



## Understanding Verbatim Theatre: Information for Teachers Third/Fourth Level

This resource pack is designed for Third/Fourth Level Drama. If used at Third Level, it would be best to use it towards the completion of the level as learners may find some of the tasks challenging. The unit also fulfils the learning outcomes for Component 1: Devising, of Edexcel Advanced GCE in Drama and Theatre (9DR0)\*. This pack contains a six-piece unit on verbatim theatre. The central example of verbatim practice is 'The Laramie Project' by Tectonic Theater Project. This is a verbatim play about the murder of 21 year old Matthew Shepard in October 1998; he was beaten and left to die on the plains outside Laramie, Wyoming, in a homophobic hate crime. By the end of this unit of work, learners will have a basic understanding of verbatim theatre and have explored and used verbatim techniques to create their own piece of verbatim theatre.

This unit will cover the definition and origins of verbatim theatre, the creation of 'The Laramie Project' by Tectonic Theater, and the concept of socially engaged theatre practice. It is intended to build on existing devising skills and introduce new concepts to the learners, allowing them to explore different ways of creating engaging drama. As with all of our [resources](#), this unit is designed to be flexible to the needs of your context and learners. Please adapt this work as necessary to be the best fit for your classroom.

The themes of 'The Laramie Project' should be discussed with learners at the outset of Lesson 2 to ensure they are fully supported and prepared for the work. A transcript is provided in the resource pack, which teachers should read first. Learners should know where they can access any further support within the school setting should it be required, and understand that the classroom is an environment where these themes can be discussed with empathy and respect.

### Format of this unit:

- **Lesson 1** is a single-lesson resource which introduces the definition and origins of verbatim theatre. This lesson allows learners to explore copying using visual observation, and to understand and discuss the concept of verbatim theatre by listening to experts and studying a timeline of the development of verbatim techniques.
- **Lesson 2** is a multi-lesson resource framework introducing Tectonic Theater Project and The Laramie Project. After watching the play, learners will discuss the message of the play and reflect on the social and cultural impact it has.
- **Lesson 3** is a single-lesson resource which introduces the term 'socially engaged theatre' and helps the learners understand the ethical issues involved when using real-life situations and verbatim words.
- **Lesson 4** is a multi-lesson resource framework which allows the learners to explore techniques for finding verbatim information and using it appropriately.
- **Lesson 5** is a multi-lesson resource framework which revisits prior learning in the unit and allows learners to create their own verbatim text.
- **Lesson 6** is a multi-lesson resource framework which leads learners through the rehearsing, presenting, and evaluation stages of their own verbatim text.

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Thank you to the teachers who piloted this unit with their classes.

\* please see Teacher Overview - Verbatim Theatre - Edexcel.pdf