

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

(Acting course)

To help you understand what it's like to study acting at Level 3, we've prepared a series of tasks for you to complete over the summer. These will not only give you insight into the course, but also allow you to show your commitment and readiness for this next stage of your training.

1. Read a play and choose a monologue from it. This can be pieced together from a wider section of text (no more than 5-6 pages) where other characters' lines are removed but you should not change the meaning of the monologue or change the order of the text. Please prepare a one-minute performance of the monologue to be performed in your second lesson. You do not have to play your gender or age but you must have read the full play and planned your performance in terms of voice, physicality and use of space to communicate your character's objectives and subtext. If you don't know what objectives or subtext are, look those words up first.

2. Research the theatre practitioner and 'father' of naturalistic acting Konstantin Sergeyevich Stanislavski (other spellings may be used due to the translation of the name from the Cyrillic alphabet). There are texts in the library about him to help you and a lot of information online but be careful to check your sources – ask yourself 'how do I know this source is reliable?' You need to prepare a one-page document that defines the following terms: units, objectives, super-objectives, subtext and circles of attention. Please do not just copy and paste from the internet. You need to research thoroughly, using several sources and cite these sources (i.e, state where you got the information from but also be prepared to state why you think your source is reliable). When you quote your sources, use quotation marks, don't just try to pass someone else's words off as your own. This is due in the second lesson.

3. Watch one full length play or feature film and be prepared to talk about it. See if you can figure out what was 'good' acting and what was 'bad' acting. Which performances did you enjoy and why? Be prepared to talk about the cast, director, writer and creative team behind the piece. Bring any notes or programme details to help you discuss these aspects.

Have a great summer