Structure 2 – The Queen of the Red Hat Society

Stimulus material
The poem ‘Warning’ by Jenny Joseph

Performance focus
Create a solo performance based on the character of the Queen of the Red Hat Society. In a dispute over the use of a community hall, the Queen of the local Red Hat Society is confronted by the newly elected millennial Mayor. Tired of being told to ‘act your age’, the irreverent Queen asserts that maturing women should not be invisible in today’s society and that they should defy stereotypes.

The Queen of the Red Hat Society does this by:
- recreating moments from the poem ‘Warning’
- demonstrating the ways in which women have been expected to conform throughout the ages
- creating a parallel(s) with another woman from history who has defied convention.
Queen of the Red Hat Society

Do it if the following intrigues you:

– 1. Bold characterisation, strong orator, speech maker, rhyme and rhythm
– 2. Quality & specific historical/social research required
– 3. Politically or socially minded, unconventional thinker, irreverent

Potential Dramatic Element
Conflict: The direct conflict with the Mayor, and inner/external conflict around conforming.

– Potential Conveniton
Satire: Mocking the millennial Mayor’s concerns and lampooning/comparing generational woes.