

Year 12 Drama Ensemble Performance

THE MODERN-DAY WITCH-HUNT

Definitions (various sources)

A campaign directed against a person or group holding unorthodox or unpopular views.

A campaign of persecution launched on the pretext of investigating activities subversive to the state and/or community.

An investigation carried out ostensibly to uncover subversive activities but actually used to harass or undermine those with differing views.

An intensive effort to discover and expose disloyalty, subversion, dishonesty, or the like, usually based on slight, doubtful, or irrelevant evidence.

The act of seeking and persecuting any perceived enemy, particularly when the search is conducted using extreme measures and with little regard to actual guilt or innocence.

Modern-day witch-hunts

Your group is to select one of the following modern-day witch-hunts to use as the basis of your ensemble performance. Investigate the witch-hunt that occurred and dramatise the characters and events surrounding it.

- Julian Assange and WikiLeaks
- Muslims in America post 9/11
- David Hicks and Guantanamo Bay
- Climate change skeptics
- Aung San Suu Kyi and Burmese elections
- Illegal aliens in the US
- Salman Rushdie and The Satanic Verses

Performance Style

Non-naturalism with aspects of epic theatre.

Dramatic Elements

Language, symbol, space.

Theatrical Conventions

Transformation of place, transformation of character, transformation of object, disjointed time sequences (flash-forwards and flashbacks), plus various epic theatre conventions.