



Emanuel School

technical drama

at Emanuel



student technicians



The drama department works to ensure that students can fulfil every technical role within our productions. The students are given opportunities from year 7 to learn the various skills needed so that by the time they are senior students they can take on advanced roles on a full musical. Here is an example of the roles and opportunities available at different stages:

Year 6 and 7

Costume and Craft Club
Media Club

Year 8

Year 7 and 8 Plays - Lighting and Sound Operators, Stage crew
Costume and Craft Club
Media Club

Year 9 and 10

Musical: Followspot operators, Sound number 2, ASM, Dresser, Stage Crew, Props Supervisor, Wigs Technician
Costume and Craft Club
Theatre Tech Club
Animation Club

Year 11

Senior/Middle School Play - SM, DSM, ASM, Lighting and Sound Operators, Wardrobe Technician, Hair and Make Up
Filmmaking Club
Theatre Tech Club

6th Form

Musical - SM, DSM, Crew Chief, Fly Person, Lighting Desk Operator, Front of House Sound Engineer, Wardrobe Technician, Hair and Make Up
Filmmaking Club
Theatre Tech Club

Design

Students of all ages are encouraged to assist with realising the set and costume designs through their work in weekly clubs. They often will come in at times when work is being completed in the holidays or at weekends to help with set building and painting.

Those who are interested in the design process are encouraged to start as an assistant designer and then progress to full design roles with staff support.

recent productions

The School Musical

- 2021 School of Rock
- 2020 The Addams Family
- 2019 Oliver!
- 2018 Made In Dagenham
- 2017 We Will Rock You
- 2016 The Producers
- 2015 Annie

The Middle School/Senior Play

- 2021 A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare
- 2020 A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- 2019 The Gut Girls by Sarah Daniels
- 2018 Teechers by John Godber
- 2017 Twelfth Night by Williams Shakespeare
- 2016 Alice by Laura Wade

The Year 7 and 8 Play

- 2020/21 Paper Aeroplanes by Lauren Caffyn
- 2019 The Boy Who Fell Into A Book by Alan Ackyourn
- 2018 Illuminous by Pip Williams
- 2017 Tales from The Brothers Grimm
- 2016 The Witches by Roald Dahl
- 2015 Wendy and Peter Pan by Ella Hickson

Edinburgh Fringe Festival (biennial)

- 2020 The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde (postponed)
The Shakespeare Revue by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee (postponed)
- 2018 The Twits by Roald Dahl
Still Life by Noel Coward
- 2016 The Suitcase Kid by Jaqueline Wilson
- 2014 The Women of Troy by Euripides

Play In A Week

- 2019 Theatre Uncut: A Response to the Countrywide Spending Cuts
- 2019 Heritage by Dafydd James
- 2018 Zero For The Young Dudes by Alistair McDowall
- 2017 Rhinoceros by Eugene Ionesco
- 2016 Success by Nick Drake
- 2015 The Verbatim Project by Sam Luffman and The Cast

The Year 6 Play

- 2022 Disney's The Aristocats
- 2021 I've Got No Strings by Howard Sykes (postponed)
- 2020 Annie Junior (postponed)
- 2018 Honk Junior
- 2017 Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
- 2016 The Voyage of The Jumblies by Philip Freeman Sayer



Costume and Craft Club

Emanuel offers five costume club sessions a week in which pupils learn how to design costumes and make them for our shows. Pupils are taught about fabrics and colour and, in early sessions, make themselves small pieces to take home before advancing to creating costumes for the many shows we perform at Emanuel.

Theatre Tech Club

Pupils more drawn towards the technical side of Drama are encouraged to join our technical club. The department runs two technical clubs a week (year 9-10 and 11-13) which prepare the Fiennes Theatre for all of the shows mentioned above as well as working in the Hampden Hall to prepare for events. The club teaches the skills needed to work on the shows and troubleshoot problems that can arise in live theatre.

Media/Filmmaking Clubs

The Media Coordinator runs clubs for all year groups to learn various skills. They start by making and editing Emanuel News and progress through animation club to film making club where short films are made and entered into competitions.

Drama Club

For pupils who enjoy Drama but don't enjoy performing, a weekly drama club is available to help pupils improve their confidence. Pupils are invited to create short pieces and play lots of fun games. This can also help to improve pupils' skills when performing in their lessons.

Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form

Every other August, we take 20 pupils up to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival – the world's largest arts festival that showcases roughly 4,000 shows in 25 days. We take up two different shows, meaning two separate styles of production.

There is one technician per show who is responsible for all technical elements.





The Fiennes Theatre

This a 116 seat theatre with retractable seating which can work in a variety of seating configurations. It is the venue for all school shows apart from the musical.

It has a tension wire grid for students to safely work at height and full lighting and sound support with an ETC element lighting desk and Allen and Heath QUI6 sound desk. The lanterns are mostly from Source 4 and we have begun the process of replacing our generic fixtures with LED units.

The theatre is the location of our props store along with the main storage for tools, paint, sewing machines and haberdashery.



The Drama Studio

This is a small venue with a basic sound and lighting rig. It is mostly used for monologues and teaching. It also acts as the backstage and quick change area during shows.



The Costume Store

Our store contains many stock items that are used for exam work and items from past shows that can be used again. We help local schools who have limited facilities by lending costumes where we can.



The Hampden Hall

This is the main school hall used for the school musical as well as assemblies, concerts and lectures. It has a rig that works well for events with extra equipment is hired in for the musical.



Other Departments

We have excellent art and DT facilities as well as a lot of expertise around the school. There are staff with set design and scenic art experience in the DT department and admin team. As well as colleagues in DT, geography and IT who assist with painting, making and sewing when we need them. The maintenance team are also supportive with set building large items.





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