

Upper 6th preparation for Drama-related courses at university

There are a range of things you can do over summer to prepare. The most important thing is to get really interested in theatre and the possibilities of it. For now forget about TV or film acting. All actors' first love is the theatre and that is where they learn their trade. Most actors take TV and film work in order to finance their theatre work, which normally pays a lot less.

There are four main things that you should be doing to prepare for post A level Drama-related study:

- 1. Research the courses**
- 2. Watch theatre**
- 3. Read plays**
- 4. Stay fit and healthy**

I would like you to keep a diary that details your learning as you work through these tasks and then submit it to me by email at the end of term

- 1. Research the courses**

A starting point might be to look at what you will be studying so have a look around the different Drama school's websites:

Accredited Drama Schools

You will be studying a range of acting techniques and also getting help with preparations for auditions. The **Conference of Drama Schools (CDS)** is an association of 22 leading accredited drama schools in Britain. Founded in 1969, the 22 member schools offer courses in Acting, Musical Theatre, Directing and Technical Theatre training. In 2012, it merged with the National Council for Drama Training to form Drama UK. The following are recognised as excellent places to study acting, drama and technical aspects of theatre.

- Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA)
- The Arts Educational Schools (ArtsEd)
- Birmingham School of Acting
- Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
- Cygnet Training Theatre
- Drama Centre London
- Drama Studio London
- East 15 Acting School (E15)
- Guildford School of Acting (GSA)
- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts
- London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA)
- The Manchester Metropolitan School of Theatre (The Manchester School of Theatre // ManMet)
- Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
- The Oxford School of Drama
- Queen Margaret University
- Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA)
- Rose Bruford College

- Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (RCSSD)
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (formerly RSAMD)
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD)

Task – have a look at the different courses that are offered at some of the above and find out what their differences are.

For example, if you have applied for the Foundation in Acting course at GSA this is what you are going to be learning:

<https://www.gsauk.org/courses/foundation/foundation-acting>

They focus a lot on Stanislavski, who you would have heard of but also the Meisner technique. A starting point for this could be this youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dgje3PtoQXg>

2. Watch theatre.

During this lockdown all theatres are closed so unfortunately you will not be able to see any 'live' shows. However lots of places have uploaded free plays for you to watch at home. Here is a list I have put together:

Check out these links/ webpages to find some great performances/ interviews/ videos, to keep your love of Theatre alive, whilst we are all stuck at home!

Lots of different productions available here:

https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/stage-shows-musicals-opera-free-stream-online_51198.html?fbclid=IwAR25ZOUY8M_p_u1-uln2KsxZKncAZ3A2Gd-97q2rycrtia22M0lx2_S-bOo

Wind in the Willows at The London Palladium:

<https://www.willowsmusical.com/>

Girls Like That:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cx2KDNusk9E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3nbZIDJrzcDWndYKMI_kQQCECjLx5xunDo-hpYndJ4KY8OBUeT-ycl18M

Vamos Theatre – email these guys and they will send you a link to their production 'Dead Good'

<http://www.vamostheatre.co.uk/>

Splendid Theatre Company on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/splendidproductions>

Theatre Reach – YouTube channel featuring interviews with professionals working in theatre:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7v8HyQ7WGyeeJgllFayo4Q?fbclid=IwAR2CLqYW4HvStakKA4nZn98GQKHUIXpoDSbZe1TzSMrH-jei4rGPLNqlqjs>

The Paper Birds – video snippets of some of their work:

<https://www.thepaperbirds.com/video/>

Gecko Theatre Company have lots of videos on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GeckoTheatreCo>

PlayMe has loads of theatre pieces turned into podcasts, as well as interesting interviews: <http://www.playmepodcast.com/>

From The Guardian article:

https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/mar/17/hottest-front-room-seats-the-best-theatre-and-dance-to-watch-online?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR0dY-4h4lqYtViRxxDnT8O5W5tn7E_h3fwINDzalHibKYFpbiXSpJikFU

The Show Must Go Online

The actor [Robert Myles](#) has set up a reading group for professional and amateur actors to perform Shakespeare's complete plays in the order they're believed to have been written. The first livestreamed reading, on YouTube, will be [The Two Gentleman of Verona](#) on Thursday (19 March).

Showstopper! The Improvised Musical

After more than 1,000 productions, the Showstoppers improv crew are some of the quickest wits in the biz. So it's no surprise that when they were faced with a West End closure they live-streamed a performance. Watch their custom-made, never-to-be-repeated impro musical [on Facebook](#).

Timpson: The Musical

Two households, both alike in dignity ... well, sort of. Our narrator, a talking portrait, lays our scene in Victorian London and this musical comedy imagines the founding of the popular shoe repair chain as a union between two companies, the Montashoes and the Keypulets. [Watch Gigglemug Theatre's show on YouTube](#). Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfzOOWCi8Ag&feature=youtu.be>

No Proscenium - Immersive Theatre productions and interviews/ blog/ podcasts here:

<https://noproscenium.com/>

Production of **Blood Brothers** by Theatre Ink (also other productions available on their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvek0bj451Y>

[Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah – The Vulture's song.](#) You can watch a filmed version of the full show recorded at Square Chapel Arts Centre here: <https://youtu.be/J2CbApty2xs>. Creative activities for the family here: http://www.blahs.co.uk/portfolio/the-vultures-song/?fbclid=IwAR1rbSZ3symR_gESZ_t_wtCMXpamI4h9HV-lhfRHxcz75kTO_nK-R0ckXmg

Drama Online has some amazing works by The National Theatre and over 2500 plays and theatre books. Now FREE until the end of April here: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/?fbclid=IwAR2x8D5GVbhEgE5o846yXM8AtzRRzA5y88ViD4ECglae9ZTCEg60-BAFtTQ>

Username: jcs009
Password: Foundation

Breach Theatre is a devised theatre company creating bold shows that blend drama and documentary. Its core team collaborates with performers to create socially engaged, innovative shows that blend subtle humour with a sharp political edge. Their Edinburgh Fringe 2019 production of "It's True, It's True, It's True" is available on YouTube for a limited period. Recommended 16+: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi0_DYWeDvg2_B9iaMP1O_A

Task – write in your diary evaluations of some of these shows. What do you like about them? What acting styles are being used? How do the actors achieve their intentions?

3. Read plays

Task - Try to read at least two a week. Find out what style of writing you like best and keep a diary of your play-reading experiences.

4. Stay fit and healthy

An actor's training is very hard work. You will often finish a day feeling exhausted, both physically and emotionally. Prepare well for this by staying fit and healthy over the summer. Try to develop a fitness routine and also look after your mental health. There are lots of online resources for both of these. Look at your diet – are you eating healthily?

Task – include your fitness routine in your diary.