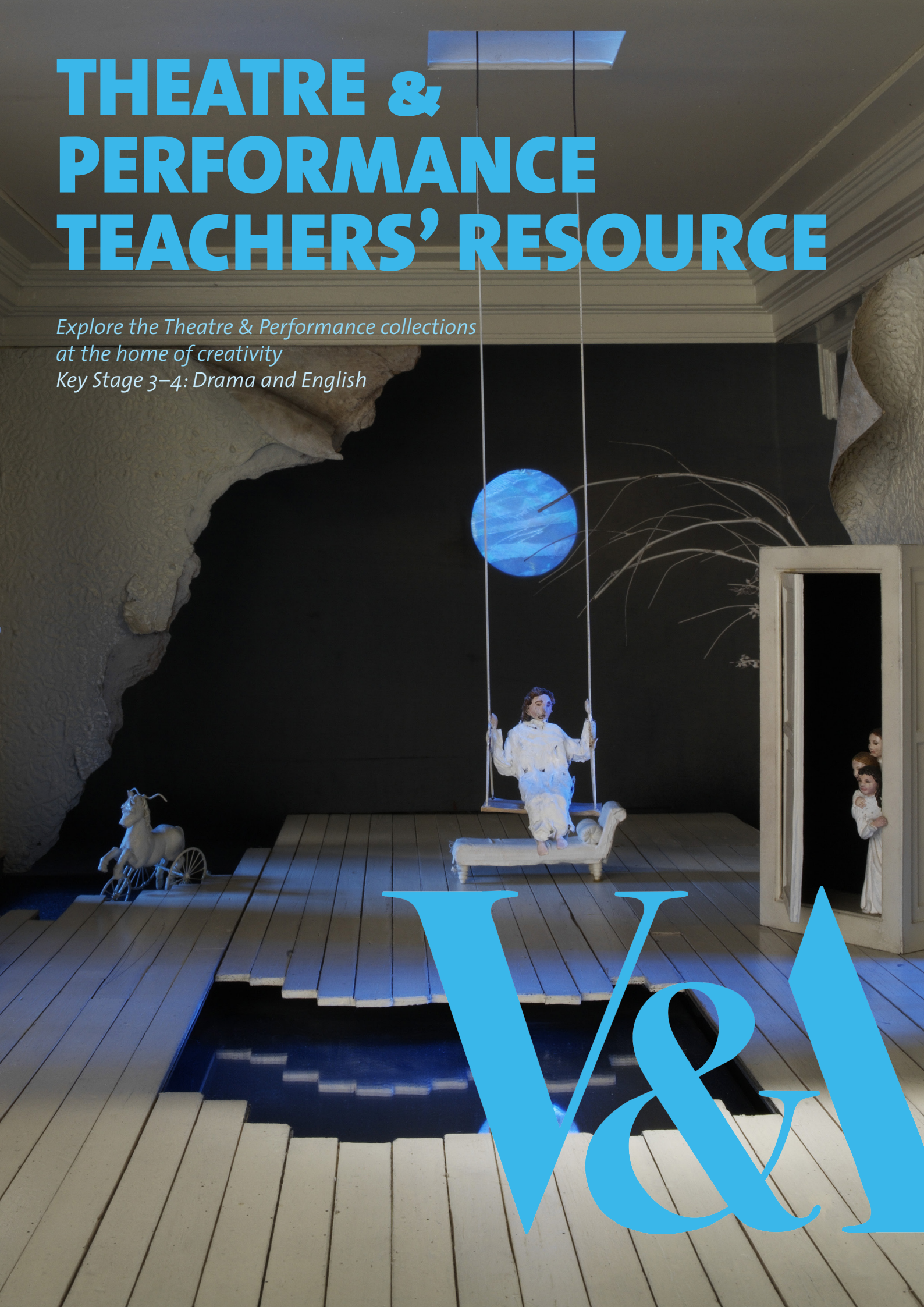


# THEATRE & PERFORMANCE TEACHERS' RESOURCE

*Explore the Theatre & Performance collections  
at the home of creativity  
Key Stage 3–4: Drama and English*





# Theatre & Performance Teachers' Resource

## Key Stage 3–4: Drama and English

---

### Introduction

The Theatre & Performance galleries explore the process of performance. They cover themes such as creating, producing, rehearsing and promoting.

