Options form to select which workshops you would like to attend.

THE PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER: ONLINE DAY

10am–11.15am : FINDINGS OF THE PAUL HAMLYN FOUNDATION PROJECT ON MANTLE OF THE EXPERT - IONA TOWLER EVANS AND TIM TAYLOR

Iona and Tim will share findings from a 4-year research (2019-2023) project supported by the Paul Hamlyn Trust. Iona and her colleague Eirwen Hopkins analysed the impact of Mantle of the Expert, on the shifts in teachers' practice and the quality of children's learning at Welsh primary schools and bordering English schools, taught by Tim (Taylor) and Luke Abbott, and coordinated by Helen Chapman, Headteacher of Morda Primary school, Shropshire. The analysis was based on the narratives of the teachers and observation of the training and classroom processes, as well as on questionnaire outcomes which tracked their developing understanding and application of Mantle of the Expert. Both Tim and Iona will share the key elements that impact change in teachers approaches, as well as the shift in learning from the children's experience and perspectives, in applying Heathcote's approach to teaching and learning through drama.

Iona Towler Evans is a National Trainer in Mantle of the Expert and a Governor at Woodrow First School. Tim Taylor is the author of *A Beginner's Guide to Mantle of the Expert*

11.30am–12.30pm: COUNTER IMAGINARIES - TOWARD A NEW CARTOGRAPHY OF AGENCY SUKHESH ARORA AND ISHA VERMA

Schools, and teaching-learning in school, are generally seen as being deficient and in need of transformation. Teachers are increasingly seen as the agents of change to bring about this transformation. But the concepts of agency and agentic practices remain vague and poorly articulated. Through Counter Imaginaries, we attempted to unpack the layers of meaning surrounding the concepts of agency and agentic practices, so as to imagine new possibilities of how teachers might enact practice. The research, carried out over a period of 18 months, is based on oral narratives of a small cohort of teachers, all of whom are graduates of a teacher education program offered by Delhi University. Theatre is an integral part of the program, and the research used the lens of theatre to examine these concepts. The presentation is based on emerging findings from this research.

The project was supported by a grant from the TESH Network which addresses larger questions of how education systems can act as drivers sustainable development.

Isha Verma is a Researcher in the Department of Education Policy and Leadership at the Education University of Hong Kong. Sukhesh Arora is an actor and performance-maker. A Charles Wallace Fellow, and IVLP alumna, he was a guest professor with the Elementary Education Department, Delhi University. In 2022, he received a grant from the TESH Network to research the relationship between teacher agency and the performing arts.

12.30pm-1.30pm: THE "GRIT" PROJECT - MAGGIE HULSON, RAJA' FARAH AND MUTASEM ATRASH

The act of collaboration between practitioners in the shared world of Drama brings us closer - united not just by content and form, but also by stance. Sharing work and collaborating across borders enriches us all. In this online session we will explore the importance of contact between practitioners in and between countries, and how it might be managed. In particular we will discuss the Palestinian context where there is a clear need for support from teachers around the world. We can refer to previous and current work and how drama through Mantle of the Expert can give young people the opportunity to express themselves and think about the situation around them.

Raja' Farah - English Language Teacher, Ramallah; Mutasem Atrash - Teacher Educator, Education Specialist, Ramallah; Maggie Hulson - editor The Journal for Drama in Education, York

1.45pm-2.45pm: DRAMA IN A DIGITAL AGE - PAUL SUTTON, VAISHALI AND VISHAKHA CHAKRAVARTY, AND DAVID ALLEN

How can we make drama work in a digital age? What kind of digital resources can we produce? How can we adapt drama strategies and conventions for online work? Join Paul Sutton (C&T), David Allen (MAT) and Vaishali and Vishakha Chakravarty (Joy of Drama), who share their experiences, with examples of remote / online projects they have done.

