

Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) BTEC National Extended Certificate

Qualification	Exam Board
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts Musical Theatre	Pearson

Things to Read

- *Acting Through Song, Techniques and Exercises for Musical Theatre Actors* by Paul Harvard
- *The Complete Stanislavski Toolkit* by Bella Merlin

Things to Watch

- The What's On Stage website has information on streamed theatrical content, including many musicals, which you can watch at home.
- The National Theatre are broadcasting a different show live on their YouTube channel each week and it is then available as a catch up across the week before the next production is shown. The National's YouTube channel also has great short videos to watch about how they make work and the role of directors, technicians and designers.
- The BBC are providing a range of great shows from the Royal Shakespeare Company. You can access these via the BBC iPlayer.

Watching theatre is a vital component to study and regular viewing is best. Even though we cannot go to the theatre now, there is plenty of theatrical content out there, which is quite different to film and television content so it is important to sample a wide range of theatre, both musicals and non-musicals. Notice how directors, actors and choreographers bring characters and themes to life and the impact that large-scale numbers have on an audience.

Tasks to Complete

- Research the father of realistic acting, Konstantin Stanislavski. Pay particular attention to his method for creating realistic performances. Make sure you understand (at least): the given circumstances, units, objectives, super-objectives, circles of attention and subtext.
- Research Stephen Sondheim and watch some of his stage musicals if you are able to find things online. If you can't, the films of *Sweeney Todd* and *Into the Woods* are a close second but remember that films of musicals are different to stage versions. Research his work first, then listen and watch performances to see and hear the things you have learned about his work in practice.
- Research the musical choreographer Bob Fosse and watch some of his choreography online. What do you notice about his style and why do you think he is considered to be one of the best musical theatre choreographers of all time?
- Research the tap dancing of dancers Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Ann Miller and Savion Glover. Watch examples of their work on YouTube and consider how their styles are similar and different.
- Research some Olivier award-winning actors from musical theatre. Watch and listen to samples of their work if possible. What do you notice about their use of voice and physicality that brings emotion and meaning to their performance work?