

## Candidate F evidence

### I Don't Mean To Be Dramatic But...

Some may argue that in order to participate in anything drama related that you have to be 'talented' or there is no point. This is so wrong. Drama is not all about performing, in fact, it's only a small portion of it. What people get wrong time and time again is thinking that drama involves putting on a costume, getting into makeup, learning a bunch of lines and performing in front of large crowds. What people don't realize is that there are multiple other factors that contribute to drama as a whole. I often get told repeatedly... "I can't do drama, I can't act" or "you are good at acting, it comes easily to you" and I often stress to people that performing is not all there is to it; there are many other routes within the subject of drama that can equally contribute to shaping the mind of a young impressionable student.

From a personal point of view, the Drama provision in my school is an absolute farce: one part-time teacher, one drama classroom and no drama until the 4th year of secondary school. The poor junior years, I don't know how I coped being deprived like that. All I know is, I could have done with a drama game or two to help break the ice between me and my new classmates. Getting kids involved in drama at a younger age should be mandatory. In many ways, it is more important than core P.E. I mean, what's *that* meant to teach you? Classes divided by gender, running around an AstroTurf kicking a ball and doing nothing but teaching kids to be fuelled with rage, having kids feeling left out when picking teams and the overall effort of having to put up with the glorious Scottish weather. I mean, what troglodyte thought of this curriculum? Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying physical education is pointless, but it certainly shouldn't take priority over the skills that can be developed in drama. Drama doesn't just teach you how to 'act', it does a lot more. So many people I know have come out of their shell simply by participating. Everyone is treated as an individual, everyone can shine in their own way and the subject can be tailored to someone's strengths. I realize that acting isn't for everyone, so why not do set

design? Or lighting? Sound, costume, makeup and the list goes on. From a personal perspective, I know that when it comes to putting on a performance, everyone works side by side together to make sure that the performance runs. I guess what I'm trying to say is that teamwork is key for success, and what better way to teach kids about teamwork. On top of all this, everyone feels a sense of importance which in turn leaves you feeling rewarded. And let's not forget one of the most important skills that someone can develop through their involvement in drama - confidence. Confidence has an immense impact on how we live our everyday lives; the development of such opens doors to a multitude of opportunities, and confidence widens people's abilities, allowing them to partake in slightly daunting activities. For example, public speaking, seminars, presentations or even just a job interview, these are challenges adults face every day so why aren't the government encouraging some aspect of mandatory involvement to improve the skills and abilities of their young people.

I suppose the biggest thing that irks me most is not the fact that people choose not to participate; if something isn't for you, that's fine. You try something, you realise it's not for you and then you move on. There is no issue with this. What bothers me is that kids aren't being given the chance. Take my school again for example: no drama until senior phase, we never do a school play or musical for it is 'too much work' and our drama facilities are next to nothing. All I can think about is that there are kids no one knows about, whose talents are being bypassed in the more conventional subjects and we aren't giving them the chance. It's simply unfair. This isn't just an issue in schools. In my local community, you always hear about the 'Wednesday night football' or the 'after school rugby' yet nothing geared towards kids with a much more creative approach. There are quite simply no extracurricular opportunities for them. I can think of one drama 'club' floating around near me. One. Even at that, it's run-down and slowly dying out. What are we doing? From a

cultural standpoint it's a sin, because we are abandoning of a massive aspect of literature. Exploration through drama enables audiences and actors alike to gain a different perspective; drama works often explore progressive themes and allow for them to be discussed in a normal environment. Let's not deny young people this experience.

Despite all this being said, we can't put all the blame on schools or the lack of opportunity in the community. We face a much bigger problem far worse than an unfair system. The joy of a stubborn teenage mind-set. It's true, a lot of kids (especially boys) hold back when given a rare opportunity to take part. I suppose it stems from the ludicrous idea that boys tend to feel 'less masculine' and would much rather see themselves being slammed to the grass and trampled on by studded boots, as opposed to 'dressing up' and 'parading' around a stage chanting "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" Come on boys, get a grip. Man up and give it a chance! There is nothing wrong with adopting a character portraying whatever it is you're trying to tell; just like there is nothing wrong with being rugby-tackled to the ground (a little barbaric and slightly more embarrassing in my humble opinion but who am I to judge). I suppose what I'm trying to say is that perhaps if more kids were exposed to the performing arts there wouldn't be so many false stereotypes that come along with it. In actual fact, I have always found that telling people you are an actor goes down a treat with the ladies; I suppose there is something quite sexy about the whole concept. But again, that's just my opinion. Or maybe my secret hope.

My message is simple. If you feel that you can't really find anything that interests you, or you feel you are always living in a bubble; if you need a confidence boost or even want to just make a few friends, be a part of something bigger and go for it! I can't speak for all schools, but as a general statement, please reconsider the beneficial impact that drama can have on young minds. Schools who value teamwork, confidence and self-expression

would be foolish to not introduce drama as part of core education. Drama can teach you a lot, it may even teach you that you have an underlying talent. It did for me. The opportunities I have had over the past few years of my life would not have been available to me had I not started my small little drama group at the age of 8. So I will finish on this note, to all my fellow thespians out there: now is the time to act.

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