



Midland Actors Theatre and Manchester Metropolitan University present



DOROTHY HEATHCOTE NOW

INTERNATIONAL DRAMA CONFERENCE 2025

6-9 NOVEMBER at Brooks Building, Manchester Metropolitan University M15 6GX

One of the principles behind the *Dorothy Heathcote Now* conferences, is that we come together to engage in active research – and so each year, there is a topic or theme at the centre of the event. This year, we have chosen:

“WHAT SORT OF SCHOOLS DO WE WANT? WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY DO WE WANT?”

In 1983, Dorothy stated that, as educators, we should be asking what sort of schools we want – but also, what sort of society we want. Her words are incredibly timely today: they challenge us to consider questions of *purpose; curriculum; access; and stewardship*.

Join us, as we explore these questions together, through practical workshops, talks, performances, demonstration classes, online panels, and more!

We are delighted that this year’s conference will be held at MMU – home of the Dorothy Heathcote Archive. There will be opportunities to view materials from the Archive

HOW IT WILL WORK

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER, 10am – 4.30pm: ONLINE DAY

On 6 November, there will be an online day, with an international line-up of presenters - brought to you live from the Dorothy Heathcote Archive in MMU!

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER, 9am – 4.15pm: CREATIVE PRACTICES DAY

Delegates will work for a day with leading practitioners, and also observe or participate in a drama session in a local school. This is a great opportunity to see drama work in practice.

CONFERENCE WEEKEND: 8–9 NOVEMBER

There will be a two-day conference weekend, with practical drama workshops and panel discussions, and an international line-up of presenters.

Saturday 8 November: 9am – 7.30pm / Sunday 9 November: 9.30am – 4.00pm

HOW TO BOOK

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

For more details, go to: <https://heathcotenow2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

THE SCHEDULE IN DETAIL

Draft prepared 19.5.25. Programme may be subject to change. All times are UK times

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER, 10am – 4.30pm: ONLINE DAY

Presenters will include Cecily O'Neill, Stig A. Eriksson, Iona Towler Evans, Rebecca Patterson and more. Details to follow shortly.

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER, 9am – 4.15pm: CREATIVE PRACTICES DAY

This is a great opportunity to learn about teaching through drama methods such as Mantle of the Expert, and see them used in practice in schools. Delegates will work for a day with leading practitioners, and also observe or take part in drama sessions in a local school. The day runs from 9.00am to 4.15pm.

There are two options:

OPTION 1. KS1 and KS2: MANTLE OF THE EXPERT

Venue: Christ the King RC Primary School, Culcheth Lane, Newton Heath, Manchester M40 1LU

Trainers: Tim Taylor & Richard Kieran

Tim is the author of *Beginner's Guide to Mantle of the Expert*. Richard is the Headteacher at Woodrow First School, which is a Mantle of the Expert Training School. We are delighted to be

working with Christ the King Primary School, which has a 'Vow to Wow' curriculum; cross-curricular topics are planned using 'Mantle of the Expert,' to promote excitement and pleasure in learning.

OPTION 2. KEY STAGE 3: DRAMA IN HISTORY TEACHING

Venue: Brooks Building, MMU, 53 Bonsall St, Hulme, Manchester M15 6GX (a.m.) & Trinity High School, Higher Cambridge St, Manchester M15 6HP (p.m.)

The day will be led by David Allen & Roberta Luchini, from the Mantle Network. The curriculum focus is the Industrial Revolution. The session in Trinity High School will focus on strategies such as teacher-in-role, and the use of drama conventions.