Paul Sutton is the founder of C&T with over 30 years experience in theatre, learning and digital media. Vaishali Chakravarty is the founder and director of *Joy of Drama*. She is an actor, drama-in-education expert and entrepreneur. Vishakha Chakravarty is a director at *Joy of Drama*. David Allen is Artistic Director of Midland Actors Theatre.

3pm-4pm: CECILY O'NEILL, WORKING WITH THEO BRYER AND STUDENTS FROM UCL

In this session, Cecily O'Neill will work "live" with students from UCL (London), sharing her observations and insights into ways of engaging and empowering young people through drama.

Cecily is an international authority on process drama and the arts in education. She is the author of *Drama Worlds* (1995) and *Drama Structures* (1982), and edited *Dorothy Heathcote on Education and Drama* (2014).

CREATIVE PRACTICES DAY **FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 8.30am – 4.15pm**

Delegates choose ONE group to work with for the whole day. You will be sent an options form to choose your workshop. The workshops are aimed at KS1, KS2 and KS3.

NOTE: THE VENUE FOR EACH GROUP IS DIFFERENT. PLEASE GO TO THE SCHOOL / VENUE FOR YOUR CHOSEN WORKSHOP.

GROUP ONE

KEY STAGE ONE: SCHOOL 360 with Richard Kieran and Ilse Williams

The venue for the KS1 workshops will be [School 360, 5 Sugar House Lane, London E15 2QS](#).

Sessions will be led by Richard Kieran, Head of Woodrow First School (Redditch), and Ilse Williams, EFYS Leader at Woodrow School.

GROUP TWO

KEY STAGE TWO: SURREY SQUARE PRIMARY SCHOOL with Tim Taylor

The venue for the KS2 workshops will be [Surrey Square Primary, Surrey Square, London SE17 2JY](#).

Sessions will be led by Tim Taylor, author of *A Beginner's Guide to Mantle of the Expert*

GROUP THREE

KEY STAGE THREE: with David Allen and Roberta Luchini

The venue for the KS3 workshops will be [Goldsmiths, London](#). Delegates will move in the afternoon to [Deptford Green School \(nearby\)](#).

Sessions will be led by David Allen and Roberta Luchini (Midland Actors Theatre), with students from Birmingham Newman University. The curriculum topic is 19th century medicine.

CONFERENCE DAY ONE: SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

8.30AM – 9AM: REGISTRATION [Studio 1](#)

9am – 10am: KEYNOTE WITH BRIAN EDMISTON - HUMANIZING TEACHING WITH DRAMATIC INQUIRY [George Wood Theatre](#)

Dorothy Heathcote champions drama because of how we can teach to explore with students “the complexity of living” in relation to “all the affairs of [hu]mankind.” With reference to classroom examples, I will explore the significance of using dramatic inquiry to humanize four core dimensions of teaching: leading, directing, mentoring, and managing.

10.15pm – 12.15pm: PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

Delegates will choose ONE of the following options.

WORKSHOP 1: CECILY O’NEILL - QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS... [George Wood Theatre](#)

An actor asks - When shall we three meet again? And the audience is provoked into answering with questions – Who is this? What’s going to happen? This practical workshop will explore ways of using questions to generate, develop and reflect on the drama.

WORKSHOP 2: STIG A. ERIKSSON - THE FIDDLER GIRL [Studio 3](#)

The workshop will investigate themes and motifs of empowerment and agency inscribed in Jon Fosse’s illustrated children’s book, “The Fiddler Girl,” through the genre of process drama. We will use pictures and text excerpts from the book to look at obstacles, dilemmas, and solutions that the main character, the fiddler girl, is faced with in her quest of getting through to her father – somewhat like a character from a traditional Norwegian fairy tale. We will:

- *Look at imaginative literature as a source of creating drama.*
- *Apply process drama to open up discussion on challenges and empowerment in children’s lives.*
- *Explore contemporary literature for understanding cultural traditions and life dilemmas.*

WORKSHOP 3: DAVID ALLEN AND ROBERTA LUCHINI - DRAMA AND “LIVING HISTORY” [Studio 4](#)

Dorothy Heathcote led a number of projects which focused on history topics, including a number of projects with heritage sites. The Mantle Network has been awarded a grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to create new heritage projects inspired by her work. In this session, we will review some of the strategies she used, to bring history to life.

