

# A Level Drama

## **Summer Transition Work**



## Preparing for Post-16 Drama

I have included links to websites and various clips, videos, reading etc that you can do to help you brush up your knowledge before you start the Drama A Level in September.

**Task:** Create a document/presentation of some sort (you can be really creative here) for each of the practitioners and physical theatre companies before you start sixth form.

# Bertolt Brecht: Epic Theatre

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwmvd2p/revision/1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-828KqtTkA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-A8mCjRu5g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7fqMPDcKXM>

# Konstantin Stanislavski: Naturalism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zxn4mp3/revision/1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iB1fPZX5Zgk>

# Antonin Artaud: Theatre of Cruelty

<https://thedramateacher.com/theatre-of-cruelty-conventions/>

# National Theatre

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Watch the videos below to see a comparison of how different practitioners would portray/adapt the same piece of text and character.

Brecht: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62-gYcO6jrY>

Stan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OD7pHopWWk>

Artaud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHn2Lj7R0Rc>

Grotowski: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ScsvWtMZW0>

Peter Brook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIjjLpshfCQ>

# Physical Theatre



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztfk6sg/revision/1>

One of the most popular and well-established physical theatre companies is **Frantic Assembly**. They have just launched Frantic Digital which has practical exercises/tasks you can do independently at home. The link is:

<https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/frantic-digital>

You could also look at/watch the following:

<https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/the-frantic-method>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7R\\_V2iCZoY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7R_V2iCZoY)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC9uJrY9Bh8>

But there are many more.....

See Gecko

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PQpxi7h\\_rc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PQpxi7h_rc)

See Theatre de Complicite

<http://www.complicite.org/company.php>

See PunchDrunk

<https://www.punchdrunk.org.uk/>

See Kneehigh Theatre

<https://www.kneehigh.co.uk/>

See DV8

<https://www.dv8.co.uk/students>

# Practical Work over the Summer!

- Watch lots of theatre.
- There are many organisations, such as the National Theatre and The Globe, who are streaming their productions for *free!!!*
- Read plays on Scribd.
- Practice your skills by learning and **performing monologues**

Where can I look for monologues? (this is not an extensive list!)

- Shakespeare Plays
- Any published play
- Monologue Collection Books- you can purchase several of these online.
- <https://www.monologuearchive.com/>
- <https://stageagent.com/monologues>

A reminder that if you are searching on the internet, to triple check that they are from published plays.



## Top tips for finding a monologue-

- 1) Make it a character of the same gender as you. (or a character that has no prescribed gender)
- 2) Make it a character of a similar age range as you. (Teen/Young Adult)
- 3) Think about the sort of character you like to perform- does the character's emotion play to your acting strengths?
- 4) Is it from a published play? Exam boards won't allow it if it is not and this is also a general rule for Drama School Auditions. They like you to have read the whole play, so you can really understand your character/context/the story you are telling etc. You can find this information out online.
- 5) Make sure you enjoy it- otherwise, performing over and over again will become repetitive and boring.

## Top tips for working on your monologue-

- 1) Read the whole play. Having an understanding of why your character is saying/what they are doing etc is vital to your delivery.
- 2) Now do some research about the play. Learn about the context, the time in was set it, what was going on in the world at the time.
- 3) If you can, watch some other people perform it, you might find some versions on YouTube. This will be helpful to see what you can do with it, alongside what not to do with it.
- 4) Read it through a couple of times- OUT LOUD!
- 5) Take note of where the punctuation is, pause when there is a comma/full stop etc. this will help you with the flow of the speech.
- 6) Think about setting, stage directions, where will you physically be on stage, and how will you move around the stage.
- 7) Annotate these things onto your script.
- 8) Now get up and start performing.
- 9) Film it, watch it back, critically evaluate your performance. WWW/EBI.
- 10) Learn the words. You will find that character is easier to portray when you are not on script, this frees up your hands to use gestures, allows you to directly communicate with the audience.

# Vocal Warm Ups and Voice Work

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc- hoG4nec>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBoOyCLICcU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7 MvIGKwLh0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRdFtrv2yGA>
  
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqU0z AP5HM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3Kj0-a7TAQ>