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BA Musical Theatre
Learning in the digital era

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ADPA4001

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Portfolio

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Essential skills for study and employment in the creative industry.

There are many different skills that can be used within the creative industry. These skills can help make you the professional you want to be in the industry. Motivation is a key skill within the creative industry as discussed by Joe Deer and Rocco Dalvera 'Once you have a high level of skill, you have to work hard to maintain a professional level'. I agree with this statement as you are unable to reach a professional level of skill without having a great deal of motivation.

Being resilient is another skill I believe is key within the creative industry as stated by Successatschool.org 'Getting and keeping work in the creative industries is tough. You need to take a pro-active, hardworking approach to finding jobs and you need to bounce back if things don't work out'.

I feel as though being resilient is very important as this industry can really affect someone if you are not willing to constantly push yourself and keep going.

Time management is also an imperative skill within the creative industry, this is suggested by Escape Studios 'Planning your time will help you work more productively'. I think this is an essential skill for anyone within the creative industry in terms of learning lines and songs on deadlines or even finishing specific project on a time frame, without the organisation of your time day to day life can become very pressured.

Communication is one of the most important skills to hold as someone working in the creative industry as suggested by University of Arts London 'Being able to communicate information clearly to a range of audiences is an essential skill to have'. Communication is so important in any job/role or class whilst studying, you as an individual having strong communication can really help to build relationships with others in the industry.

Reflective Essay.

In this reflective essay I have chosen to talk about my acting class. This discipline within the industry has always been my most favored. In this class we have explored many techniques and styles of acting. The recent technique that stood out to me was analysing Duologues. This is a form of performance where only two actors are talking together within a scene. Duologues provide a unique opportunity to explore the depths of characters and their relationships. Just

one of the many things I appreciate about Duologues is the collaborative style of performance. Working with a scene partner allows for exchanges of energy and ideas. It is like a form of dance routine where both actors must listen, respond, and adapt to each other's energy and ideas.

When we started the class, we were given the choice of a few duologue scenes to choose from this initial process was interesting because I had to analyse the pieces without looking any further than the surface area of these texts to pick which one best suited me and my partner. The first thing to do to fully understand the text is to see if the words are black and white on the page our task then as actors is to transform those words into 'Living breathing ACTIONS' (Merlin.B, 2014,p59). This means we should never take the words in front of us for what they are. We as actors should be delving into hidden meaning of text looking at things such as 'Want!Do!Feel' and looking at your given circumstance. 'Want!Do!Feel!' Is a Stanislavsky system that can be used for any piece of text I rely on this anytime I am given a new piece of text. To break it down this system the 'Want' aspect is your objective now with objectives you can have multiple and they can even change within the text. Your character can then be faced with what is called a 'Counter-objective', as stated in Different every night 'The counter-objective causes characters to conflict with themselves' (Alfreds,M,2007,P63). The presence of counter-objectives within our first read of our duologue text was very apparent. We had decided that my character 'A' wanted to tell her friend 'B' what was worrying her (this being my characters Objective) However she was concerned of the affect this would then have on her and 'B's' relationship (This then being the counter-objective). The struggle I faced with getting both objectives across was really being able to home in on the emotions that my character would be feeling when she is so inflicted on what to do.

The 'Do!' Aspect of the 'What!Do!Feel!' Is simply Actions which 'are what characters do to try to achieve their objectives' (Alfreds.M,2007,P65) Alfreds also states that 'there is a world of difference between an actor who plays a result and one who plays an action'. This meaning the audience can always see the extra effort that an actor has put into the development of the piece, never mind the performance.

The way i was able to tackle this dilemma was by looking at my 'Given Circumstance's'. The given circumstance for a character can be any ' facts, events and conditions that influence the events taking place'. (Alfreds.M,2007,P104). The given circumstances can range from environment, time of day, time of year,location,religion,politics. Paying attention to where your

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character fits into these circumstances can really help to build a scene and help you convey a believable and well-developed character for your duologue.

I believe that my strong point within these duologue sessions was that I was able to give my character a given set of circumstances and dive deep into the meaning behind the text. Looking at the environment in which the scene was taking place. The minor details always really help with given circumstances, maybe whether the room your character is in, is it messy or tidy, how does that impact how your character feels. The feeling your character has in space are they comfortable to they feel safe in this space? These are all the minor details that really help to develop a performance. I feel as though I excelled in this aspect of the session as i really enjoy being able to create a background for my character, even further than that i like to create a before and after of my scene what happens to my character just before for her to be where she is and what is the outcome of my scene where does she go after that?

