



**RE: A range of festive theatre treats!**

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you today to share some of the amazing pieces of theatre that have been made available for the public to watch over the upcoming festive period.

During the course of this academic year, the YouTube channel '**The Show Must Go On**' has offered a wide variety of performances, completely free of charge for audiences to watch from the comfort of their own home.

So far this year, we have had some amazing shows on offer:

- Phantom of the opera
- Michael Ball musical concert
- Alfie Boe musical concert
- The musical rendition of War of the Worlds
- The Wind in the Willows
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

Please find below a series of links you may find useful to use on this channel.

**Kinky Boots – available from 7pm Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December until 7pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**Preview Link** – if you're not sure what to expect, why not take a sneak peek at the teaser video (it's just over a minute) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeyPKZVk-2M>

**Link to the performance** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hExrHHLTmf8>

**Christmas by candlelight – available until New Year's Eve**

**Preview Link** – if you're not sure what to expect, why not take a sneak peek at the teaser video (it's just over a minute) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7C7pZl1NYQ>

**Link to the performance** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmbQJoM8WQ>

**Disney Cruise Line**

Disney Cruise line have made a number of different productions available completely free of charge. Each performance has been filmed on-board their cruise line and offers you an insight into what guests are able to enjoy.

- **Frozen, a musical spectacular** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgL3vp8bEK0&feature=youtu.be>
- **Tangled: The Musical** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFiQWzU5wSQ&feature=youtu.be>
- **Beauty and the Beast** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctEpp90pnyk&feature=youtu.be>

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## Disney+

There are a number of fantastic productions / theatrical films on Disney+ for you to watch. In order to watch these, you will need to make sure that you have a subscription to the streaming service. You can sign up for a 7 day free trial – but be aware of when the 7 days end, otherwise you may be charged!

- **Howard** - *The documentary about iconic composer Howard Ashman delves into the life and work of one of the greatest stage and screen lyricists. Of all time.*
- **Hamilton** - *The multi-award-winning musical has rocked the world and, as a special treat, audiences will now be able to watch the original Broadway production starring Lin-Manuel Miranda.*
- **Once Upon a Mattress** - *The 2005 special version of Mary Rodgers and Marshall Barer's musical is a plush technicolour experience featuring the likes of Matthew Morrison, Zooey Deschanel and Denis O'Hare. The musical may not have had much of an impact in the UK but this is a great little way to spend an afternoon.*
- **The Sound of Music** - *We have confidence that you've already watched the cult classic, but why not see it for the 16 going on 17th time?*
- **Newsies** - *What's better than one version of the beloved Newsies? Two versions! Both the recorded stage production featuring Jeremy Jordan and the original movie are both available to watch online.*
- **Bedknobs and Broomsticks** - *Angela Lansbury will always be the epitome of musical royalty and seeing her in action in this much-loved film is a fantastically nostalgic trip into the past.*
- **Encore** - *This TV series, hosted by Frozen's own Kristen Bell, sees former musical performers given a chance to reignite their passions.*
- **Annie** - *The 1999 version of the cult classic musical also features a cameo from Wicked's own Kristen Chenoweth. Pretty cool huh!*
- **Into the woods** - *The film version of the Sondheim musical is a big-budget extravaganza with some iconic tunes as well as a starry Hollywood cast (and a performance from Simon Russell Beale!).*

## Netflix

There are a number of fantastic productions / theatrical films on Netflix for you to watch. In order to watch these, you will need to make sure that you have a subscription to the streaming service. Unfortunately, free trials aren't currently available, but you are able to cancel at any time!

- **The Prom** - A brand new musical film version of the iconic Broadway show is headed for Netflix – just in time for the festive season! You can find out more about the [starry piece here](#).
- **The Boy in the Band** - The film version of the recent Broadway revival will find its way to Netflix on 30 September – featuring an all-star cast. [Find out more here](#).
- **Been So Long** - Michaela Coel, Mya Lewis, Arinzé Kene and George MacKay bring Coel's stage play to the streaming site.
- **Jesus Christ Superstar** - The 2000 saturated version of the iconic musical was released – perfect for an Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice fix.
- **Ben Platt Love from Radio City Music Hall** - Platt's solo concert is a tour-de-force in performance and quite frankly the perfect tonic to the lockdown blues. [Read an interview with Platt here](#).
- **West side Story (1961)** - Steven Spielberg has been beaver away working on a brand new film version (due in December 2021) but the original is fine by a lot of people, featuring Jerome Robbins' iconic choreography.
- **Springsteen on Broadway** - The music legend had a residency on Broadway recently, and the whole experience was captured for your consuming pleasure online!
- **Rock of Ages (2012)** - It was an absolute blast in the West End and on tour, so you can settle down to some Netflix and thrill in this rock epic.
- **Jingle Jangle** - A raft of Broadway legends join this festive musical bonanza – which should be on your must-see list this winter! Expect some proper earworms. Release on 13 November.
- **Grease Live** - Recorded live and directed by Hamilton's own Thomas Kail, there is some musical royalty appearing in this special version of the iconic classic, including Julianne Hough, Aaron Tveit, Vanessa Hudgens and Carlos PenaVega.
- **Opening Night** - Stage stars including Lesli Margherita appear in this musical comedy film, which takes place in real time, backstage on the opening night of a Broadway musical. If you can't be there then why not see what it would be like!

## Amazon Video

There are a number of fantastic productions / theatrical films on Amazon Video for you to watch. In order to watch these, you will need to make sure that you have a subscription to the streaming service. You are able to receive a free 30 day trial, but please be aware of the date the trial finishes to avoid charges!