1.15pm – 2.15pm: DRAMA-IN-ENGLISH: EMPOWERING LEARNERS TO GENERATE THEIR OWN READINGS OF TEXTS WITH THEO BRYER, JANE COLES & MAGGIE PITFIELD [George Wood Theatre](#)

We offer a new way of conceptualising drama’s relationship with secondary English through a synthesis of the work of Myra Barrs, Louise Rosenblatt and Dorothy Heathcote. The embedded form of role and enactment we call ‘drama-in-English’ offers space for learners to assume a range of voices and perspectives within a specific imaginative context, promoting creative, playful and critical responses that may be expressed orally, in writing or through the body. We will share examples of embedded practice which take Heathcote’s role conventions as a starting-point for work in English classrooms.

2.15 – 3.15PM: “SISTER DORA”: THEATRE-IN-EDUCATION PRESENTATION WITH DAVID ALLEN, ROBERTA LUCHINI AND STUDENTS FROM BIRMINGHAM NEWMAN UNIVERSITY

George Wood Theatre

A presentation of an interactive theatre-in-education project, which has been devised in association with the Black Country Living Museum. It is based on the story of Sister Dora, a pioneering nurse in the Victorian era, and her encounter with Dr. Joseph Lister.

3.30pm - 5.30pm: EXPLORATORY WORKING GROUPS - SESSION ONE

Delegates choose ONE Exploratory Working Group for the whole weekend. There are two sessions – one today and one tomorrow (Sunday)

GROUP 1: IONA TOWLER EVANS AND BRIAN EDMISTON - PROTECTING OUR MOUNTAIN: USING DRAMATIC INQUIRY TO EXPLORE ISSUES OF POWER, AGENCY, POSITIONING, AND IDENTITY

George Wood Theatre

In our working group we will explore examples of our recent co-teaching in Wales and England. You are encouraged to bring stories of your own practical successes, challenges, and questions so that we may celebrate our work and address shared concerns.

GROUP 2: BOB SELDERSLAGHS - CO-CREATION WITH CHILDREN **Studio 3**

This exploratory working group will be a community of practice using different imaginary contexts to explore how to work with participants in a horizontal way, even if someone has to be the facilitator and initiator. How do you achieve true co-creation and participation with children? Let's work on that in a hands-on and reflective way. And please, contribute your own practice and experiences!

GROUP 3: LISA HINTON, RICHARD KIERAN AND TIM TAYLOR **Studio 4**

In this practical workshop, we will explore how the teacher's use of language and tasks in Mantle of the Expert enables children to take responsibility for their own learning. We will draw on first-hand experiences of the work, and actual responses from a primary classroom.

CONFERENCE DAY TWO: SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

9.30–11.30: EXPLORATORY WORKING GROUPS continued

Groups and spaces as on Day One. Please continue with the same group.

11.30–12.30: PRESENTATIONS **George Wood Theatre**

*Amanda Kipling: In Two Minds – and Two Bodies? Working in Role
Eleonora Mariella Mela and Mariasole Nigro: Meeting Joan of Arc – a journey through time in a drama lesson*

1.30 – 3.30: PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS 2

Delegates will choose ONE of the following options.

WORKSHOP 1: CECILY O'NEILL - *FINDING FORM: DEVELOPING THE PLAYWRIGHT MUSCLE* George Wood Theatre

This practical session will consider how we can begin to operate as playwrights, using theatre elements to support us in what is an improvised, unpredictable and collaborative endeavour.

