

MA ACTING



THINGS TO PREPARE | 2020 ENTRY

Please prepare the following work for the beginning of formal classes on 12 October 2020 – ready to share with the class:

1. Learn, for presentation, a short piece of writing conveying ideas with which you strongly identify; these may be political, religious or philosophical.

The task is to present someone else's ideas or feelings as if they are your own. The writing should be structured. A poem or a political speech is an ideal example. It should not be "verbatim" (unstructured recorded voice transcribed) **nor should it be written by you.**

The aim is to connect the head to the heart. It should be a piece that stirs you, that resonates with something you care deeply about. We'll be looking at how you communicate ideas that come from someone else's head (the Writer's) in to your head, then go on to penetrate your heart and then the heart of your audience – your "end user".

You will to need learn this text "by heart". Maximum length 45 seconds. It is very important that we stick within the time frame.

2. Learn 2 of Shakespeare's sonnets which resonate with you emotionally. You just need to **understand** what you're saying and care about it.

Additionally, our early classes will assume a **working knowledge** of the following plays:

- *Macbeth* by Shakespeare

- *The Cherry Orchard* by Chekhov (we work from the translation used in the OLD Penguin classic version by Fenn – an old copy from E-bay or Abe Books will probably be this version. Avoid "adaptations" as we're looking for the most faithful translation we can find)
- *Waiting for Godot* by Beckett.

Please bring copies with you. You should not only have read these, you need to be familiar with them!

3. In the early weeks we have regular storytelling sessions. We ask you to come prepared to tell/share a couple of stories or myths.

These might be stories you were told in childhood...they might come from your place, country or culture of origin...or from a culture that fascinates you...

They might be Cornish folk tales, Nigerian creation myths...tales of Baba Yaga...or Indigenous stories of wolf, bear or crocodile. Pretty much anything you enjoy and would enjoy sharing.

They may come from an oral tradition...of course you can read them from a book...illustrated books are fun.

If you're fascinated by a Disney film or such perhaps you could do some research on the original tale on which it's based and share that?

Note these are **short stories that you are sharing - 5 minutes long is ideal.**

Also importantly they are **NOT for "performance" but for sharing more intimately in our story telling sessions.**

4. We also ask you to watch the following online before you begin classes:

RSA Animate:

- [The Divided Brain -a talk by Dr Iain McGhilchrist](#)

TED Talks:

- [Brene Brown: The Power of Vulnerability](#)
- [Sir Ken Robinson: Do schools kill creativity?](#)

5. Do bring the following with you during the first weeks of classes:

- any instruments you play (where practical!)
- something to draw/paint with and on!

If you have any pressing questions regarding this work, please [email me](#) directly.