

Dear Prospective A-Level Student,

It is important to be prepared for your A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies, as such I would ask you to read around the subject over the summer holidays; I would suggest you read at least two plays and lots of theatre reviews (the Culture/Stage sections of The Guardian, The Times, The Observer and The Telegraph are all excellent).

You need to get into the habit of independent reading and research and these tasks will certainly allow you to make a positive start.

In addition I urge you to become familiar with, and to explore the following websites:

<http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

<http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/discover-more/backstage/videos>

<http://www.stagework.org.uk/stageworks/index.html>

As well as this, I would encourage you to read around some of the following practitioners and theatre companies:

Konstantin Stanislavski, Bertolt Brecht, Steven Berkoff, Katie Mitchell, John Godber, Max Stafford Clark, Antonin Artaud, Peter Brook
Complicite', Forced Entertainment, Frantic Assembly, Kneehigh, Shared Experience, DV8, Trestle Theatre Company

Finally, hold onto any newspaper articles, photos etc that interest you and try and see as much live theatre as you can – the National Theatre live screenings are fantastic and easily accessible at the cinema, amongst other venues. <http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

Having completed this research, I would like you to select a practitioner, playwright, theatre company or play and create a 500 word document that captures your understanding and interest in this particular choice. This is not an academic essay, merely an opportunity for me to gauge your interests and reactions to what you've read and discovered.

I look forward to seeing you in September

Miss Lacey
Head of Drama