- **What the Constitution Means to Me** - *The Broadway hit is truly unmissable (given the recent events in the US) – so we would recommend giving it a try ASAP.*
- **Barnum** - *Michael Crawford stars in this musical about the iconic circus master. It was an out-and-out hit well before *The Greatest Showman* came along, and features some great tunes including "Join the Circus".*
- **King Lear** - *Anthony Hopkins, Florence Pugh, Andrew Scott and more tackle the Bard's great tragedy (apparently written during a quarantine, by the way) in this BBC special that aired a couple of years ago.*
- **Richard II** - *Fiona Shaw is brilliant at most things (cough, *Killing Eve*, cough) and to see her take on one of Shakespeare's most iconic monarchs in this production is worth its weight in gold.*
- **Cirque Du Soleil: Worlds Away** - *James Cameron helps out the iconic circus troupe to deliver a visual spectacular in this hour-long show.*
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream** - *Try this for a cast – Helen Mirren, Ian Richardson, Judi Dench, Ian Holm, Diana Rigg, Clive Swift and MORE appear in what might be one of the starriest filmed stage productions. Theatre royalty at its best.*
- **Kiss Me Kate** - *Want to spend the holidays brushing up your Shakespeare? Well look no further than this film version of the fantastic musical caper.*
- **Much Ado About Nothing** - *Shot over the space of two weeks, Joss Whedon (of Avengers fame) got a group of friends together to shoot their own take on Much Ado all in the same LA household. The results are low-fi and endearing.*
- **Julius Caesar** - *Based on the RSC's Greg Doran version of the show, Paterson Joseph stars in this filmed version of the Shakespeare classic.*
- **Once** - *Featuring Glen Hansard's lovely tunes, the film went on to inspire the heart-warming, award-winning musical. So it's essential viewing for any theatre fans.*
- **Jesus Christ Superstar** - *Got heaven on your mind? The 1973 film version of the iconic musical is a rollicking blast and features some outstanding voices (and some edgy desert sets) so if you want to bask in some proper ALW tunes then head for this.*
- **Grease Live!** - *The Aaron Tveit, Vanessa Hudgens and Julianne Hough production, performed and recorded live, is ready for Prime viewing.*
- **Pride and Prejudice** - *The musical played on our Facebook page in summer 2020, but it's now available for any enterprising Austen fan up for a musical twist!*
- **Guys and Dolls** - *The hit show might not be rocking the boat on stage right now, but you can catch the 1955 film here.*
- **Fleabag** - *The full first season of Phoebe Waller-Bridge's hit series, based on the stage play, is available for Prime users now!*

## **Pantomime**

Ask many people and they will tell you that Christmas isn't Christmas until they have seen their annual pantomime.

Below are a list of pantomimes currently available to watch, with new shows being added daily!

- Dick Whittington (The Roses' 2018 Panto) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrnbnNkiodM>
- Sleeping beauty (The Roses' 2017 Panto) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLLs2KN3HdQ>
- Aladdin (The Roses' 2019 Panto) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqqAVZWI8aI>
- A CBeebies Christmas Carol - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_G2MXdFFuU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_G2MXdFFuU)
- ITV Panto (Cinderella) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdA\\_6BtsXko](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdA_6BtsXko)
- Beauty and the Beast (Hartlepool Town Hall) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFYcdNKwXvc>
- Cinderella (Players Theatre) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZMvfypWpB8>

## **The world's first interactive live stream pantomime!!! -**

[https://pantolive.com/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI95jX17LX7QIVBuvCh2BeQ-yEAAAYASAAEgK8I\\_D\\_BwE](https://pantolive.com/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI95jX17LX7QIVBuvCh2BeQ-yEAAAYASAAEgK8I_D_BwE)

You have the opportunity to watch a pantomime from your home and interact, as though you were in the theatre! – This does cost however, at £19.97.

## Drama Online

As an academy, we have signed up to the streaming service, and as such am delighted to introduce you to the site.

When logged into Citrix at home, simply search Drama Online, or follow this link -

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/>

You should automatically be logged in, and have access to the content available.

There are restrictions on what you will be able to view, but most of the performances have been made available to watch – many from either the Globe Theatre or the National Theatre.

The plays currently available to watch can be seen below and found following the link -

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/custom-browse?docid=plays>

- Antigone
- Cat on a Hot tin Roof
- The Cherry Orchard
- Consent
- Coriolanus
- Dara
- The Deep Blue Sea
- Frankenstein: Benedict Cumberbatch
- Frankenstein: Jonny Lee Miller
- Hamlet
- Jane Eyre
- Julius Caesar
- King Lear
- Les Blancs
- London Assurance
- Macbeth
- Medea
- One Man, Two Guvnors
- Othello
- Peter Pan
- Romeo and Juliet
- She Stoops to Conquer
- Small Island
- A Streetcar Named Desire
- Translations
- Treasure Island
- Twelfth Night
- The Winter's Tale
- Wonder.land
- Yerma

## BBC iPlayer

**The Goes Wrong Show** – Mischief Theatre have previously created a mini TV series that was broadcast on BBC towards the start of this year. At the moment, six episodes have been created with a further Christmas special coming over the festive break. The Goes Wrong Show 2020 special will air on TV on Tuesday 22 December at 7PM on BBC One.

A second six-part series of The Goes Wrong Show will follow in 2021 after being previously confirmed by the BBC.

A link to all of their performances can be found here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000csgs/the-goes-wrong-show>

Please be aware that there is some **mild adult language** and **adult themes** throughout. However, the performances are designed to provide audiences with some comic relief.

I hope you find this document useful. As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities for you to watch theatre over the festive break! Please keep an eye on the [Drama SharePoint](#), where I will upload links to further shows and performances when they become available. The academy Facebook and Twitter page will also have links to different performances too!

Finally, I want to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! Stay safe, and I look forward to seeing your child again during module 3!

Mr R Lawson

**English & Drama Teacher**