CREATIVE PRACTICES DAY: SCHEDULE

8.30am – 9.00am	Registration
9am – 12 noon	WORKSHOP GROUPS <i>(Delegates choose ONE workshop group for the whole day.)</i> GROUP A (KS1 & 2): MANTLE OF THE EXPERT with Tim Taylor. <i>Venue: Christ the King RC Primary School, Manchester M40 1LU</i> GROUP B (KS3): DRAMA ACROSS THE CURRICULUM with David Allen & Roberta Luchini <i>Venue: Brooks Building, MMU (a.m.) & Trinity High School, Manchester (p.m.)</i>
12 noon – 1pm	Lunch
1pm – 3.00pm	WORKSHOP GROUPS CONTINUED
3.00pm – 3.15	Break
3.15 – 4.15pm	REVIEW OF TEACHING SESSIONS

CONFERENCE WEEKEND: 8–9 NOVEMBER

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

CONFERENCE DAY ONE: SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

8.30am – 9.00am	Registration
9AM – 10AM	PANEL DISCUSSION BRIAN EDMISTON, CECILY O'NEILL, REBECCA PATTERSON, DAVID ALLEN, STIG A. ERIKSSON & JOHN RAINER
10.15am – 12.15pm	EXPLORATORY WORKING GROUPS: SESSION ONE* There will be three groups. Delegates choose ONE Working Group for the whole weekend). A. STIG A. ERIKSSON B. TIM TAYLOR, RICHARD KIERAN & LISA HINTON C. BRIAN EDMISTON & IONA TOWLER EVANS
12.15 – 1.15pm	Lunch

1.15pm – 2.15pm	PRESENTATIONS: ONE The Dorothy Heathcote Archive: REBECCA PATTERSON, JOHN RAINER, STIG A. ERIKSSON & DAVID ALLEN
2.15pm – 3.15pm	PRESENTATIONS: TWO A choice of two sessions: A: “THE CURRICULUM OF LIFE” - CREATIVE AGING & MANTLE OF THE EXPERT - BOB SELDESLAGHS B. THE “ECHO OF HUMANITY” PROJECT - REBECCA PATTERSON, RAJA FARAH, MAGGIE HULSON & HARRY DIXON
3.15pm - 3.30pm	Break
3.30pm – 5.30pm	PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS: ONE ** A choice of three sessions: A. CECILY O’NEILL B. THEO BRYER C. JOHN RAINER
5.30pm	RECEPTION

CONFERENCE DAY TWO: SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

9.00am – 9.30am	Coffee
9.30 – 11.30am	EXPLORATORY WORKING GROUPS: SESSION TWO Groups as for Day One. See above
11.30am – 12.30pm	PRESENTATIONS: THREE Choice of two sessions: A. “THE MAKING OF THE DRAMA TEACHER” VAISHALI CHAKRAVARTY & VISHAKHA CHAKRAVARTY B. “THEATRE IN MATHS” SILJE BIRGITTE FOLKEDAL & METTE BØE LYGSTAD
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm – 3.30pm	PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS: TWO A. CECILY O’NEILL B. THEATRE-IN-EDUCATION PRESENTATION DAVID ALLEN, ROBERTA LUCHINI, AND STUDENTS FROM MMU C. REBECCA PATTERSON & ALISON RAMSAY
3.30pm – 4.00pm	PLENARY

* 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 Options form to select which workshops you would like to attend.

