



PILOT THEATRE PRESENT

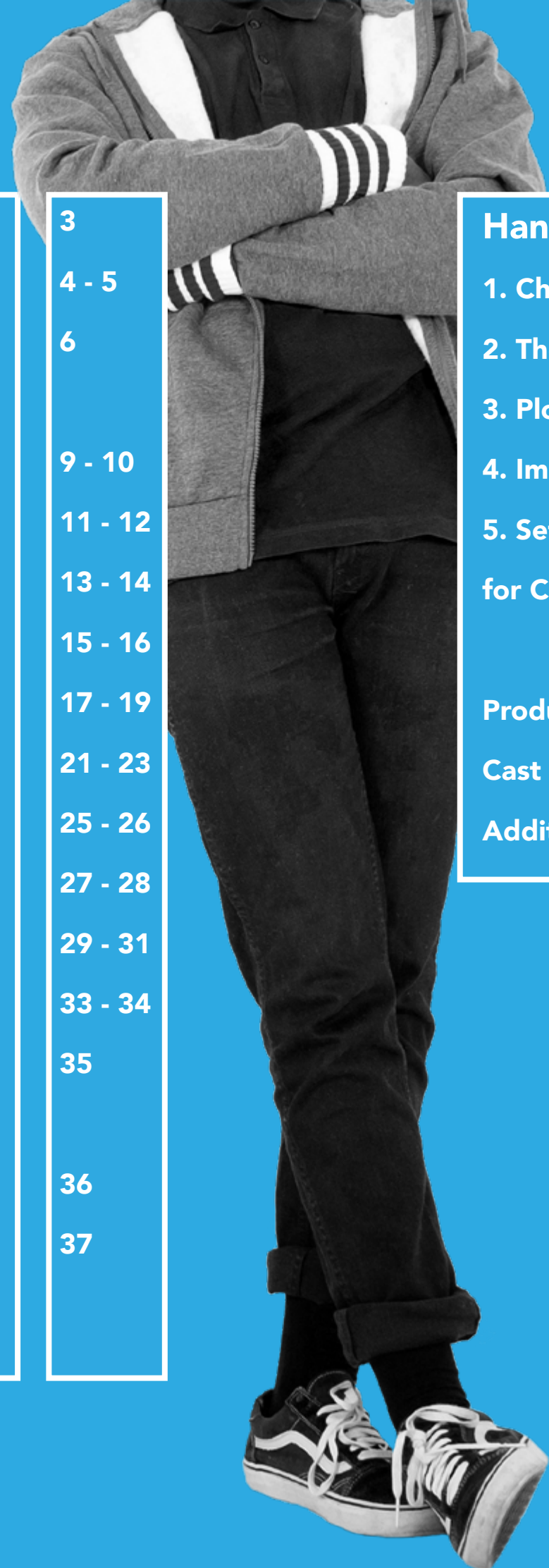
CRONGTON

KNIGHTS

TEACHING PACK

GCSE DRAMA

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INTRODUCTION THE SHOW

By Alex Wheatle

Adapted by Emteaz Hussain

Directed by Corey Campbell and Esther Richardson

Co-production with Belgrade Theatre Coventry, Derby Theatre and York Theatre Royal

Teaching Pack created by Carolyn Bradley

Photography by Robert Day

If you have any questions about the content in this pack or how to use it, please contact education@pilot-theatre.com

"I don't know why I listened to you about going on this mission! Now we're in the middle of nowhere dot com, buses ain't rolling, and they're gonna beat us down, shank us, and then fling us in some big bin!"

Life isn't easy on the Crongton Estate and for McKay and his mates it's all about keeping their heads down but when a friend finds herself in trouble, they set out on a mission that goes further than any of them imagined.

Crongton Knights will take you on a night of madcap adventure as McKay and his friends 'The Magnificent Six' encounter the dangers and triumphs of a mission gone awry. In this world premiere adaptation of Alex Wheatle's award-winning novel, the pulse of the city is alive on stage with a soundscape of beatboxing and vocals laid down by the cast and created by acclaimed musician Conrad Murray.

Crongton Knights is about the friends you'll never forget and how lessons learned the hard way can bring you closer together.

"Alex Wheatle is an inspirer. He is a vital writer. He is a prince among men. Long may he reign."
Lemn Sissay

ABOUT THIS PACK

This teaching pack contains full lesson plans, handouts, medium-term planning suggestions and additional resources to support the teaching of "Crongton Knights" as a live theatre production to GCSE Drama students, and also as a devising stimulus.