WORKSHOP 2: STIG A. ERIKSSON - *THE FIDDLER GIRL* Studio 3

For a description of this session, see Saturday's workshops (above)

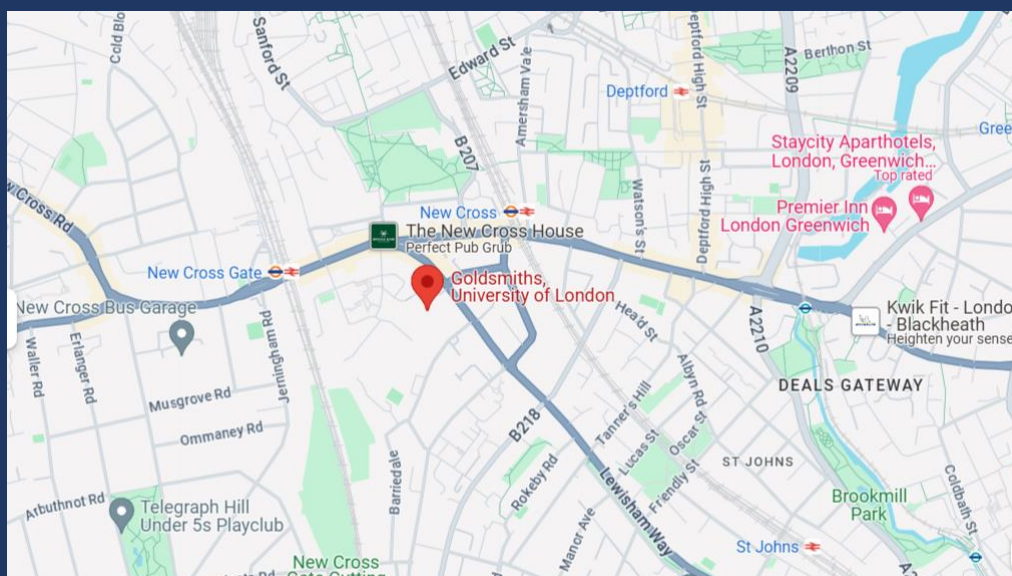
WORKSHOP 3: VAISHALI AND VISHAKHA CHAKRAVARTY - *KALINGA: A PROCESS DRAMA* Studio 4

We will use process drama methods to explore power and humanity, through an event in Indian history. The drama will be followed by a discussion on strategies and conventions used to help children access agency in the drama classroom.

ABOUT THE VENUE

Richard Hoggart Building, Goldsmiths University of London, 8 Lewisham Way, London SE14 6NW

The venue is close to New Cross and New Cross Gate overground stations. Trains run regularly to both stations from London Bridge, and from Gatwick Airport. The nearest airports are Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, which are 45 to 90 minutes away by public transport.



ACCOMMODATION

Nearby hotels (£70-£150 per room per night) include

- **PREMIER INN GREENWICH**, 43-81 Greenwich High Rd, London SE10 8JL
- **TRAVELODGE HOTEL GREENWICH HIGH ROAD**, Greenwich High Road, Greenwich, London SE10 8JA
- **TRAVELODGE HOTEL GREENWICH**, Blackheath Road, Greenwich, London SE10 8DA
- **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON LONDON GREENWICH**, Catherine Grove, London SE10 8FR
- **STAYCITY APARTHOTELS**, 65 Greenwich High Rd, London SE10 8JL
- **CLARENDON HOTEL**, 8 - 16 Montpelier Row, Blackheath, London SE3 0RW

Nearby hostels (£30 - £80 per night) include

- **BOOK A BED HOSTEL**, 86 Tanners Hill, Deptford, Lewisham, London, SE8 4PN
- **NX LONDON HOSTEL**, 323A New Cross Rd, London SE14 6AS

FOOD IN THE AREA

COSTA COFFEE, 37-39 Lewisham Way, London SE14 6PP

ROSE PUB AND KITCHEN, 272 New Cross Rd, London SE14 6AA

NEW CROSS HOUSE, 316 New Cross Rd, London SE14 6AF

Plus many fine restaurants, cafes and bars in Greenwich

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