



EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Blackeyed Theatre **NOT ABOUT HEROES** BY STEPHEN MACDONALD

This 90 minute workshop, for up to 25 participants, is designed to accompany Blackeyed Theatre's touring production of *Not About Heroes*. The workshop is suitable for KS3-KS5, and will be adjusted depending on the learner group. However it is anticipated that most learners will be on GCSE, A Level, or BTEC qualifications.

Through participatory theatre games, discussion and performance activities, students will explore the key themes of the play and analyse the personal and political impact of Sassoon and Owen's poetry. Workshops are led by a professional actor from Blackeyed Theatre, either from the cast of *Not About Heroes* or one of the company's previous productions. All facilitators are highly experienced in delivering interactive drama workshops and will answer questions from students about their careers as actors and performers, and 'life on the road' with a touring production.

Participants will be guided through a series of activities and tasks to explore the social and political impact of creativity during times of conflict. They will examine Wilfred Owen's poems alongside Siegfried Sassoon's open letter of protest, utilising critical thinking skills to consider different methods of expression and the power of the written word. The workshop will also consider the role of satire during those times, and how this can be used as a theatrical and literary device.

The workshop is supported by a comprehensive education pack that accompanies the production, providing activities and background information for students before and after a visit to see the play.

Itinerary

- Discuss the production
- Take part in energising warm-up activities
- Explore the themes of the piece
- Generate characters and text
- Explore relationships through duologue
- Explore Owens' Anthem for Doomed Youth
- Experiment with Satire
- Perform to the group
- Evaluate your performances
- Talk about life on the road for a professional touring actor

Objectives

By the end of the session students will be able to:

- Analyse Owen's poems and consider methods of presentation
- Critically comment on the relationship between Owen and Sassoon
- Explore the nature of duologues and apply acting techniques
- Understand and apply satire to a performance task
- Perform to the rest of the group

Cost

- £170 for one workshop
- £225 for two workshops on the same day
(Plus travel expenses if applicable)
- Max 25 participants per workshop



For more information, contact your theatre or call Adrian at Blackeyed Theatre
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