The lesson plans will aim to satisfy the following assessment objectives for GCSE Drama:

- AO1 Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance. 20%
- AO2 Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance. 30%
- AO3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed. 30%
- AO4 Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others. 20%

Below is a breakdown of the learning activities and how these meet the GCSE Drama Assessment Objectives:

Assesment Objectives	Learning Activities	Key Learning Outcomes
AO1	Using Crongton Knights as a stimulus for devising Exploring the themes and characters through still images, improvisation and devised drama Opportunities to create documentary theatre, verbatim theatre, Brechtian Epic theatre and TIE performances	Students will learn about the themes and characters of the play in depth Students will learn a variety of techniques for creating devised drama Students will learn a range of different styles and genres of theatre and their conventions
AO2	Creating devised performances and developing theatrical skills through a live performance based on Crongton Knights	Students will learn how to apply acting skills to a live performance, developing their 'Actor's Toolbox' – interpreting characters from the play and in the creation of their own characters

Assesment Objectives	Learning Activities	Key Learning Outcomes
AO3	Learning design terminology to apply to a live theatre evaluation Understanding how a live theatre production is made Learning techniques and the technical terminology for creating a piece of theatre	Students will develop their specialist vocabulary when analysing and evaluating live theatre They will develop knowledge and understanding of how a theatre production is made
AO4	Analysing specific moments from Crongton Knights and studying the use of set, lighting, sound and costume design for effect Analysing the performances in Crongton Knights and studying the performers' use of skill	Students will learn to describe, analyse and evaluate specific moments in performance in depth, applying specialist terminology to respond to set questions

Note to teachers:

Most lessons are stand alone and can be extended into multiple lessons at your discretion. You can choose just to use the live theatre lessons, or the devising lessons, or the lessons can be combined to make a longer scheme of work, and a suggestion for a medium term plan is included in the pack. Some suggestions for extension tasks or alternative tasks are included, but you may wish to provide more differentiation for your setting.

Please note: The novel and play contain some use of strong language and sensitive themes, so it is always advised that you watch the production in full yourself before sharing with students, and you are aware of any triggering issues that may arise in your context. There are websites for signposting should students be affected by any of the issues in the performance. As ever, you know your students best.

Many thanks and we hope you enjoy teaching Crongton Knights!



**“IT’S BONKERS LIVING HERE
BUT WHEN THINGS ARE ON A LEVEL,
BRUVS AND SISTERS CHILL,
SOCCER GAMES BOOT OFF IN THE PARK,
SUMMER JAMS PUMP OUT BLASTING”**

- MCKAY

FILM

The webcast version of Crongton Knights was recorded at York Theatre Royal on Friday 28 February 2020.

Purchasing this pack allows unlimited access to the recording for the academic year within which you purchased the resource. You can access the password-protected recording by clicking the video thumbnail below.

Subtitles are optional and can be turned on by clicking the CC button that is positioned in the lower right corner of the playback window.

If you have any issues with the video please email sam@pilot-theatre.com.



LESSON PLAN 1:

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHARACTERS OF CRONGTON KNIGHTS

