

## Section 2 - Connect with your University



### Reading List – Performing Arts

#### General Reading:

You can read these online as general preparation for either stage school or university:

Acting in Musical Theatre: A Comprehensive Course by Joe Deer & Rocco Dal Vera  
- [https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=u0WDCgAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk\\_a\\_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIP-jAD#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=u0WDCgAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk_a_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIP-jAD#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false)

Studying Musical Theatre: Theory and Practice by Millie Taylor & Dominic Symonds  
- [https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=79ejBQAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk\\_a\\_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIT-zAF#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=79ejBQAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk_a_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIT-zAF#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false)

Musical Theatre: A History by John Kenrick  
- [https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=RXQ4DwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk\\_a\\_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIWDAG#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=RXQ4DwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk_a_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIWDAG#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false)

Voice and Speech for Musical Theatre: A Practical Guide by Chris Palmer  
- [https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=vH67DwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk\\_a\\_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIYDAH#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=vH67DwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk_a_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIYDAH#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false)

Musical Theatre: A Workbook for Further Study by Kenneth Pickering & David Henson  
- [https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Ji8hDgAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk\\_a\\_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIa-DAI#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Ji8hDgAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=musical+theatre&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiwk_a_vdvoAhUTfMAKHVHGB84Q6AEIa-DAI#v=onepage&q=musical%20theatre&f=false)

#### Preparation

There are several things you can do to be prepared to Study Drama and Musical Theatre.

#### Fitness

Please ensure you continue to exercise on a regular basis. You want to make sure that you have the ability to keep up in any physical workshops when the term starts.

- Try fitness workouts online, DVD's you or family members may have.
- Jogging and Walking are a sure way to keep your fitness up and cost nothing.

### **Voice**

Please keep using it! Do gentle warm-ups before doing any vocal work (sirening is the easiest and most gradual way to do this), use the warm-ups you have learnt. Remember to not go straight into a vocal work without a sufficient warm-up, as there is a danger that you may damage your voice.

### **Vocal Skills**

Keep up with your singing lessons if you can. Many singing teachers are continuing lessons through online platforms. Ask your singing teacher if they are doing this.

### **Knowledge**

You should by now know the history of Theatre. However, use time wisely to brush up. Aim to know about:

- Greek
- Commedia dell' arte
- Jacobean
- Restoration
- Medieval
- Romanticism
- Brecht
- Stansislavski
- Checkov
- Artaud
- Berkoff
- Meisner
- Realism
- Lecoq
- Frantic Assembly
- The National Theatre

Do some wider research into:

- Opera
- Musical Theatre
- Combined Arts
- Plays with music
- Light Entertainment
- Physical Theatre
- Puppetry

Knowledge of Plays is essential. Read some and aim to know about plays by:

- Checkov
- Brecht
- Henrik Ibsen
- Shakespeare
- Arthur Miller
- Dennis Kelly

- Tom Stoppard
- Garcia Lorca
- Caryl Churchill
- Sarah Cane
- Harold Pinter
- Alan Bennett
- Jim Cartwright
- Noel Coward
- George Bernard Shaw
- Willy Russell
- Shelagh Delaney
- Joe Penhall
- Shelagh Stephenson
- Amanda Whittington

Research more plays, read them and find out about the playwright and the play.

### **Skills**

Keep on top of your skills. Learn new material all the time, not just from new plays, but also build your monologue portfolio. You could include extracts from:

- Brecht
- Greek
- Berkoff
- Shakespeare
- Pre 1960's
- Post 1960's / Contemporary

Ensure with these you have a variety of styles and genres and that the characters are contrasting (that doesn't necessarily mean contrasting emotions).

Remember Theatre is always changing so be prepared! You may be asked to perform in your first couple of weeks of study and you want to be prepared!

Monologues. Make sure you know the following:

- The play that the extract is from
- The point in the play this extract comes
- The character and their journey
- Where are you?
- Who are you talking to?
- How are you feeling? (Don't just say happy but justify your feelings e.g. I am angry because my boyfriend broke up with me, but sad because I thought he loved me, but I am trying to bottle it up and put on a brave face)

### **Dance**

Here are a few ideas to help you continue to improve your fitness levels and flexibility over the next few months.

- <https://watch.lesmillsondemand.com/at-home-workouts>
- <https://www.sleektechnique.com/2018/03/18/free-sleek-technique-workouts/>

- <https://www.ballet.org.uk/enb-at-home/>
- <https://www.beachbodyondemand.com/>
- <https://youtu.be/UBMk30rjy0o>

#### Choreograph your own solo

- Set yourself a challenge of choreographing a new solo whilst you are staying safe at home, this will encourage you to think of new ideas and prepare you for any improvisations you will be asked to do at stage school or university.
- Pick a style that you wouldn't normally choose.
- Challenge yourself and include things that you think you can make improvements with.
- Ask your family to give you some feedback when you are rehearsing.

#### Extras

Research your school and know who the teaching staff are. Complete research to find out what they know and where they have worked. What are the units, modules etc... you will study? Is there any way to prepare? Not sure? Email us for advice.

Use the internet to sign-up for emails from;  
Broadway.com  
Whatsonstage.com  
Londontheatre.co.uk  
Timeout.com

When you go to study remember you want to be prepared so that you can get the most out of your time there. Be prepared, be ready to get involved, have confidence and most importantly ENJOY it! It doesn't last long!

Any questions at all email any of the Performing Arts Team. We are more than happy to help!