

V&A Academy

DRAMATIC ARTS: NO THEATRE

V&A

Introduction



This one-day dramatic arts course introduces students to the classical arts of No Theatre, known for its Zen principles of restraint and understatement. No will first be explored, tracing the historical development of this dramatic art form and the role of actors and musicians in creating the mood and atmosphere of the often complex narratives. Under the expert guidance of Ashley Thorpe -No performer, playwright and academic - students will learn about the significance of movement and gesture, sound and chant.

The afternoon session will focus on the arts of No, emphasizing the importance of bold costumes and expressive masks. V&A expert, Anna Jackson, will lead a study session of theatrical costumes in the V&A collection followed by a demonstration by Japanese carver, Kitazawa Hideta, offering students a rare opportunity to observe first hand the expert skills of a master craftsman.

Information

Tuesday 24 March 2026

10:30 – 16:00

This study day will be held on site at V&A South Kensington or online.

If you are joining us in person, lunch is not included, however, tea and coffee will be available upon arrival.

All lecture resource sheets and presentation slides will be made available after the study day.

This study day will not be recorded.

Suitable for ages 18 and over.

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Dramatic Arts: No Theatre

V&A South Kensington or online

10:30 Welcome and Introduction

Dr Helen Glaister

10.40 There's No Business Like Noh Business: An Introduction to Japanese Noh Theatre

Ashley Thorpe

12.00 In the Noh: a Demonstration of Japanese Noh Music, Chant, and Dance

Maggie Sur-Han Chang, Laura Sampson, Ashley Thorpe

13.00 Lunch

(not provided)

14.00 Woven Drama: No Costume at the V&A

Anna Jackson

14.30 Demonstration of traditional mask making

Kitazawa Hideta

Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.