

A 10-STEP STUDENT GUIDE TO CREATING KATIE MITCHELL'S LIVE CINEMA

KEY STAGES 4 & 5

Live Cinema is what defines Katie Mitchell as a Director and has many features which are filmic. Follow this 10-Step guide to creating your own Live Cinema performance, using minimal resources.

- 1) Find a piece of writing that interests you. To stay faithful to Mitchell's style and methodology, this should be a text with a central female character, or you can adapt the narrative of the text to focus on a minor female character. For example, choosing to focus on Ophelia rather than Hamlet. The text can be a novel, play or poem.
- 2) All scripts for Live Cinema are film scripts rather than play scripts. Create a film script, with around eighty percent voice-over and 'thoughts aloud', written in italics.
- 3) Think about the Soundtrack. Mitchell is hugely influenced by film sound effects and music, both literal and abstract, and how it can indicate shifts in psychology and mood.
- 4) Start to use your phones to film at stage level. Suspend a white sheet or screen above the stage to project onto project live onto. A projector can be connected wirelessly to your I-Phone.
- 5) Consider what style of theatre you are creating. e.g. naturalistic/ thriller/ expressionistic.
- 6) In terms of lighting, Mitchell suggests avoiding the use of theatre lights. Instead, she suggests using practical's and house lamps, as you can focus them more easily and experiment more. It is important at this stage to explore what the light does on camera and use light coming from the side and front of the stage, as opposed to from above.
- 7) Experiment with film acting or acting for camera.
- 8) Plan each shot in seven second chunks, thinking about when to 'cut'. If possible, one member of your group should be a dedicated camera operator. One group member can operate the microphone (which could be attached to a broom handle as a boom!)
- 9) Create a detailed storyboard, planning which shots are close-ups, medium and long-shots.
- 10) Continue to rehearse and present the Live Cinema performance to an audience!