Something i believe i need to work on is breaking down the text into smaller sections/beats to identify a shift in tone and underlying subtext. I think a good way to improve on this would be to really tear apart the text to fully understand everything the writer is trying to convey. This then will give me the tools to give a fully prepared and well thought out performance. Also, i would like to get better at achieving my objectives within a scene whilst considering counter-objectives.

I feel as though i always contribute to class discussions and sharing of ideas as much as possible i try to take as much of other peoples constructive feedback on as i can and use feedback others received to also develop my own individual performance.

Theatre Review

In December 2023 I visited the Vaudeville Theatre in London. This was the very first-time hearing any of the songs from this musical I chose to go into this musical completely blind. First impressions the theatre itself was beautiful the architecture inside resembled somewhat of a music hall in the early years of Musical Theatre. "Six" is a British contemporary musical that tells the story of Henry VIII's six wives. It is a high-energy and empowering show with catchy pop

songs. Each wife gets her own moment to shine with a solo song, displaying their unique personalities. The music is modern, and the lyrics are clever, blending historical references with relatable themes. "Six" is a fun and engaging musical that celebrates female empowerment. "Six" is a modern retelling of the lives of Henry VIII's six wives, but with a twist. The show takes the form of a pop concert, where each wife gets to tell her individual story. The music is incredibly catchy and draws inspiration from different genres like pop, rock, and even EDM. The lyrics are witty and clever, blending historical facts with contemporary references. It is a high-energy production with amazing performances and powerful vocals. The show explores themes of female empowerment, sisterhood, and reclaiming their own narratives.

The show is based on the lives of Henry VIII's six wives, who lived during the 16th century in England. Henry VIII was the King of England from 1509 to 1547. He famously had six wives: Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard, and Catherine Parr. Their stories are filled with drama, politics, and personal struggles. "Six" takes these historical figures and reimagines their stories through a modern lens, giving each wife a chance to tell her side of the story.

It is a fresh and empowering take on history that brings these fascinating women to life in a whole new way. "Six" explores several themes throughout the show. One of the main themes is female empowerment. The musical celebrates the strength, resilience, and individuality of each of Henry VIII's wives, giving them a voice and allowing them to reclaim their stories. Sisterhood is another important theme, as the wives come together to support and uplift each other in their shared experiences. Additionally, the show touches on themes of identity, self-expression, and the power of storytelling. It is a dynamic and thought-provoking musical that explores these themes with energy and passion. The director of "Six" is Lucy Moss. She co-directed the show alongside Jamie Armitage. Lucy Moss is known for her creative approach to theatre. She has a background in directing, writing, and producing musicals. Her vision and storytelling bring the historical characters to life in a modern and exciting way. Lucy Moss's direction has played a significant role in the success of "Six" as a unique and engaging musical experience.

The masterminds behind the music for "Six" are Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss. They both worked together to create the clever and catchy lyrics that make up the songs in the musical. Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss have a talent for intertwining historical references with contemporary language and themes, making the lyrics of "Six" both informative and entertaining. Their work brings a fresh and modern twist to the stories of Henry VIII's wives, making the show a unique and enjoyable experience. They have done an amazing job in creating the lyrics that bring the characters and their stories to life on stage.

Whilst I've never seen a show quite as simplistic staging and set wise the concert like aspect really works for the style of show that "Six" is. The costumes: all six wives wore costumes that

were very individual however also had resemblance with each other, for example every ex-wife had a set of earrings on each wives' earrings had the number in which the order of them marrying Henry. For example, Catherine of Aragon wears number one as she was the first wife. From start to finish the music had me tapping my feet and at times clapping along too, my favourite song of the show was 'I Don't Need Your Love' which is the solo story telling song of Catherine Parr. I found this song particularly interesting as I had only ever remembered Parr as just the one who survived however, she had done so much more with her life after Henry had passed away and that she never truly got the recognition she deserved as such an influential and important woman of her time.

There are many things that set "Six" apart from other musicals. One of the unique aspects of "Six" is its fusion of history and contemporary music creating a vibrant sound that appeals to a wide audience. Additionally, "Six" gives a voice to the six wives themselves, allowing them to tell their own stories and reclaim their narratives. The show also has an incredibly powerful and inspiring element. Overall, "Six" stands out for its unusual approach to storytelling, its memorable music, and its celebration of the strength and resilience of these historical women. It is a musical experience like no other! The Telegraph states ' Super-slick 80-minute is laudably concise-many bloated shows could learn from its focus'. I would highly recommend anyone to go and give it a watch at the Vaudeville Theatre it will be showing until February 2025.

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YouTube @sixglobal

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