

STAYING IN TOUCH



Please stay in touch if you have any questions:

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University
of
Chichester
Department of Theatre

YOUR AUDITION

A guide to audition for

- BA (Hons) Acting
- BA (Hons) Drama and Theatre
- BA (Hons) Performing Arts (Theatre and Dance)
- BA (Hons) Theatre
- BA (Hons) Theatre (Performance and Production)



THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Welcome to the Department of Theatre at the University of Chichester! We are sending this booklet to you because you are now on our 'system', having submitted your UCAS form. This booklet is by way of a grand introduction to a really proactive, bespoke and personal process of selection to our department. We pride ourselves on offering our candidates something different from our selection process: a real dialogue, which offers a sense of worth and of achievement from the actual process itself; a sense of ownership for you, the candidate, in a two-way process and, ultimately, through the exercises we set up, a real challenge to yourself – a chance to explore ideas and new approaches to acting, performance, making and studying theatre, giving you a clear understanding of what it's like to study Drama, Theatre, Acting and/or Performing Arts with us.

The stakes are, of course, high.... You are in a competitive process, which, if successful, offers you entry into one of the best University Theatre Departments in the country, with the highest student satisfaction for teaching, excellent links to the industry and the most dynamic environment for making exciting theatre you could imagine. Accordingly, our process of selection – centred on our audition day – is very particular: we invite you to prepare for a range of exercises and tasks – all carefully outlined here – that encourage you to embrace the broad skills-set that is integral to theatre-making, but, also, allows you the chance to consider the distinctions and differences in our 'offer' – a chance to think about which course is right for you. Of course, while this process is competitive we hope it is not combative: we are not in the business of trying to trick you or catch you out... we WANT you to succeed and so, before Pete, outlines the key details of our audition day, here are a few key principles to think about going into this new and exciting stage of planning for Higher Education:

- Auditions are exciting not scary! See them as a chance to meet new people from different places, feel inspired by the resources and environment – not to mention the people you meet - and, most importantly, a chance to be yourself: your speeches, your cultural ideas, your creative choices, your voice being heard;
- Auditions offer perspective ... Go to as many of them as you can... all universities, drama schools and colleges are different;
- Be prepared! Work hard on your speeches and other tasks so that you own them: you understand what they are saying to you and why you think they are important: if you think your ideas aren't important change them!
- Remember to have some questions ... But make sure your questions are not demanding too many closed answers – be ready to have your opinions and ideas of what will make a good theatre course checked and challenged.
- You'll be with us all day, so make sure you feel comfortable, have plenty of water, eat breakfast etc ... BUT don't worry about lunch: we give you a free one!
- Finally, make a day of it.... If you want to bring a parent, a partner or best friend, then do so (don't worry: they can't come into the actual audition!), get a feel for the place – both University and the beautiful city of Chichester – and start feeling like you're already part of our dynamic creative environment: we think you will NEVER look back!

Hope to meet you in the coming weeks ... **Best of Luck!** ...
Ben Francombe, Head of the Department of Theatre



#1 NATIONALLY FOR TEACHING SATISFACTION

THE AUDITION DAY

There are two key principles that we use to define how we audition candidates for the Theatre Department:

1) A DAY IN THE LIFE

We try to make the audition day (as far as we can) feel like a normal day on campus. The exercises we ask you to do are based on activities and experiences you can expect to encounter on any given day during your studies. So not only do we get to see your work, you get to see how we work.

2) EVERYONE DOES EVERYTHING

There are four parts to our audition process. Every candidate does ALL the activities, whichever degree you are applying for. This is really important, so we can judge your suitability for the course you have applied for and also to describe the crossovers between our programmes.

The audition experience should be fun. It should give you a sense of what it will be like to study here. You will meet and work with current members of staff. You will work with current students. You should feel like the day teaches you something – more like attending a workshop or masterclass than just an audition.

