

Preparing Post 16 – A Level Drama and Theatre



PRACTITIONERS

I have included links to websites and various clips, videos, reading etc that you can do to help you brush up your knowledge before you get stuck in to your post-16 education.

Task: Create a revision poster or PowerPoint presentation for each of the practitioners and theatre companies before you start sixth form/college.

Konstantin
Stanislavski:
Naturalism

Antonin Artaud:
Theatre of Cruelty

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zxn4mp3/revision/1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iB1fPZX5Zgk>

<https://thedramateacher.com/theatre-of-cruelty-conventions/>

Bertolt Brecht: Epic Theatre

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwmvd2p/revision/1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-828KqtTkA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-A8mCjRu5g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7fqMPDcKXM>

Physical Theatre



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztfk6sg/revision/1>

One of the most popular and well-established physical theatre companies is **Frantic Assembly**. They have just launched Frantic Digital which has practical exercises/tasks you can do independently at home. The link is:

<https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/frantic-digital>

You could also look at/watch the following:

<https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/the-frantic-method>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7R_V2iCZoY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC9uJrY9Bh8>

But there are many more.....

See Gecko- Stylised Physical Theatre

<https://www.geckotheatre.com/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PQpxi7h_rc

See Shared Experience- Expressionism

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=share
d+experience+theatre+company](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=share+d+experience+theatre+company)

<https://www.sharedexperience.org.uk/>

See Headlong- Innovative ensemble theatre

<https://headlong.co.uk/>

See PunchDrunk- Immersive theatre

<https://www.punchdrunk.org.uk/>

See Kneehigh Theatre

<https://www.kneehigh.co.uk/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnS8Bedf
dJrbJcmhydeF3Rg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnS8BedfdJrbJcmhydeF3Rg)

See DV8 Physical Theatre/ Verbatim Theatre/
Multimedia

<https://www.dv8.co.uk/students>

[https://www.youtube.com/user/DV8PhysicalTh
eatre](https://www.youtube.com/user/DV8PhysicalTheatre)

But there are many more.....

Alecky Blythe- Verbatim Theatre Maker (Recorded Delivery)

<https://www.unitedagents.co.uk/alecky-blythe>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u21hmi7O6xE>

Nicolas Kent- Verbatim Theatre

<https://nicolaskent.com/>

John Godber- Political Comedy

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=john+godber

<http://thejohngodbercompany.co.uk/>

Katie Mitchell- Naturalism/Multimedia

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=katie+mitchell+theatre

<https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/articles/an-introduction-to-katie-mitchells-theatre#>

SET TEXT
ANTIGONE

Performance of Antigone

Here is a theatrical performance of Antigone by the Actors of Dionysus. This is one of the set texts studied at A Level. <https://vimeo.com/399891730>

Brief Synopsis:

Antigone begins with The two sons of Oedipus, **Eteocles** and **Polynices**, who are fighting for the kingship of Thebes. Both men die in the battle. Their successor, **Creon**, decides that King Eteocles will be buried, but Polyneices, because he was leading a foreign army, will be left on the field of battle. **Antigone**, his sister, buries him anyway.

Antigone is caught burying Polyneices and is condemned to death. Her fiance and Creon's son, **Haemon**, learns about this and tries to convince Creon to change his mind. It's only then that the seer Tiresias appears. After a long discussion, he finally persuades Creon that the gods want Polyneices buried. By then it's too late -- Antigone has hung herself, Haemon kills himself when he finds her, and Creon's wife kills herself when she learns about her son.

Antigone

You will become very familiar with the term 'Social, Historical and Cultural Context'. To get you started click on the link below and watch the documentary entitled 'The Greatest Show On Earth'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAkLTWQUbG8>

LIVE THEATRE

Live Theatre Evaluation

- You will be familiar with this at GCSE.
- **Watch lots of theatre.** There are many organisations, such as the National Theatre and The Globe, who are streaming their productions for **free!!!** We are letting you know of various performances you can watch and where to find them on our Twitter @Drama_BayH and on our Instagram bay_house_drama

Follow this link for regular updates on live shows that are available for free on a weekly basis and how to access them.

https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/stage-shows-musicals-opera-free-stream-online_51198.html

HISTORY OF THEATRE

During the course we aim to develop your understanding of the history of theatre. This is closely linked to developing your knowledge of social, historical and cultural contexts of the work you create. Below are two websites that you can read to get ahead of the game.

<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2214&HistoryID=ab35>rack=pthc>

<https://myetudes.org/access/content/user/mazu48009/PDF%20Files/history.pdf>

TASK

CREATE A TIMELINE OF WHAT YOU CONSIDER ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ERAS IN THE HISTORY OF THEATRE. YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON JUST BRITAIN, EUROPE, AMERICA OR WORLDWIDE.

PRACTICAL TASKS

Practical Work that you can do whilst self-isolating and social distancing!

- Read plays if you have access to them.
- Practise your skills by learning and **performing monologues**

Where can I look for monologues? (this is not an extensive list!)

- Shakespeare Plays
- Any published play
- Monologue Collection Books- you can purchase several of these online.
- <https://www.monologuearchive.com/>
- <https://stageagent.com/monologues>

A reminder that if you are searching on the internet, to triple check that they are from published plays.

Top tips for finding a monologue-

- 1) Make it a character of the same gender as you. (or a character that has no prescribed gender)
- 2) Make it a character of a similar age range as you. (Teen/Young Adult)
- 3) Think about the sort of character you like to perform- does the character's emotion play to your acting strengths?
- 4) Is it from a published play? Exam boards won't allow it if it is not and this is also a general rule for Drama School Auditions. They like you to have read the whole play, so you can really understand your character/context/the story you are telling etc. You can find this information out online.
- 5) Make sure you enjoy it- otherwise, performing over and over again will become repetitive and boring.

Top tips for working on your monologue-

- 1) Read the whole play. Having an understanding of why your character is saying/what they are doing etc is vital to your delivery.
- 2) Now do some research about the play. Learn about the context, the time in was set it, what was going on in the world at the time.
- 3) If you can, watch some other people perform it, you might find some versions on youtube. This will be helpful to see what you can do with it, alongside what not to do with it.
- 4) Read it through a couple of times- OUT LOUD!
- 5) Take note of where the punctuation is, pause when there is a comma/full stop etc. this will help you with the flow of the speech.
- 6) Think about setting, stage directions, where will you physically be on stage, and how will you move around the stage.
- 7) Annotate these things onto your script.
- 8) Now get up and start performing.
- 9) Film it, watch it back, critically evaluate your performance. WWW/EBI.
- 10) Learn the words. You will find that character is easier to portray when you are not on script, this frees up your hands to use gestures, allows you to directly communicate with the audience.

A creative task to help you prepare

'ME'

Create a 2 minute performance entitled 'Me'.

You will do this on your own, and perform on your own.

It can be done in any style and can contain sound, music, technology etc It can be pre-recorded

Think about how to express 'you', your character, your inner most thoughts but through performance. What techniques can you use to help you tell your story? It could look back over your life in its entirety or one aspect of your life so far. Use your imagination and be creative.

The point of this task is for you to be creative but to think about HOW we express ourselves and our real thoughts and feelings...deep eh! It links to lots of different aspects of what you learn on the A Level course and is a nice project for you to do at home. Be prepared to share what you have created when you begin the course.

Vocal Warm Ups and Voice Work

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc-_hoG4nec
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBoOyCLICcU>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_MvIGKwLh0
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRdFtrv2yGA>

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqU0z_AP5HM
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3Kj0-a7TAQ>