

Comment 1.



My name is Dominic Corey and I am a Drama teacher based in London in the UK. My experience within my own classrooms through Drama have helped shape me as a Drama practitioner and has taught me a lot about the importance of Drama in education and its positive impact on the lives of our young people. Being a Drama teacher is a huge honour as apart from it's cross curricular potential in terms of Drama creating excellent public speakers, building confidence and understanding of self and experience it helps us learn about characters, emotions, goals, ambitions and motivations.

By playing characters in a make believe world we are able to learn about our own selves, issues and situations we may find ourselves and the emotions that come into play in day to day life within the real world. It helps us to connect with other individuals and inspires debate, discussion, reflection and resilience within education.

Drama is about discovery, it gives us a platform to think creatively, to communicate with others, express ourselves openly and allow us to grow as individuals through its many devices.

Drama as a subject is not only important but I believe crucial in the development of our young people at an early stage.

Comment 2

I was fortunate enough to take part in the DICE project which took me to the beautiful and culturally rich country of Japan which has its own long history embedded in the love of Drama. Watching Kabuki theatre being performed in Tokyo was one of the most magical experiences of my life and one I still share with the students in my classroom today when we study and celebrate this important, vibrant and creatively rich moment in theatrical history.

My opinion of Japan before I visited was of a reserved, stand offish people who were shy and maybe found the expression of emotions difficulty or at least not part of their social norm, from day one I could not have been more wrong. Japan is a country that has foundations built in a fantastically rich, interesting and cultured social history, people there are so warm and generous and open to new ideas and new things. Being part of Japanese culture, even for a short time was a huge honour for me and my experiences there would shape me as an individual and the moments and connections I made there will follow me through life.

Working with Japanese students and their teachers will always be one of my greatest life experiences, understanding that there would be a language barrier alongside a lack of understanding of Drama as a subject with it not really being part of education in terms of schooling I knew would be an obstacle to overcome. I based my teaching around the theatrical mask as I felt this would give the wearer the confidence of performing behind it and allow them to begin to

express themselves through body language connected to the various emotions that the mask would hold

I decided to take with me some very simple trestle masks



(A short video Here) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=349CvQdX5B4> Shows how trestle masks can be used

The students would be involved in numerous warm ups and ice breaking activities before taking the opportunity to don the mask and begin to move in line with the various emotions on display.

What I found most interesting was how nervous the students were initially but how they came alive through the use of the mask as it became something safe that they could hide behind. Very quickly you could see the students and adults alike grow in confidence before your very eyes as they began to connect with the mask and with their own emotions and bodies, absolutely fascinating to watch

My experience in Japan made it really clear that Drama teaching and Drama as a subject needs to be taught in Japanese schools. It is of legion importance that our young people are able to creatively discover using Drama as a platform