Dr Pete Phillips, Admissions Tutor and Senior Lecturer in Theatre



#3 NATIONALLY FOR COURSE SATISFACTION

Guardian League Table 2018 for Drama and Dance

MOVEMENT CLASS

DESCRIPTION

During the movement class you will be led by a member of staff through a physical warm up that will prepare you for the day ahead. You will be asked to work physically through the body touching on ideas of how the body can be used in performance. This section of the workshop will feel like a class – led by a member of staff. We expect students applying for BA (Hons) Performing Arts (Theatre Performance & Dance) to excel in the movement class.

ADVICE

- Wear clothing appropriate for movement
- You don't have to be a dancer
- Work to your limits and capabilities of your own body



INTERVIEW

DESCRIPTION

For your interview we ask you to research a local OR national OR international cultural event e.g. a story from your local newspaper, an event like the London 2012 Olympics or the Brexit referendum.

Be prepared to discuss:

- Why this event is significant to you
- Your ideas for directing an imaginary new play based on this event.
Think about where you might perform the play, what it might look like and who the 'characters' might be.

This part of the audition will feel like a tutorial. We expect students to approach this task from a perspective that supports their application for their chosen course. E.g. BA (Hons) Theatre Performance & Production applicants might describe a project from a design perspective, whereas BA (Hons) Drama & Theatre candidates might offer more dramaturgical insights etc.

ADVICE

- Pick an event that is important to you
- Practice with a friend how you are going to describe the event
- Try to imagine a practical project that you would really love to do
- Imagine a project with no restrictions – what would you do if money was no object
- Think about how the event informs the nature of the idea





SPEECHES

DESCRIPTION

During the speeches you will be asked to perform two short, contrasting speeches, one contemporary, one classical. You will do a short warm up exercise with a member of staff and then will present the speeches. At least one of the speeches will be performed, whilst the other may be used as part of a rehearsal exercise – to see how you work with direction. The speeches section will be in small groups, so you will perform in front of some of the other applicants.

This part of the audition will feel like a performance in a rehearsal. We expect applicants for BA (Hons) Acting to excel in this section of the audition.

ADVICE

- Pick speeches that are appropriate for your casting range
- Read the whole play (not just from an audition book)
- Be prepared to work with the speeches



WORKSHOP

DESCRIPTION

During the workshop section of the audition you will be given a stimulus and asked to create a short performance in a small group in response. The brief will set up clear parameters, but members of staff will mostly observe the way you work with other applicants to create a new performance. Here we're looking for the way you work with others and how you collaborate in the creation of new performance material.

This section of the audition will feel like a devising workshop. We expect applicants for BA (Hons) Theatre to excel in this section of the workshop.

ADVICE

- Make something you like, not what you think we will like.
- Allow yourself to be challenged by the ideas of others.
- Find the performance by making it (don't devise by committee!)



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We hope you have a really great time on the audition day. At the end of the audition the members of staff who have met you during the various tasks will discuss your application. We will decide on how to proceed with your application then pass on the details to the admissions team who will update on the UCAS system.

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **We make bespoke offers:** The offer we make is for YOU. If we offer less than your predicted grades, it's because we want you to come here and want to take a bit of the pressure of you heading into your exams.
- **We don't do unconditional offers:** Unless you already have your grades (you are a mature student), we will always insist on certain grade achievements. We want you to succeed in all aspects of your academic life including your A-Levels, BTEC etc. We would encourage you to question the motives of any institution that offers unconditional grades in the current Higher Education climate.
- **What if I don't get my grades!** Don't panic. We gave you an offer because you were good enough for our department at audition. Ring us on the clearing hotline and we will discuss the situation with you.
- **We may offer you a different course:** We sometimes offer students places on a course within our department that is different to the one they applied for. If we want you to consider a switch, we will start the conversation during audition. We will explain our reasoning, which will be about placing you on the most appropriate programme – where we think you will thrive!

