



Welcome to Btec Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts.



Here are some activities you can be doing to give you a head start for when we get back in September. The focus is on widening your knowledge and understanding of Performing Arts which will in turn develop your practical ability to create original drama and make live theatre.

While there is no expectation for you to formally submit your work it will form the basis of discussion work at the beginning of the course. It will also give you a taste for the subject at sixth form and widen your subject knowledge in preparation for September.

As well as Acting we will also be studying Musical Theatre.

The first task asks you to give a personal response to live or digitally streamed theatre productions while the second is a romp through different styles of theatre to stimulate ideas for you.

Task 1 A - Analysing the work of Frantic Assembly.

The first thing to do is to watch 'Lovesong'. You can do this by logging onto Digital Theatre following this link:

<https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education/plays-and-productions>

Login with:

Username: student.kevi

Password : dt123

Then, create a short PowerPoint presentation. You will have to be a detective to scour the internet for more information/interviews/reviews about this play.

Within your presentation you should include one slide about each of the following:

- The play synopsis and its style
- When and where it was performed
- The name of the theatre company / director
- The social and historical context of the play
- The playwright
- Favourite character and why
- What you like about it and why
- Memorable moments in the performance
- Interesting and symbolic design elements (lighting/sound/set/costumes/props)
- How does it inspire you as a performer?

Here's another site to help you with this project:

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

Task 1 B . Analysing the work of DV8

DV8 combine verbatim theatre with physical dance and drama. Verbatim theatre is created by playwright's interviewing a person and using their exact words within a piece of drama. It can be expressed naturalistically or interpreted stylistically with movement and dance.

Get onto

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

and find out as much as you can about Lloyd Newson and DV8.

Find out as much as you can about his play called 'To be Straight with you'
What made him create it?

Then,

'Watch Hips Don't Lie'- this is a short scene from a longer work called 'To be Straight with you'

You can view this on YouTube or you can set up your own login in on DV8 Media Portal.

Then add to your PowerPoint presentation including one slide on the following:

- Who are DV8?
- The play synopsis and its style
- When and where it was performed
- The social and historical context of the play (What prompted Lloyd Newson to write it?)
- What is this scene about?
- Why does DV8 use Bharatanatyam movement to portray the Muslim character?
- Why this song?
- What you like about it and why
- Interesting and symbolic design elements (lighting/sound/set/costumes/props)
- How does it inspire you as a performer?

Clues in the Text

Using the interviewees' words to influence the movement and staging of the scene.

Production: To Be Straight With You

Scene: Hips Don't Lie

One performer plays the interviewee, a Muslim, married father of two, who fears the damnation he will face for his ongoing homosexual relationship with a white married man (played by a second performer).

Dissecting the scene:

Prompts: The interviewee states at the beginning of the scene that he thinks he is a good dancer, and refers to the song 'Hips Don't Lie'. The choice of Asian dance traditions ties back to the interviewee's ethnic heritage, but also the fact that he was at a gay Asian night when the DV8 team first met him. The interviewee talks about not being able to resist the music and 'the dancing'. He also talks about dancing not being acceptable in his country of origin. This scene is a miniature study of what is accepted and forbidden in his culture, be it homosexuality and/or dance.

Task 2. Watching Musical theatre, Acting and Dance.

Here are a number of clips/ performances trying to show as wide a range of theatre styles as possible. There is no expectation that you watch all of these and I don't need you to write or report anything. Just dive in and enjoy!

Acting

Peter Hall's Agamemnon



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7sdZQ1BDs0>

National Theatre Shakespeare.



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

Also there are loads on :

BBC iPlayer Culture in Quarantine

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/arts>

Mystery Plays – The Nativity (old one of my all-time favourites-use this technique a lot!)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8yiULNjUDg>

Artaud



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeZMse8YqDs>

Indonesian Puppet Theatre



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfydro4X2t0>

Dance

Christopher Bruce- Swan song



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=038BdfaaVVs>

Akram Khan Vertical Road



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgcW3rTOELM>

Matthew Bourne Swan Lake



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvZO-UYsehs>

Musical Theatre

There are absolutely loads to choose from but here are some that would be most useful to watch as we will be talking about these in September:

Hairspray
Chicago
Matilda
Mama Mia
We Will Rock You
Our House
Les Misérables
Fiddler on the Roof
Oklahoma
Pirates of Penzance
Miss Saigon
Jesus Christ Superstar
Joseph

Andrew Lloyd Webber is putting a lot of his stuff on YouTube free every Friday for 48 hours.

