

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 jgraham@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 10 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:

Step 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.

Step 2 & 3: Prepare your research into an interesting and engaging presentation. *This could be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, or perhaps you can present your work in a more creative way?*

Step 4: Add **an interactive element** to your presentation:

either prepare to lead a practical workshop involving the whole group applying theoretical understanding of the practitioner in **one or two** practical exercises.

OR

Learn a monologue or extract from a scene and perform this in the style of your chosen practitioner. *(consider asking for support from a fellow Drama student to help you with this – perhaps you could prepare a duologue and perform a movement sequence in the style of Frantic Assembly?)*

Step 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
 - Techniques associated with their work and methodologies
 - Examples of plays/performances
3. Collaboration with/influence on other practitioners from and throughout theatre history

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

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

Guidance

PLEASE NOTE:

- You will be presenting your findings to the class in September. You must have a polished and well-rehearsed presentation. If you plan to lead a workshop as part of your interactive element (step 4), make sure you have considered timings for this.
- You **do not** have to add audio to your presentation. It is not an essential requirement. if you choose to add a voice over to your presentation, **please DO NOT include the camera function**. You must also consider what you will do during the presentation if you did choose to add a voice over. Remember, this needs to be engaging!

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***)

Sophocles: *Antigone*

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,

Suggested 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.dramaclases.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:

Drama Online Library

Username: Wootton

Password: Dr4ma

Access to a range of plays – browse collections and find plays that interest you!

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

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