

A-Level Theatre Studies – Preparatory Practitioner Research Task

Your task is to conduct detailed research into a theatre practitioner and their style of theatre. The information provided will be shared amongst the class in September to help others to develop an understanding for different styles of theatre, therefore, the work you produce here will be beneficial to yourself, and your classmates.

Please email mgaishauser@wootton.beds.sch.uk if you have any questions or need further support.

So, how do you do it properly?

- Thorough research from a number of good sources.
- A wealth of visual images, statistics and facts.
- An engaging presentation that is written/delivered in your own words – not copied from the internet. Anything lasting less than 15 minutes is likely to lack the detail required.
- Do not try to be inventive or flash to cover a lack of depth and thoroughness.

You will need to produce the following:

Week 1: Conduct detailed and thorough research into your chosen practitioner (see list below). Use the research points below to ensure that your research is appropriate and useful.

Week 2 & 3: Put your research into an interesting and engaging presentation. *Ideally, and if possible, add a voice over to your presentation using PowerPoint or Loom (see guidance for advice on this) if not possible, notes should be added to the 'notes section' adding insight and knowledge from your research to support the slides.*

Week 4: Write a written explanation of how you would lead a practical workshop involving the whole group applying theoretical understanding of the practitioner in **two or three** practical exercises. *You could try these out at home - If you happen to try these exercises out with family at home, then add details on how the participants responded to the exercises.*

Week 5: Create a hand out of key information to be shared with the group – 1 side of A4 min - 2 sides of A4 max. **This should include a correctly referenced bibliography/webliography.** References should be made using the Harvard system.

OR

Create an A3 poster to be put on a working wall of practitioners – must be visually interesting and containing the information shared through your presentation

What should you cover?

1. The social, cultural and historical context in which the practitioner is/was working:
 - What key events were happening in history at the time?
 - How was your practitioner's work influenced by other theatrical/performance styles, genres and methods?
2. Theatrical purpose and practice:
 - Artistic intentions - Who was your practitioner's work aimed at? What did the practitioner aim to achieve with their work? Why did the practitioner aim for these things?
 - Working methods - How did the practitioner actually go about creating their form of theatre? What was their process? What was original/unique/innovative about their way of working and the product of their practice?
 - Theatrical style and use of conventions
3. Collaboration with/influence on other practitioners from and throughout theatre history

The Practitioners – you must select ONE from the list below:

- Steven Berkoff
- Jacques LeCoq
- Kneehigh Theatre
- Frantic Assembly
- Stanislavski
- Punchdrunk
- Complicite
- Brecht
- Headlong
- DV8
- Artaud
- Alecky Blythe

Guidance

For support in adding a voice recording to your presentation please visit the following links:

Loom: <https://bit.ly/2wIUFL>

PowerPoint: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8JV3w4TOVw>

PLEASE NOTE:

- You **do not** have to add audio to your presentation. It is not an essential requirement. However, if you chose not to, please make sure you add notes that include the information you may say out loud if you were delivering this presentation to your classmates. if you choose to add a voice over to your presentation, **please DO NOT include the camera function.**
- (Number 3 on the list of tasks) You can select to EITHER make a hand out covering no more than 2 sides of A4 OR create a poster in the size of A3, you do not have to complete both.

Transitional skills

To help you transition from KS4 to KS5, please consider looking at the following resources to help you begin to develop the skills needed for A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies:

Set Texts:

Timberlake Wertenbaker: *Our Country's Good*

(Also look at **Max Stafford- Clark, Maeve McKeown: *Our Country's Good – Page to Stage study guide***)

Dario Fo: *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*

Additional reading:

Nick O'Brein, Annie Sutton: *Theatre in Practice*

Sue Fielder: *AQA Drama and Theatre*

J. Benedetti: *Stanislavski: An Introduction*

Scott Graham, Steven Hoggett: *The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising*

Online resources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/znmh34j> - Useful revision material for Drama at all key stages.

<http://www.theatrecrafts.com/pages/home/glossary-of-technical-theatre-terms/> - Need to look up a technical theatre term?

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ntdiscovertheatre/playlists> - The national Theatre's YouTube Channel has some excellent videos providing insight into plays, playwrights and theatre making,

Suggest progression routes to future careers in your Drama:

Students who take Drama A-Level and want to go on to study it further often go on to University or take the route of going to Drama schools. Use the links below to see what jobs are available in the Creative Arts industry (you don't just have to go into acting!)

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/uni/top-unis-for-your-lifestyle/313573-top-universities-for-student-drama-south-and-central-england> - University courses

<https://www.dramaclasses.biz/> - Database of UK drama schools and drama classes

<https://www.artshub.co.uk/> - Up-to-date jobs and news for the creative industries

<https://www.artsprofessional.co.uk/jobs> - Top Arts Professional jobs

Podcasts:

Royal Court Playwright's Podcast

Playwright Simon Stephens talks to some of the world's leading playwrights about their lives and their work, their approaches and their careers, and their relationships with the Royal Court. interviews include Playwrights such as Timberlake Wertenbaker (the write of *Our Country's Good* – one of our set texts)

This can be accessed via iTunes or Spotify

National Theatre Talks

A collection of conversations recorded live from the National Theatre Stages, including interviews with actors, directors and playwrights.

This can be accessed via iTunes or for a full range of where to find this check out:

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/backstage/podcast-providers>

Plays online:

Shakespeare for free– Online – productions from The Globe

You could watch full length plays released by The Globe on either their YouTube Channel:

Use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ShakespearesGlobe>

or by going to BBC iPlayer to watch plays such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Use this link: <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch/#bbc-iplayer-films>

National Theatre at Home

Every Thursday at 7pm The National Theatre are releasing one of their past productions for you to watch in the comfort of your own home. Each play will stay on their YouTube channel for 7 days.

Use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ntdiscovertheatre>