



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

DRAMA AWARDS

The last few years have seen exciting developments in the scope, facilities and output of drama at MCS. The school benefits from a unique partnership with the Oxford Playhouse, sharing staff (including a full-time Resident Director and Producer) and facilities, meaning that pupils have access to an impressive selection of professional performance spaces. A recent partnership with the Pegasus Theatre has given us access to another high-quality space.

The range of MCS productions is significant: opportunities for sixth-form actors include an annual large-scale musical (recently *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Cabaret*) and Greek play (*Agamemnon*, *Prometheus Bound*) in the Michaelmas term, a School Play in Hilary (*A Doll's House*, *Black Comedy*, *DNA*), and a host of drama opportunities in the annual Trinity term Arts Festival. These include an open-air production on School Field (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado about Nothing*); a main stage production at the Oxford Playhouse (world première adaptations of *The Wind in the Willows* and *Alice in Wonderland* directed by RSC Associates Joanne Pearce and Adrian Noble); as well as a Sixth-form production in the Burton Taylor Studio (*The Canterbury Tales* and *A quartet of Chekhov Farces*), which transfers for a week-long residency at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. We frequently stage pieces of new writing; fully half of last year's productions were newly written for the school. LAMDA classes also run on weekdays after school throughout the year.

MCS offers Drama Scholarships (worth £300 per annum) as well as Exhibitions (worth £200 per annum) to pupils entering the Lower Sixth. Drama scholars will be expected to lead by example not just in terms of the quality of their performance skills and commitment to their on-going development, but in the professionalism with which they conduct themselves during the rehearsal process. Whilst it would be expected that scholars would form a significant presence in the casts of MCS's yearly dramatic output, it must be noted that a scholarship is no guarantee of any individual role.

On audition day, candidates will have a short informal interview about their experience and interest in theatre, and will be required to perform a prepared monologue of roughly three minutes in length; the piece is entirely of the candidate's choice. Candidates will also be asked to take part in a short paired or group activity, where the aim is to simulate a rehearsal scenario; no preparation is needed for this.

It should be noted that candidates will be judged very much upon dramatic potential at audition and that a specific dramatic profile, or quantity of prior stage experience, is not a prerequisite for success.



Drama Scholarship auditions for pupils entering the Sixth Form in September 2021 will take place on Tuesday 8th December 2020. Application forms must be submitted to the Registrar and the closing date for entries is Monday 2nd November 2020.