

Drama Induction Preparation

Hello and welcome to Drama at DMU. My name is Lyndsey and I am the Programme Leader for Drama. We can't wait to welcome you on Monday 25th September. We've planned a fun week to kick off your time at DMU jam-packed with workshops, opportunities to meet the team, trips to various locations on and off of campus and social events to meet the 2nd and 3rd years.

In preparation for your time with us at DMU, we have developed 23 activities to help you to start thinking about life at university. These activities encourage you to reflect on what you know about drama and why you have chosen to study it at DMU, to think about who you are and what you want to achieve at DMU, and to introduce you to an exciting play that we will work with during your first week. In order to be able to really participate in the induction week and get the most out of the opportunities planned it's important that you complete the activities in this pack before joining us on 25th September.

If you have any questions or would like to speak about the activities drop me an email at: Lyndsey.bakewell@dmu.ac.uk. I'd love to hear from you.

Activities list:

~~1. Paula Cizmar – Antigone X~~

2.1. _____ What is your theatre?

3.2. _____ Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity at DMU

Enjoy!

Thanks,
Lyndsey

~~1. Antigone X by Paula Cizmar (please see attachments)~~

~~You are going to be reading lots of different play texts with us here at DMU, and this is your first. Please read this play before joining us at DMU—we will be working on it in induction week.~~

- ~~• Have a think about what opportunities are presented in the text?~~
- ~~• How might you think about staging it?~~
- ~~• What kind of audience is this for?~~

~~Bring all of your creativity to the workshops led by Louise, Lyndsey and Elinor and who knows what we can create!~~

2.1. **What is your theatre?**

We would like you to read the 3 articles below and then reflect upon what theatre really means to you in the attached reflections sheet. Complete it before joining us as we will be sharing our answers with each other.

Article one: Guardian, The Theatre Must Speak to the Nation

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/theatreblog/2016/nov/22/theatre-must-speak-to-the-nation>

Article two: You, the jury: plays are giving power to the people

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2017/jun/22/terror-lyric-hammersmith-london>

Article three: David Hare Classic British Drama Infected Radical European Staging

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2017/jan/29/david-hare-classic-british-drama-infected-radical-european-staging>

Your Reflections

What do the words 'theatre' and 'drama mean to you?	Why are you studying Drama and Theatre Arts?
What was the last thing you saw that made you excited about theatre?	What do you hope to achieve working with theatre?
What is the point of theatre?	What can theatre do?
What are some of the challenges presented by theatre?	What is the future of theatre?
Is theatre political?	Who is theatre for?

Any other thoughts?....

3 Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

De Montfort University Drama Department - working effectively, fairly and inclusively with each other through drama

De Montfort University's Equality and Diversity charter is also known as DMUfreedom. The charter, which represents DMUs commitment to continue to cultivate an environment in which staff, students and partners enjoy the freedom to be, the freedom to inspire and the freedom to succeed, comprises the following basic rights:

- **Freedom to be** ourselves in a supportive environment that allows us space to explore our personal identity.
- **Freedom to be** proud of our achievements, and to have the time to learn from them.
- **Freedom to be** confident that our decisions are based on a thoughtful consideration of our options
- **Freedom to inspire** creativity, unbound by convention, that increases knowledge.
- **Freedom to inspire** communities, by supporting their educational, social and economic growth.
- **Freedom to inspire** open minds by removing barriers that constrict personal, professional and academic growth.
- **Freedom to succeed** academically, in an environment pushing boundaries and where ambition is encouraged.
- **Freedom to succeed** personally, through inspiring leadership that understands and respects aspiration.
- **Freedom to succeed** professionally, by sharing in knowledge and connections that shape skills and expertise.

These freedoms underpin the experience of studying drama, which is, after all, about embracing challenges, understanding our shared humanity and working together supportively. If we are to enjoy these freedoms, it is essential for each student and each member of staff to develop and maintain the kind of open mind which is defined by the following characteristics:

- **An open mind discards fear of failure** – expect failure it and accept that is useful
- **An open mind is comfortable with 'I don't know'** – develop new thoughts rather than reusing old ones. Get comfortable with thoughts like: 'that doesn't make sense' or change them into 'that doesn't make sense - yet'. It's very possible that you'll study something that doesn't make sense for a week, or a month, or a term, or even longer. Disregard preconceived ideas that you believed to be true. Accept that your previous education has provided you with strategically simplified versions of the truth
- **An open mind looks actively for divergent thinking** – there are many possibilities and many answers and never only one. Others may have

persuasive opinions, this is a good thing, but you don't need to agree wholeheartedly with them

- **An open mind is curious and enquiring** – focus on questions rather than answers
- **An open mind avoids thinking informed by 'fashions, fads, dogmas, habits or other "pictures-in-the-head" of what is proper, normal, "right"** – 'be ready to receive whatever happens to be the case without surprise, shock, indignation or denial'

Preparation for your life and work at DMU

Having thought about the principles underpinning DMUs Equality and Diversity Charter and the characteristics of an open mind we'd like you to write a personal learning manifesto. A manifesto is a statement of intent or a resolution.

We believe that writing a personal learning manifesto and committing it to paper will enable you to think about and establish a set of attitudes and beliefs that can be used to inform your approach to life at university. Informed by the best version of you, your manifesto should be a clear statement about how you want to approach your work, your values and what will drive you forward. It should comprise a series of short statements that outline clearly how you intend to learn and the attitudes you bring to your learning as well as the ways in which you intend to work with others in positive and supportive ways.

Task

1. Think carefully about DMUs Equality and Diversity Charter and the characteristics of an open mind
2. Think carefully about the ways in which they will inform your approach to learning from the beginning of the new academic year
3. Develop a series of short, clear and powerful statements of intent.
4. Be prepared to share your finished manifesto during induction week in the sessions focusing on effective working practices and when you meet your personal tutor

We hope you have fun completing the activities – we are really looking forward to working on them with you when you arrive.

Please email me (Lyndsey Bakewell – Lyndsey.bakewell@dmu.ac.uk) if you have any questions about this or anything else relating to life and work at DMU