Objects on display include 2D material and scripts, including Shakespeare's First Folio, a rare first edition of his plays. They also encompass costumes from popular shows including *The Lion King* and set models, including Edward Gordon Craig's designs for *Hamlet*.

The galleries cover the live performing arts, from drama and dance to rock and pop music. Students can see iconic objects connected to stars of the live stage such as Richard Burton, Maggie Smith and Mick Jagger. The gallery provides a unique visit during which students can learn about the importance of performance in the cultural life of the UK, its history and continuing legacy.

---

### Pre-visit activities

#### Discussion

List the jobs involved in live performance. Encourage the group to think about more than the performers. For example, ask them to consider how a show is publicised.

Look through recent theatre programmes to see how many people are involved in the show. Use the internet to find out what the roles entail. How might the show be affected if these jobs were not carried out?

Encourage English students to explore the way programmes are structured. Programmes often contain interesting notes and discursive essays about the production. Use the adverts in programmes to explore aspects of Media Studies.

---

### The Museum visit

To encourage your students to take time, divide them into smaller groups and allocate one or two of the display cases to each group. At the end of the visit, they can feed back their findings to the whole group.

#### Activity sheets

Download the activity sheets that accompany this resource: [www.vam.ac.uk/page/l/learning-resources-for-secondary-schools/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/l/learning-resources-for-secondary-schools/)

The activity sheets should be used in conjunction with the V&A Map. Begin Sheet 1 in Room 103, at the start of the Theatre & Performance galleries. The subsequent sheets take students in a clockwise direction round the galleries.

The Theatre & Performance galleries also include video stations that explore aspects of performance. Topics include acting, make-up and costume design, and students can hear professionals discuss their practice. Rehearsal footage from *The Wind in the Willows* introduces students to the rehearsal rooms of the National Theatre. Costumes from the handling collection allow your group to try on real items and to explore how they affect movement and aid characterisation. Styles from different eras give students the opportunity to compare and contrast the historical with the contemporary.

#### Other galleries at the V&A

If your group is particularly interested in costume, you may also wish to visit the Fashion gallery (Room 40, Level 1). For inspiration to create set designs, visit the Medieval & Renaissance galleries (Rooms 50a–50d, Level 1). This gallery could also be used to give English and Drama students a context for the plays of Shakespeare.

#### The National Video Archive of Performance (NVAP)

Since 1992, the V&A has been making video recordings of UK productions. These professionally-recorded, full-length live recordings are available for individuals or groups to view, free of charge. Examples include *Our Country's Good*, *Jerusalem* and *The Street of Crocodiles*. Productions of Shakespeare's plays are well represented. Star performances include those by Vanessa Redgrave in *Lady Windermere's Fan* and Daniel Radcliffe in *Equus*.

---

### Follow-up activities / find out more

Videos from the National Video Archive of Performance (NVAP) can be viewed by groups free of charge at the V&A. Contact [bookings.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:bookings.office@vam.ac.uk) to make an appointment. A list of the recordings is available here: [www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/t/nvap/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/t/nvap/)

Five Truths an exploration of contrasting directing styles can be viewed here: [www.vam.ac.uk/channel/search/five%20truths/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/channel/search/five%20truths/)

Download the app 'Played in Britain. Modern Theatre in 100 Plays 1945 – 2010': [www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/played-in-britain-modern-theatre-in-100-plays-1945-2010/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/played-in-britain-modern-theatre-in-100-plays-1945-2010/)