

A level Bridging Work

Theatre Studies

The following tasks will prepare you for the A level course.

Activity 1 - Investigating a Performing Arts Venue Project

Research a Performing Arts Venue and create a short PowerPoint presentation to deliver to others on your course. This could be a local venue (Bristol Old Vic, Bristol Hippodrome, Bath Theatre Royal) or it could be one further afield that you have heard of or visited (The Globe, The National Theatre, The Barbican, Apollo Victoria Theatre).

Areas to research:

- Where is the venue
- When was it established
- What kinds of Arts events are hosted at the venue?
- If your venue is a theatre, is it a 'receiving' or a 'producing' house? (A receiving house doesn't produce its own repertoire but receives touring companies, usually for a brief period, e.g. between three nights and a week. A producing house produces its own shows in-house.)
- What are general ticket prices?
- How is the organisation funded?
- Are staff employed there? In what roles?
- What is the audience capacity?
- What is the layout of the audience/stage? Can this be changed/adapted to suit different performances?
- What is the ethos/mission statement of the organisation?
- What is the target audience for the venue?
- How is marketing/publicity handled?
- What performance events have been staged there recently? (Find 5)
- Find 2 review of recent productions
- Find any blogs/ articles about the company and their work

Activity 2 – Writing a Theatre Review

You are going to watch two different productions. ‘Rent’ and ‘One Man, Two Guvnors’
Before you watch these productions see if you can find any reviews on them.

You are going to be writing your own reviews of these production, outlining your main impressions of the performance. Below is a suggested structure to help you. I want you to focus on the design elements in ‘Rent’ and the acting in ‘One Man, Two Guvnors’.

To access ‘Rent’ use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jWa9A3w2FQ>

To access ‘One Man, Two Guvnors’ use this link: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com>

Username:03b)0H3/z(

Password:6Au/4Bm-e%

The Log in button is in the top right-hand corner of the landing page. Please insert your username and password to left-hand option of the login pop-up.

Remember a review is all about your opinion.

Enjoy!

Paragraph 1

Outline your initial response to the production.

Did you enjoy it?

What was the play about?

Was there a major theme in the play?

What was the mood of the piece?

Was the ending of the plot predictable?

Paragraph 2/3 – ONE MAN TWO GUVNERS

What was the acting like? – Were the characters naturalistic, exaggerated, stereotypical?

Was the acting good? Did any characters impress you? Give specific examples using quotes from the production if you can

Did any characters disappoint? If so, why? and how could they have been improved?

Think about using your key terminology in this paragraph

Paragraph 2/3 - RENT

What was the stage/audience layout? Did this work?

What was the set like and how was it used by the actors?

Did the lighting/sound impact the performance?

Can you give any specific examples of moments where the lighting/sound was really effective?

Paragraph 4

What were the costumes like? (Focus on 1 or 2 characters)

Were they fitting with the performance?

What did the costume suggest about the character?

Paragraph 5

Would you recommend it to others?

Activity 3 - Practitioner Profile

You need to research someone working professionally in the Performing Arts sector.

This doesn't have to be a performer (although it could be).

Here are some other suggestions:

Manager of an Arts venue

Marketing/Publicity Manager

Technical Director

Choreographer

Front of House Manager

Technician

Stage Manager

Costume Designer

From your research you need to present your work by making a 'Facebook Profile' of your chosen practitioner.

So in order to create your Facebook profile you will need to include:

- A profile picture
- A cover photo
- An 'Intro' – where you write a short bio about them
- Date of birth
- Where they live
- Work and Education (perhaps what qualifications/training they had)
- Relationship and family
- Photos – perhaps including some of their work
- A few posts that give us some more information about what their job entails (could be about how they became involved in the role, maybe one talking about a 'typical day' in their job, one saying the highs/lows of the job')

You may be able to find some interviews of your chosen practitioner online to help with some of this information.

Be as creative as you can with your page to give us as much information about them as possible.

Activity 4: Researching Theatre Companies

You need to research the following theatre companies and create an educational booklet with everything you have found out about the companies. The booklet needs to look nice as well as having all the information in so make sure you include some pictures. Below are some questions to consider as a starting point but see what else you can find out.

1. Frantic Assembly

Who are Frantic Assembly?

What is their style of work?

What performances have they done?

What is their approach to devising?

2. Kneehigh

Who are Kneehigh?

What is their style of work?

What performances have they done?

What is their approach to devising?

3. Immersive theatre

What is immersive theatre?

What are the key features of immersive theatre?

Which companies produce work of this style?

Why might immersive theatre be popular?