

ACTING

SUMMER TASKS

Getting ready to study Acting at Halesowen College? It's time to get your creativity flowing again!

To help prepare you for the start of your course, we've put together a few creative tasks to give you a head start.

Thank you for taking the time to explore your passion for theatre a little further with us.

HOW TO SUBMIT WORK

Email us or share videos of your work through googledrive/onedrive etc.

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We look forward to welcoming you to the Halesowen College Drama Department in September. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch, we are happy to help with your enquiries.



Stay safe and well we look forward to seeing you in September!



ACTING

SUMMER TASK 1 - RESPONDING TO A STIMULUS

On the Acting course, you will have multiple opportunities to devise your own performances from scratch. Often, this work is in response to a stimulus (this could be in the form of an image, piece of music, a news article or an existing piece of theatre). We encourage our students to create work that is meaningful both to themselves and to modern day society.

We have provided 3 choices of stimuli that relate to current affairs.

Take a look and pick 1 (or more) to inspire an original solo performance piece!

RESPONDING TO A STIMULUS (OPTION 1 - IMAGE)

This was the cover of TIME Magazine following the killing of George Floyd.

To explore the stimulus, consider the following:

- What is your gut reaction to the image?
- What do you think it symbolises?
- Can you think of any links to your own lived experience?

Create a 1-2 minute solo performance that explores the stimulus material. This could be a solo speech or movement based; character driven or abstract.



RESPONDING TO A STIMULUS (OPTION 2 -POETRY)

This is an extract poem written in response to the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

To explore the stimulus, consider the following:

- What is your gut reaction to the text?
- What do the words mean to you?
- Can you think of any links to your own lived experience?

Create a 1-2 minute solo performance that explores the stimulus material. This could be a solo speech or movement based; character driven or abstract.

*I am trying to accept this pause,
This empty space,
This open time
As time, for the earth to begin it's
healing,
For reflection, for deepening, To
become all that we are, in the
ground of being.
For humanity to be stopped, mid
track
Is humbling,
We were, there is no doubt,
hurtling towards destruction.*
<https://www.poetry-festival.co.uk/lockdown-poems/>

RESPONDING TO A STIMULUS (OPTION3 – TED TALK)

This video contains lots of ideas around image. Have a watch and see if any inspire you.

To explore the stimulus, consider the following:

- Do you agree or disagree with any of the points made?
- Can you think of any links to your own lived experience?

Create a 1-2 minute solo performance that explores the stimulus material. This could be a solo speech or movement based; character driven or abstract.



View here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KM4Xe_6Dlp0Y

ACTING

TASK 2 – ACTING FOR CAMERA; HORROR GENRE

Here's a scene from 90s cult horror film

'The Blair Witch Project'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuyeQ YQqnhk>

The shaky hand-held camera work helped add to the tension and believability of this cult classic - We thought it'd be the perfect style for you to recreate at home using your mobile phones.

You could write your own script, borrow from the movie or just improvise around the idea of being lost in the woods with 'something' scary out there.

Give us 1 minute of your best horror movie acting!



TASK 3 – THEATRE REVIEW

Lucky you! Professional companies such as the National Theatre, Young Vic, Gecko and the RSC have put a load of shows online during lockdown.

See here for more details:

https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/stage-shows-musicals-opera-free-stream-online_51198.html

Pick one to watch and share your thoughts as a theatre review.

You can present this in writing (approximately 600 words), or as a video of you talking about the show and analysing its effectiveness.

Think about: the acting, direction, set design, costume and lighting.

OTHER TASKS THAT YOU COULD DO TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR STUDYING ACTING IN SEPTEMBER ARE:

- During lockdown many theatre companies have released videos of their shows and of 'masterclasses' on YouTube. Watch them!
- Read plays – many can be picked up second hand on Amazon for just a few pence. Be on the lookout for roles that appeal to you and characters that suit your casting
- Keep informed on the news and current affairs – this may help you come up with new and relevant ideas for devised drama
- Work on your physical fitness
- Get creative. Challenge yourself to write a short monologue or script
- Read books on acting technique or extracts online