



Performing Arts at Key Stage 4

Unit 1 introduction

How can you make sure that you present yourself in the best light to potential employers when employment or training opportunities arise?

Securing work and training opportunities in the performing arts will require you to be able to promote yourself effectively in a range of situations. First impressions matter, so it is crucial that you are able to recognise and promote your skills with confidence and clarity.

This unit covers what to include in a letter of application and how to prepare audition pieces or presentations that demonstrate your relevant skills and knowledge.

You will choose one from a number of possible progression opportunities as the basis for your work. Responding to the opportunity will provide you with a clear focus for the unit.

The presentation aspect of the unit will give you knowledge and experience of the audition/presentation process. When selecting an audition piece or preparing a presentation of your work it is important that you develop a suitable vehicle to show your strengths, not weaknesses. Therefore, learning how to recognise your specific skills is a crucial step.

It is also important that your audition piece or presentation provides a good match for the skills that are required in your chosen progression opportunity, so that the person or people you are showing your work to can connect the skills you are offering to the skills they need.

Learning aims

In this unit you will:

A understand the skills required for the selected progression opportunity

B present a self-promotional response to the selected progression opportunity.

Evidence:

Performance DVD: Two contrasting performances set by the exam board

Letter of application suitable for the Progression opportunity you have chosen – job/college

Unit 2 introduction

This unit incorporates all skills: Dance, Drama, music and production. Students will work as a company, holding meetings and making decisions about the overall look and content of the show they have to put in for a target audience.

Have you ever thought about all of the things that need to happen before a performance is seen by an audience?



In this unit you will learn how to develop a performance piece as a member of a fictional performance company. You will take on a specific performing or production role and will prepare for, and produce, a performance by carrying out tasks that are appropriate to your role. No matter what role you undertake, you will also need to explore the performance piece you are working on.

Your performance company can include both performers and a production team. The performers could be actors, dancers or musicians and the production team can include some, or all, of the following roles: sound or lighting technicians, costume, set, makeup, prop or mask designers and those who construct theatrical materials for the performance. The performers and production team will need to work together to explore, develop and shape ideas for the performance. You will need to take part in preparations for the performance that are appropriate to your role to ensure everything is ready for the opening night. This might include attending rehearsals, production meetings, making sessions and get-ins and fit-ups.

All of your hard work will come to fruition when you present your performance to an audience. You will need to make sure that you understand your responsibilities and that you are personally prepared for the performance, whether that means learning your lines or moves, knowing your cues or making sure that costumes, props and other materials are ready and useable. You should also understand how important you are to the success of the overall production.

This unit focuses on the work of a company, not just the individual. It will therefore give you the chance to experience the highs and lows of working as a member of a performance company.

Learning aims

In this unit you will:

A take part in the preparations for a live performance

B demonstrate performance or production skills and techniques in a performance.