

# Getting Ready For *A'Level Drama*



Your  
Name

*Unit 1*

*Staging, Stage Directions and  
Characterisation*

Summer 2019

**We are delighted you have chosen to study A'Level Drama at Worthing College.**

**Instructions:** We are delighted you have chosen to study **A'Level Drama course** at Worthing College. This pack will help you make the best possible start to studying this subject. The tasks in this pack should take you **about 4 hours to complete**. You will need to hand the work into your teacher when teaching starts. Make sure you keep the work safe until then, and ensure any work you hand in has your name on it. You will get feedback from your teachers on what you have done well and the challenges you will need to meet to achieve the highest possible grade. This will form part of an initial assessment of your progress your teacher will make in the first 2 weeks of the course.

All of the materials you need to complete the tasks are in this pack or available on the Worthing Academy of Performing Arts Blog. Follow this link....

**<http://worthingpateam.blogspot.co.uk/2016/06/getting-ready-for-alevel-drama.html>**

**If you need help:** The tasks are designed to get a bit more difficult as you work through them as they are preparing you for studying at a higher level and to become an effective independent learner. You should try to get as far as you can working on your own but if you do need help, please email us at [gettingreadyfor@worthing.ac.uk](mailto:gettingreadyfor@worthing.ac.uk), telling us which Getting Ready For pack you are working on and what help you need. Help is available throughout the summer holidays.

**GOOD LUCK!**

## Skills Focus for this Getting Ready for Pack

- Design skills
- Directorial skills
- Reflective analysis
- Research skills
- Analytical skills
- Characterisation skills

Summer work –		Topic	
Target Grade	Type of task	Task	Deadline
All	Stage Space Research & Analysis	<p><b>As part of your course, you will need to think about how it is possible to stage performances, and what type of stage to use.</b></p> <p>Research the three main ways stage space is used in contemporary theatre, by answering the following questions....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main features of a <b>Proscenium Arch</b> stage?</li> <li>• What are the main features of an <b>Arena</b> stage?</li> <li>• What are the main features of a <b>Thrust</b> stage?</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson

		<p>Are there any other ways of using the stage space?</p> <p>What are the advantages/disadvantages of the types of three different types of stage?</p> <p>Find definitions for the following types of performance....</p> <p>IMMERSIVE PERFORMANCE PROMENADE PERFORMANCE</p>	
All	Understand ing & Utilising Stage Directions	<p>The diagram on the second page, illustrates the way a traditional stage can be divided during rehearsals, so that Directors can work more easily with actors.</p> <p>Therefore, if you apply the stage directions to the image of several actors in a performance space below the diagram, you could describe them in the following way...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The actor on the chair in the distance is positioned - <b>Upstage Centre</b>.</li> <li>The actor standing sideways is positioned – <b>Downstage Right</b>.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="432 701 1334 1155" data-label="Diagram"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stage Areas</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="432 1182 1334 1713" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Use the <b>correct stage directions</b> to respond to the questions below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which actor is in the most high status position? Why?</li> <li>Where do you think the actors in the picture entered the stage space from? Why?</li> <li>If one of the actors was to deliver an emotional monologue to the audience, where would you position them, whilst they performed the dialogue? Why?</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson
High Grades		<p>As a performer, discuss how you might interpret and portray one of the key roles in the extract on the blog from <b>THAT FACE</b> by <b>Polly Stenham</b>? (follow link below). <i>You should use examples from the extract to support your ideas.</i></p>	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson

Discuss the various choices you would make in order to practically bring one of the key roles in the extract to life. You might refer to the following in your response.....

Stillness  
Audience  
Nonverbal Communication  
Dynamics between Characters  
Levels  
Atmosphere  
Performance Style  
Relationships between characters  
Stage Directions  
Specific Moments  
Space  
Language  
Character's Intentions  
Interpretation of Dialogue  
Vocal Expression  
Characterisation  
Mood  
Movement  
Proxemics  
Gesture  
Support Ideas  
Characters  
Physicality

Notes: <http://worthingpateam.blogspot.co.uk/2016/06/getting-ready-for-alevel-drama.html>

- Blog link for help and further information on Getting Ready work and all Performing Arts Courses/Dates

**We look forward to seeing you in September ☺**



By Ryan G