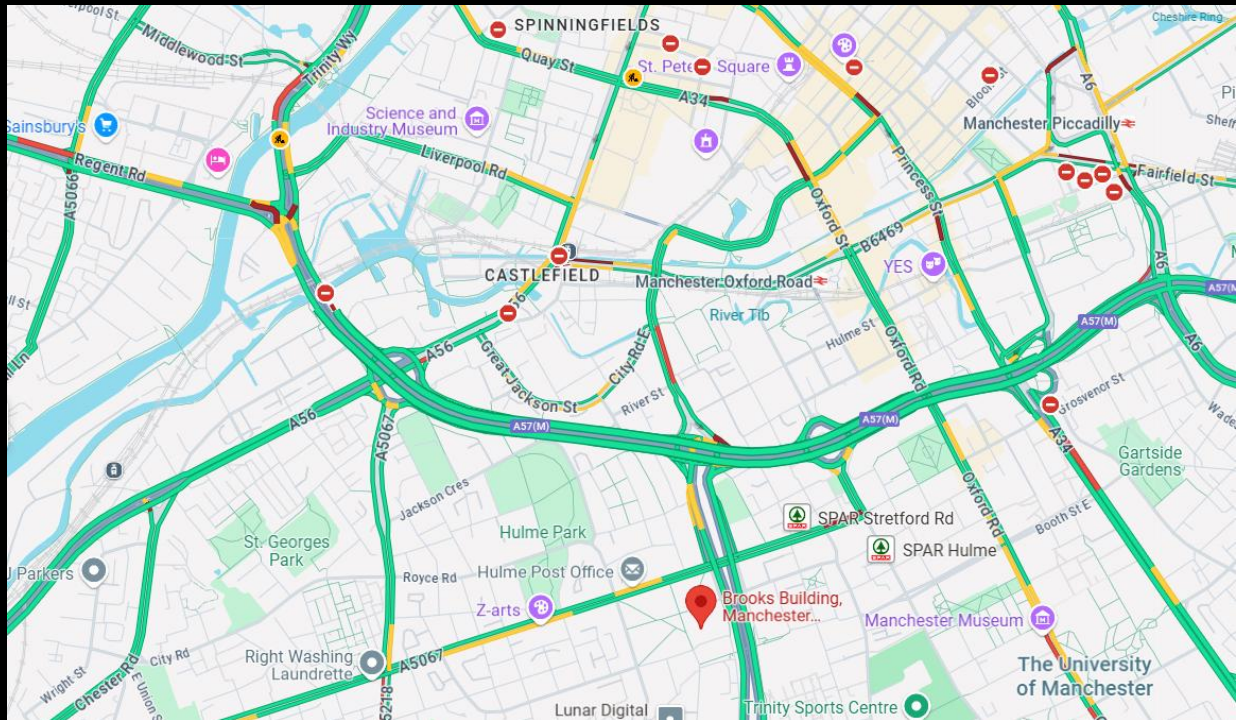
** ABOUT THE PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

The workshops are designed to be self-contained. The first workshop session will take place on Saturday (3.30-5.30) 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 VENUE

Brooks Building, Manchester Metropolitan University M15 6GX

The closest railway station is Manchester Oxford Road, 0.9 miles away. Manchester Piccadilly is 1.5 miles away and Manchester Victoria is 2.5 miles away. Brooks is also 8 miles away from Manchester Airport. Trains run from the airport to Piccadilly Station.



BUSES

Bus From Piccadilly Gardens, a 5 minute walk from Piccadilly Station. The number 86 bus (Bus Stop M) to Chorlton goes to the Birley site. Frequency, every 10 minutes. From September – June, the 141 runs exclusively to the Birley site (for Brooks Building) every 10 minutes during the day. Look out for the big building with the strange exterior – it's the Brooks Building.



TAXIS

Taxis can be pre-booked through Radio Cars, who also have wheelchair accessible taxis. Their contact number is 0161 236 8033. There are taxi ranks outside each railway station and the nearest drop off point at Brooks is on Bonsall Street off Stretford Road. Sat Nav postcode: M15 6GX

CAR PARKING

There is a surface level carpark directly outside the Brooks building with reserved areas for those with access needs. All disabled bays around Brooks are on one level smooth surface on the ground floor.

LIFTS

All lifts are wheelchair accessible and the controls are at a usable height. There are four sets of lifts located in each of the Atrium, which means meeting rooms and spaces on higher floors are easy to reach. There is also audio assistance in each lift.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A DETAILED ACCESS GUIDE TO THE VENUE

ACCOMMODATION

Nearby hotels (£40-£120 per room per night) include

- PREMIER INN PRINCESS STREET, 2 Brook St, Manchester M1 7BJ
- HOTEL IBIS MANCHESTER CENTRE, Charles St, Princess St, Manchester M1 7DG
- HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS MANCHESTER, 2-4 Oxford Rd, Manchester M1 5QA
- HYATT REGENCY MANCHESTER, 55 Booth St W, Manchester M15 6PQ
- MALDRON HOTEL, 60 Charles St, Manchester M1 7DF

Nearby hostels (£40 - £50 per night) include

- YHA MANCHESTER HOSTEL, Potato Wharf, Manchester M3 4NB



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