

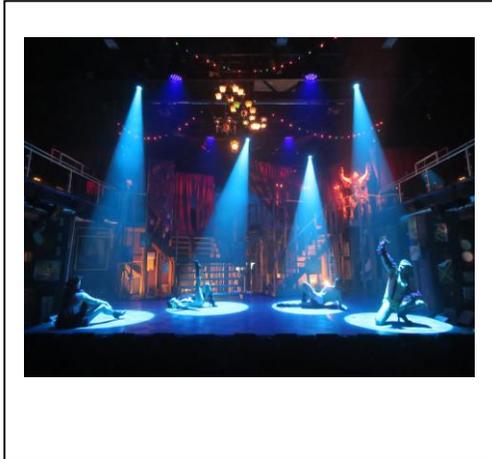


# Sixth Form Preparation for Success

## Welcome to Production Arts

BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Diploma Production Arts

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### Introduction

BTEC Production Arts is all about developing skills in Lighting and Sound for the stage. This work will give you an understanding of the role of Lighting and Sound Designers and give you an appreciation of what it takes to make the dramatic spectacular!

## Part I – Y11 into 12 Production Arts Specific Bridging Work

### To be completed May – Sept

Remember that prizes will be awarded for 'exceptional' work that demonstrates effort above expected!

#### a) Investigate places of interest

We encourage our Production Arts students to watch as much live theatre as our Performing Arts students, but with a different outlook. When watching a good play, it's very easy to become totally absorbed by the actors' skills. You may not realise how much of an impact the lighting design and sound design has on the audiences understanding of what is happening in the play, how it influences mood, atmosphere and emotions or how it might focus our attention on specific aspects of the performance, but deep down, you will feel it. Having an understanding of the creative skills these designers utilise to achieve this, I believe, gives you an enhanced appreciation of the production as a whole.

Whilst there is no substitute for live performance, during lockdown many performances have been made available to watch online. Use the following link to access a videos folder where there are many performances to watch. Also of particular interest is the Lighting and Sound Design folder, where there are interviews with designers.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xY9tJukCsrrkNEQH1WpTIntlYzcgqLdn>

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You can also have access to all National Theatre performances as we subscribe to them –

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/series/national-theatre-collection-iid-190464>

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## **b) Wider reading**

An excellent website for research with an immense amount of information on the production aspects of performance is:

[www.theatrecrafts.com](http://www.theatrecrafts.com)

Some useful industry information can be found on:

[www.getintotheatre.org](http://www.getintotheatre.org)

or

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/arts-and-creative/1014275-how-to-become-a-theatre-lighting-designer-sound-designer-or-technician>

Sound designer resources:

[https://micpool.com/educational\\_resources/](https://micpool.com/educational_resources/)

## **c) Compulsory task**

Produce a research portfolio and report into the role of both a lighting designer and sound designer in the performing arts industry. Use the suggested resources to research these roles and then collect that research into a report, covering the following areas –

- Skills - including technical, interpretative/creative, presenting
- Practical skills – Equipment knowledge, CAD, Health and Safety
- Training and progression routes – really detailed with several options for getting into the industry and give examples of courses and establishments
- Employment opportunities – what work is available in the industry and where are you most likely to get work
- Applying for work – CV's, Pitching/Presenting
- Working conditions and lifestyle factors

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This can be presented as a formal written report, a portfolio/scrapbook with images, mind maps and highlighted printed research or you could present it in a video - a YouTube episode of 'How to become a Lighting/Sound Designer' for example.

#### **d) Stretch!**

From the performance videos in section A, choose 2 scenes which you think are inspirational in their use of lighting and/or sound. They can be scenes from the same play or different plays, but be sure to identify the name of the play and briefly describe the scene/section you are writing about. Write one side of A4, describing why you think the lighting or sound is particularly effective. Try to also include the name of the Lighting and Sound designer for that play.

### **Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September**

There are 5 main types of conventional lanterns used in the theatre: Fresnel, Profile Spot, PC Spot, Parcan and Flood. Each type has its different use, control and adjustment and accessories. Research and find out as much as you can about these lanterns and produce a presentation, ideally a powerpoint or similar, but it can just be written and printed copies made. You will present your work to the rest of the Production Arts class at the beginning of the course. It should be professional and informative.

Some links are shown below to help you get started.

<http://www.theatrecrafts.com/pages/home/topics/lighting/types-of-lantern/>

<https://vimeo.com/channels/9781474212700/skipmort/page:1>

Further information about the course in general can be found in the course specification:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Production-Arts/2010/Specification/9781446934265\\_BTEC\\_90c\\_L3\\_ProdArts\\_Iss4.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Production-Arts/2010/Specification/9781446934265_BTEC_90c_L3_ProdArts_Iss4.pdf)

There is a textbook here that may be useful on the course:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Essential-Guide-Stage-Management-Lighting/dp/1444165402>

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However, this is only available second hand and we do have copies in school for you to use. You could also get a hand start by looking up the basics of theatre design on BBC Bitesize:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z39x34j/revision/1>

We hope that you are inspired by this research task and are eager to put your knowledge into practice. Good Luck and we look forward to working with you to create your own spectacular productions.