DRAMA STEP UP TO POST 16 CHALLENGE

Minimum Subject Entry Requirements: grade 5 or above in Drama GCSE if studied. If you have not taken Drama GCSE you will need a grade 5+ in English and must show a genuine interest in the subject.

Challenge 1

There are several theatres broadcasting productions online for free during the lockdown. The link below will give you information about the sites where you can find them. A lot are free but some are asking a small fee which, in most cases, goes to charity of some sort. Only use these if you are happy to donate.

https://www.culturewhisper.com/r/theatre/theatre_online_streaming/15292

Choose a few of these productions to watch (ideally at least three which are varied in their genre and/or style) and review them. Consider the effect and impact they have on you as a member of the audience and how (through the acting, theatre design and staging, or direction) this effect and impact was achieved.

Challenge 2

Having watched a few productions I want you to imagine you are directing a production of your own. Some of you might have some play scripts at home. If you wish to do some research and buy a particular script there are several online stores you can order from. If you do not wish to spend anything (understandably – you absolutely do not have to) then there is the script for Blood Brothers on Teams, I will attach the link via class charts, or older scripts are available online for free e.g. all Shakespeare texts can be read online.

When you have chosen a text (two of the texts we study are Othello by William Shakespeare and Frankenstein by Nick Deer should you want to use one of those...) you should consider how you would direct a production of the play and why. What themes and/or issues would you want to bring out and why? In what time period would you set the play? How would you design the set/costume/lighting/sound and how would these elements be bringing across the themes and issues? How would you want the roles to be performed by your actors and why? You can present your ideas in either the form of an essay or you may wish to do a portfolio which can include sketches and diagrams. You should be able to explain where you have got your ideas for staging from and why you have chosen to communicate the themes and/or issues you have. In order to do this you will need to research into the play, the authors intentions and previous productions of the text. You need to include evidence of this research in your essay or portfolio.

If you wish you could make a model of the set (but this is not compulsory).

Challenge 3

This is an acting challenge. Choose a monologue, which would take about two minutes to perform, from a play of your choice. It does not have to be gender specific but I would like you to aim for a role that is not too far away from your own age (mid-late 20’s maximum) and I would like you to choose a character which you think is quite different from yourself.

Develop a performance of this monologue and record yourself doing the performance. If you are unable to record yourself for some reason, this can be done when we return to school so make sure you are ready.

Make some notes about your thoughts on the character, how you have interpreted the role and why and what choices you have made about use of acting skills in order to develop your performance.
Challenge 4

Please research into Stanislavski to find out the following –

• His background and what he did in his life.
• His philosophy of Drama and Theatre.
• His thoughts on acting and design (costume and set).

Also find a copy of his book, ‘An Actor Prepares’ (they can be bought on amazon or borrowed from the library) and read it. It will help with the task above too.

The style of his work is called Naturalism. Find a play by one of the following naturalistic playwrights and read it – Anton Checkov, Henrik Ibsen, John Osborne, Alan Ayckbourn, Mike Leigh, Shelagh Delany.

Please research into Brecht to find out the following –

• His background and what he did in his life.
• His philosophy of Drama and Theatre (Epic Theatre – what did it involve?)
• His thoughts on acting and design (costume and set).

Find and read a play written by Brecht to see how he put his ideas into practice.

Please research into Steven Berkoff to find out the following –

• His background and what he did in his life.
• His philosophy of Drama and Theatre (Epic Theatre – what did it involve?)
• His thoughts on acting and design (costume and set).

Find and read a play written by Berkoff to see how he put his ideas into practice.

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