



## MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

### DRAMA AWARDS (16+)

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 *Oklahoma!* and *Anything Goes*) and Greek play (*Medea*, *Bakkhai*) in the Michaelmas term, Sixth Form plays in Hilary (*The Glass Menagerie*, *Nora*, *The Effect*, *All My Sons*), and a host of drama opportunities in the annual Trinity term Arts Festival. These include an open-air production on School Field (*Love's Labour's Lost*, *As you like it*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*) and a main stage production at the Oxford Playhouse which is usually the world premiere of a major new work: *The Hobbit* (2023) performed to two thousand people and earned a 5\* review from the Oxford Times. During the summer holiday we rehearse and perform a week-long touring production, often to the Edinburgh Fringe. We frequently stage pieces of new writing; fully half of this year's productions have been newly written for the school.

MCS offers Drama Scholarships (worth £200 per annum) as well as Exhibitions (worth £150 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. The school provides opportunities for scholars and exhibitioners to develop their understanding and experience of drama, with regular post-show discussion groups and acting/writing workshops, recently with a focus on physical theatre and stage combat.

On audition day, candidates will have a short informal interview about their experience and interest in theatre, and will be required to perform two prepared contrasting monologues totalling roughly three minutes in length; the pieces are entirely of the candidate's choice but we suggest one pre-1900 and one post-1900 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.

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 2024 will take place on **9<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. Applications should be made [online](#) and the closing date for entries is **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 8.30am**.