# A Brief History of Theatre

An informal introduction to the development of European theatre from its earliest origins in ancient Greece to the five key practitioners (Henrik Ibsen, Anton Chechov, Constantin Stanislavsky, Bertolt Brecht & Samuel Beckett) who provided the solid foundations for modern 20th and 21st century theatre.

The 16 weekly sessions (10am-12pm) are shown below with the texts that are linked to each session:

2018

Oct 16th 1. Introductions and Myth, Ritual & Religion (no text for this session)

Oct 23rd 2. Greek Theatre – the origins (The Oresteia by Aeschylus)

Oct 30th 3. Greek Tragedy – the playwrights (Electra by Sophocles and The Trojan Women by Euripides)

Nov 6th 4. Roman Tragedy - (Thyestes by Seneca)

Nov 13th 5. Greek & Roman Comedy (Lysistrata by Aristophanes)

Nov 20th 6. Medieval Mystery Plays - (The Creation, Noah, Abraham & Isaac, The Crucifixion)

Nov 27th 7. Medieval Morality plays and Tudor Interludes (Mankind)

Dec 4th 8. Elizabethan Theatre and Shakespeare (Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe)

Dec 11th 9. Jacobean & Caroline (‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore by John Ford)

2019

Jan 15th 10. Restoration Theatre (The Country Wife by William

Wycherley)

Jan 22nd 11. 18th Century Theatre (The Beggars’ Opera by John Gay)

Jan 29th 12. 19th Century & Melodrama (The Bells by Leopald Lewis)

Feb 5th 13. Henrik Ibsen (Hedda Gabler)

Feb 12th 14. Chekhov & Stanislavski (The Cherry Orchard)

Feb 19th 15. Brecht & Political Theatre (The Threepenny Opera)

Feb 26th 16. Samuel Beckett & Theatre of the Absurd (Waiting for Godot)