

RIVERS TRANSITION CHALLENGE 2020

SUBJECT: PERFORMING ARTS

Course details: Exam board OCR

Qualification: A Level

Minimum entry requirement is: Grade 4 English & Mathematics and Grade 5/Merit or equivalent performance experience in a Performing Arts discipline

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Classroom Code: qh4ztpt

YOUR CHALLENGES:

**Challenge 1:** Powerpoint

Create a powerpoint presentation on two of the following practitioners: Bertolt Brecht, Bob Fosse, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jerome Robbins, Frantic Assembly or Leonard Bernstein (you may also research theatre practitioners and include your own). You should aim to include the following:

* Details of their background and influences
* Details of historical / social / cultural influences
* Details of their performance style – you may have to watch clips on Youtube and make your own conclusions as to the stylistic features for your chosen practitioner
* A range of the works that they have choreographed / written
* Analysis of one clip / one scene (plenty on the internet) from the chosen practitioner – you should include details of the context of the piece, and the performance work you see on stage e.g. use of voice, pitch, tone, what movement they perform, how the space is used, what relationships we see, what costumes they wear, what staging and lighting has been used etc.

**How it links to the Specification:**

During the course you will study work practically from a range of these practitioners, as well as covering all in detail for your externally examined unit.

**Time Guide:** 4 hours

**Assignment Deadline:** 5th May 2020

**SUPPORT:**

https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/ https://www.thestage.co.uk/features/2018/bob-fosse-remembering-dance-gensius-musical-theatre-chicago- sweet-charity-cabaret https://www.britannica.com/art/Western-theatre/Theatre-of-the-20th-century-and-beyond#ref306074<https://www.andrewlloydwebber.com/>

**Challenge 2:** Live Theatre Essay

You should write in continuous prose. Your essay will be marked for technical accuracy and it will also be marked for your selection of relevant material from the production seen and for the quality of your written communication. Approx 2500 words

Select one of the following questions about a piece of live theatre you have seen (this can include the live theatre work steaming online):

* Explain how lighting design was used at two specific moments. Analyse and evaluate how successful the design was in creating mood and atmosphere.
* Explain how one performer used performance skills to engage the audience at two specific moments. Analyse and evaluate their success in doing this.
* Explain how the set designer created a set or settings appropriate for the action of the play/piece. Analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of the designs at two specific moments.

**Time guide:** 10 hours

**Assignment deadline:** June 11th 2020

**SUPPORT:**

BBC Bitesize - http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zxs9xnb/revision

**Challenge 3:** Performance

**Written:**

Summarise your key performance achievements to date and identify your present skill level plus the range of skills you need to pursue your pathway through Sixth Form and into the industry.

Set at least 4 initial targets and ensure you establish and comprehensively show how you intend to develop the skills required to successfully play your part in a combined arts performance.

Complete a comprehensive skills audit showing an outstanding understanding of the skills required to explore personal development.

Offer a comprehensive and realistic analysis of how skills relate to working practices.

Finally - Conclude with a reflective summary.

**Practical:**

* Prepare a solo performance in your chosen discipline e.g. acting, dance, musical theatre
* You will perform to the group during the first full week of term in September
* The duration of your piece must between 2-4 minutes
* You can use backing tracks, live music or have accompaniment
* If you need confirmation of the level of difficulty of your piece please ask your teachers prior to learning and submitting your piece
* Write a short summary of the piece you have chosen to perform explain the style, practitioner who has influenced the piece and historically what was happening at the time this style was developed

**Time guide:** 5 hours written - 10 hours practical

**Written deadline:** June 18th 2020

**Practical deadline:** First week back in September (summary to submitted by July)

**Challenge 4:** Written Review

Watch a live performance online and write a detailed review considering the following:

* **Genre** – can be more than one
* **Style** – again, can be more than one, and this needs to be applied to the acting and design of the show
* **Production aims** – what effects are the creative team trying to achieve? Audience responses? Something they want the audience to recognise or understand? Themes? Issues? A political or social statement? An atmosphere?
* **Auditorium style?** How can the audience position impact on the way they respond to a performance? Composite or discrete set design?
* **Time period?** How can this be successfully communicated? Music? Costume and set design? Specific references within the script? Characterisation and time-period-specific behaviour?
* **Design elements**: Lighting, sound, costume and set.

**Set:**

You then need to draw the set design. Make sure you attempt it in 3D. Add to the design the following:

* Entrances and exits
* Audience position
* Important items of furniture and set dressing used
* Levels used
* Materials evident in the design
* Colour palette

**Time guide:** 8 hours

**Assignment deadline:** 13th July 2020

**SUPPORT:**

https://www.thestage.co.uk/ https://www.theguardian.com/stage/theatre+tone/reviews <https://www.timeout.com/london/theatre/london-theatre-reviews>

http://www.theatrecrafts.com/pages/home/topics/beginners/glossary/

HOW DO I HAND IN:

Your work must be handed in via the Google Classroom so that it can be assessed and marked accordingly. All of your challenge deadlines included in the assignments (1, 2, 3 and 4!) You can simply upload the work (by clicking plus and hand in), work can be submitted photographically, written, sheets, powerpoints and/or video.

HOW AM I MARKED?

You are graded using Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\* criteria. The tasks are tricky because it’s A Level and there is a big jump from GCSE. You will need to spend significant time learning the concepts and techniques and refining your writing and practical skills. You need to use a wide Performing Arts vocabulary (Please use the vocab support sheet attached)

HOW AM I MARKED?

You will be marked on your ability to complete the tasks independently and to the best of your ability. We would expect new students to any course to be sitting at the bottom of the grading structure, but there are certain activities that you will be familiar with and will do better with even though it's just the start of the course. Please don't worry if you receive U grades or Pass grades. Where there is major concern, we will ring your parents and carers to be able to speak to them and you about how to provide support or the suitability of the course.

WHAT IF I GET STUCK?

Then email me, my email is in the title of this sheet or write on the thread in our classroom, we know some things are tricky and are here to help!

WHAT IF I MISS A DEADLINE OR DON’T HAVE I.T?

You must speak to us in advance if you are going to miss a deadline. We know people are sick, and sometimes we have other commitments but usually work that isn’t complete is down to students waiting until the last minute and then not having enough time to understand or complete the task.

If you email us in advance, we can support you. If you just miss the deadline, you are risking your course offer.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL:

Technical Terminology Sheets attached