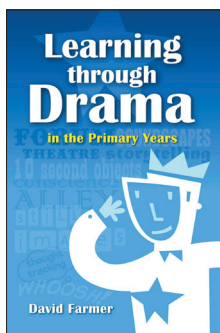


STAR RATING
Learning Through Drama in the Primary Years


A clear, well laid-out book ideal for teachers seeking to use drama in the classroom, particularly useful for those teaching KS1 and 2 students.



David Farmer's new book will prove useful to all those wishing to extend their drama teaching repertoire; from complete novices approaching the subject for the first time, through to those who have been teaching drama for many years. He suggests on the back and inside cover that the book will be valuable to newcomers and to those wishing to expand their skills. However, I would go further than this, and assert that even the most well-practiced and creative drama teacher will find something in this book that serves as a refresher, reminder or quite simply a new idea.

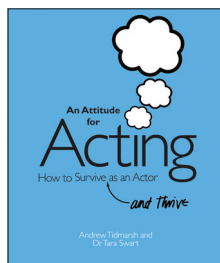
The book is well laid-out, with a clear introduction, and various games and exercises separated into categorised strategies (helpful in allowing you to dip in and out of the book if you want to). Each section has useful examples and diagrams, along with tips on preparation and even on effectively managing the lessons. There are extremely useful examples of how to drop drama into various areas of the curriculum, and some sample lesson plans at the end of the book that will prove invaluable to those newer to using drama in the classroom.

Those with more experience will find the detail with which David Farmer explains the uses and outcomes of the various strategies both insightful and revealing, so the book will be an ideal tool for those wishing to fine tune their drama teaching practice. I wholeheartedly recommend this book, which I am sure will become a must-have publication for those serious about the teaching of drama in primary school settings.

Helen Day has delivered workshops for numerous theatre companies and arts education organisations. She is co-founder of H2oh! Education, who run a range of curriculum-linked performing arts workshops in primary and secondary schools across the South East of England, and runs weekly workshops for the Beacon Arts Youth Theatre in Brighton.

STAR RATING
An Attitude for Acting: How to Survive (and Thrive) as an Actor


A self-help manual for professional actors, potentially helpful in the classroom.



Theatre director and teacher Andrew Tidmarsh and executive coach Dr Tara Swart make a good authorial pairing in this self-help manual for actors who feel they've hit a wall, combining advice specific to the profession with more general ideas on how to fulfil one's career potential.

Filled with exercises to help actors identify the factors holding them back and adopt a more positive mindset, the book is at its strongest when offering practical ways of addressing the realities of a career in acting. The tone is a touch patronising and there's rather too much self-help jargon for my taste (bearing in mind that my tolerance for such stuff is pretty low), but the amount of genuinely helpful and insightful information here makes it possible to overlook these flaws.

With its emphasis on correcting bad habits and translating negative into positive attitudes, *An Attitude for Acting* is very much aimed at actors who have already completed their training and embarked on their careers. That's not to say that some older students and teachers won't find it useful however. Young people considering going into the profession would do well to have some of the potential pitfalls of working as an actor flagged up for them. Teachers may be able to draw on some of the book's more practical exercises for use in the classroom, and plenty of Tidmarsh and Swart's advice about making the best of meetings could be applied to drama school auditions, as well as non-performing arts-related job interviews.

Book details

I, Shakespeare by **Tim Crouch**, (Oberon Books) ISBN: 978-1-849431-26-2 £10.99

How to Put On a Community Play by **Sarah Burton** (Aurora Metro Books) ISBN: 978-1-906582-15-9 £9.99

Stage Lighting: The Technicians' Guide by **Skip Mort**, (Methuen Drama) ISBN: 978-1-408123-57-7 £19.99

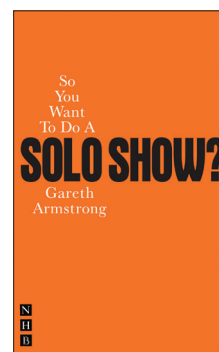
Learning Through Drama in the Primary Years by **David Farmer** (Lulu) ISBN: 978-1-4478-7732-5 £18.99

An Attitude for Acting by **Andrew Tidmarsh and Dr Tara Swart** (Nick Hern Books) ISBN: 978-1-848421-12-7 £12.99

So You Want To Do A Solo Show? by **Gareth Armstrong** (Nick Hern Books) ISBN: 978-1-84842-084-7 £10.99

STAR RATING
So You Want To Do A Solo Show?


An easy-to-read guide to creating one-person shows with lots of helpful ideas.



Theatre director and actor Gareth Armstrong has drawn upon years of experience working with writers and actors to create this eminently readable and very useful guide to making one-person shows.

Part one, in which Armstrong outlines the various options available to actors interested in the genre, will certainly be the most useful part of the book for teachers and students. With the help of some revealing case studies, the book considers the different demands of particular types of solo shows, plays about literary personalities, verbatim monologues and shows for children. Teachers might use this section as an inspiration for exercises in solo performance, perhaps exploring some of the specific texts that Armstrong refers to or asking students to write their own solo material following some of the examples the author provides.

Part two will be less useful for teaching purposes, but is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in the logistics of solo shows, from the initial germ of an idea to international touring. Armstrong covers everything you'd expect, like how to go about commissioning a writer, hiring a director and ordering print, but also includes the sorts of details that are easily forgotten but can make the difference between success and failure, such as preparing a master script for touring, the nitty-gritty of contracts and how to ensure that your show isn't ignored by venues' marketing departments. *So You Want To Do A Solo Show?* is definitely one for school drama libraries.

Jo Caird is a freelance journalist, writing about travel and the arts. For more details visit www.jocaird.com