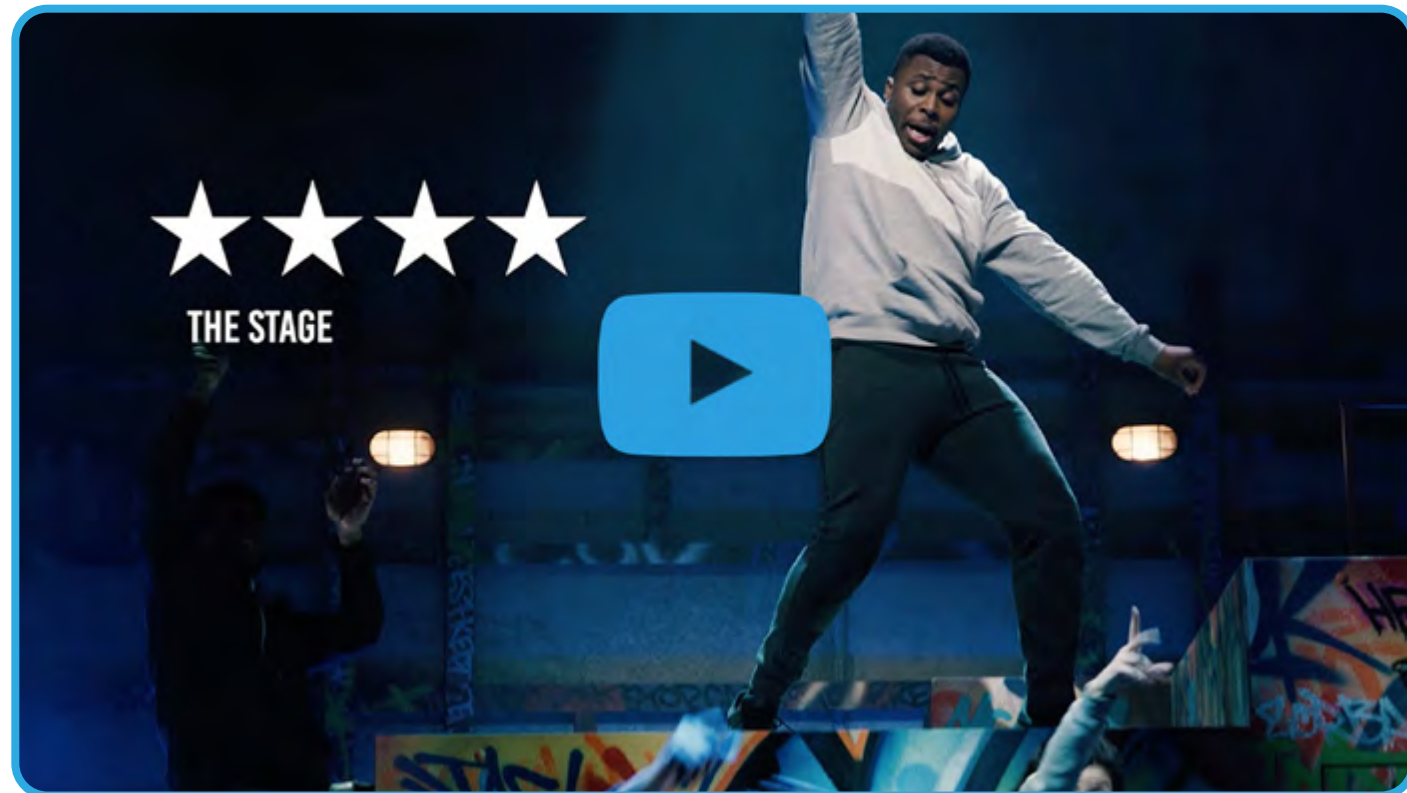
GCSE Assessment Objectives: AO1 Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance.

Starter task (10 mins): Watch the trailer for the Crongton Knights production. Discuss with students what their initial impressions are of this production so far. What do they infer from this introduction?

Ask students to comment with reference to:

- Theatrical style and genre
- Mood and atmosphere
- Themes
- Potential plot ideas
- Music
- Design elements – e.g. use of colour, set, costume, lighting

Students could write predications about the themes and plot on post its, which they can then refer to at the end of the lesson.



Development tasks (30 mins): Give students the Character Breakdowns Handout (Handout 1) and ask them to get into groups of 6.

In their groups, students need to assign themselves a character each, and read the information which relates to their character. They should then create a 2-3 minute monologue as their character from the play, where they introduce us to their character. It is important they improvise their own dialogue, and don't just read the information from the Handout. They don't necessarily need to use all of the information and can be creative with how they perform their character. Give students 10 minutes to prepare their short performance, and then watch a few, and give students feedback on their portrayals.

Now, ask students in their groups of 6 to combine their solo performances into a group improvisation scene. This could act as a prologue to the play, Crongton Knights. Their scene could combine elements of their monologues but should also include improvised dialogue showing the six friends interacting.

Plenary tasks (20 mins): Ask each group to perform their devised prologue scene, and encourage students to peer assess each others' performances.

Homework: In preparation for the next lesson, you could set a homework task asking students to research the following issues and bring in researched information:

- Knife crime in the UK
- Poverty in the UK
- The 2011 Riots
- Refugees from Syria and the Syrian War
- Sexting and Sending Nude Pictures

Plenary task (15 mins): Ask students to feedback on their note taking, selecting students to read out their description, analysis and evaluation of a key moment of set design, or asking students to swap books and peer assess each others' notes for detail.

Optional extensions: You could extend this lesson in to two, by focusing in a lot of detail on 3-4 key moments of set design, perhaps approaching these as a whole class. Another lesson could also be spent watching the *Pilot Connects Q&A with Simon Kenny and Esther Richardson*, co-director of *Crongton Knights*. In this session, Simon gives more insight into his design choices. You could also set students a mock exam question in the style of your exam board, and they could spend a full lesson answering a practice question in timed conditions.





THE CAST



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CROUGHTON KNIGHTS