



UXBRIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL



Sixth Form Transition Pack

PERFORMING ARTS

COURSE INTRODUCTION

The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. It is a growth industry that offers diverse employment opportunities, for example in dance, drama, music, theatre, film, puppetry, costume design, directing, set design, makeup or special effects, as well as in the support functions and roles that bring these art forms to the fore.

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate and consistent with current practice. Students will study six mandatory units, covering the following:

- Investigating Practitioners' Work
- Group Performance Workshop
- Individual Performance Commission
- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- Performing Arts in the Community
- Final Live Performance to an Audience.

This qualification enables students to acquire substantial cross-sector knowledge, as well as practical skills.

Overall, the industry contributes approximately £4 billion to the UK economy and is a major employer. The UK's performing arts sector is vibrant, varied and hugely successful.

Essential summer reading

Brecht B - Brecht on Theatre

Brook P - The Empty Space

Innes C - Modern British Drama 1890 to 1990

Stanislavski C - An Actor's Handbook

Stanislavski C - An Actor Prepares

Plays by Bertolt Brecht

- Mother Courage and Her Children
- The Threepenny Opera
- The Caucasian Chalk Circle
- The Good Person of Szechwan

Essential summer viewing/listening

www.youtube.com - Look up clips of Brecht and Stanislavski

www.nationaltheatre.org.uk - Look up their latest performance of '3 Penny Opera'

www.bbc.co.uk/education

www.plays.about.com

www.theatrefutures.org.uk

www.unicorntheatre.com

www.vam.ac.uk/page/t/theatre-history

Task to be completed

Introduction

Konstantin Stanislavski was a Russian stage actor and director who developed the naturalistic performance technique known as the 'Stanislavsky method' or method acting. Russian practitioner, Stanislavski's ideas are very influential. He believed in naturalistic performances that were as realistic as possible, and invented techniques that you can use. Bertolt Brecht, a German playwright, is best known for his plays and poems, in which he embraced anti-bourgeois themes. Brecht's ideas for the theatre have been very influential. He wanted to make the audience think, and used a range of dramatic devices to remind them that they were watching theatre and not real life.

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the performance techniques developed by Stanislavski or Brecht.
2. Understand the social, historical and political context of the work of Brecht or Stanislavski.
3. Understand the key features of **Epic theatre** or **Naturalism** in the theatre.

Task 1: Research

Use the websites and resources below to research both influential drama practitioners. Make sure you note down where your information came from as you will need to make this clear

later on. Take the time to reflect on what influences these practitioners may have had on work that you have produced and performances you have seen. Make an educated decision on which practitioner you would like to understand further.

Task 2: Project Work

You will produce a project which shows you have met the three learning outcomes above. You will need to conduct research and show your findings in a neat and organised way. You may want to include:

- Brainstorms
- Posters
- Extended writing
- Bullet points/ notes
- Pictures/ photographs that have been annotated
- Articles
- Theatre reviews

The work must be your own and any quotes must be referenced. Please see the advice on Harvard Referencing.