

LIPA  
SIXTH FORM  
COLLEGE

WHERE PERFORMANCE MATTERS

2019  
ENTRY

# Presentation and Interview Guidelines

UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Technical Theatre & Design  
September 2019 entry

## Thank you for applying to join our Technical Theatre & Design course for September 2019

We understand that you may be as nervous as you are excited, and want to make sure that you feel that you are able to present yourself and your work to the best of your ability. These guidelines are intended to help you prepare effectively, give you some information about what to expect on the day, and explain what happens next in the application process. Please read through them carefully, and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions that aren't answered here.

We want to make sure that our applications process is accessible to everyone, and will make reasonable adjustments if you have a disability or particular requirement. If you have any questions about this, please contact Andrea McDevitt, Programme Manager for Technical Theatre & Design at [a.mcdevitt@lipasixthformcollege.org](mailto:a.mcdevitt@lipasixthformcollege.org).

This information can be made available in other formats – please let us know about any specific needs you have.



## Any questions?

We wish you the best of luck and hope you enjoy your day with us.

In the meantime, if you need any further information about any aspect of the presentation and interview process, please contact Andrea McDevitt, Programme Manager for Technical Theatre & Design at [a.mcdevitt@lipasixthformcollege.org](mailto:a.mcdevitt@lipasixthformcollege.org) or on 0151 330 3232.

# Overview

Your presentation and interview are intended to enable you to present yourself and your work in the best possible way. We understand how much you care about your work and how nerves inevitably play a part on such occasions, so we encourage you to view the day as a learning opportunity in its own right, both with the panel and with fellow candidates. Regardless of the outcome, there is much you can learn about yourself and your work from a day like this.

The presentation and interview schedule for Technical Theatre & Design is as follows:

## Arrival and registration

### **Session A**      **Presentation and interview**

During this time, you will be allocated a slot to present your prepared presentation and to have a short interview.

You will present your presentation individually before a small panel, followed by an individual interview to allow for the panel to ask further questions. Each candidate will have 10-15 minutes in total.

You can use the rest of the time productively in meeting other candidates and sharing experiences of performing arts and performances.

### **Session B**      **Group workshop**

This workshop will give you an idea of how it would feel to be in class as part of LIPA Sixth Form College should you be offered a place with us, and allows us to assess how you engage with the collaborative learning process. There is no need to prepare for this, but please make sure you engage with the activities fully.

This session will conclude with a final Q&A opportunity which allows you to ask further questions about LIPA Sixth Form College and what to expect should you come to learn with us. Doing this as a group means that you are less likely to miss out on something you had meant to ask and often we may also cover ground that you had not thought of.

### ***Please note:***

We will confirm presentation and interview timings on when you arrive to register for your presentation and interview. We will also be able to confirm the time you are individually free to leave at this point, too.

## Your presentation

You are asked to present your creative ideas and approach to at least one aspect of design for performance (e.g., costume design, set design) or one aspect of technical theatre (e.g., lighting or sound effects) for either:

a) **a production you have already worked on** - perhaps as part of your studies, or as part of a group you belong to outside of school.

**OR**

a) **a project that you would like to realise in the future** - perhaps using your favourite production or a performance you've seen as a starting point or inspiration.

You may present your ideas in either hard copy or digitally, and can bring a digital presentation on USB stick if you wish - a laptop will be available for your use, or you may bring your own tablet or laptop.

If appropriate, you may also wish to bring a portfolio of examples of other (relevant) work, or any sketchbooks or folders you may have, but this is not essential and you will not be at a disadvantage if you don't have anything to bring.

Remember preparation is everything for your presentation and interview and is the best help against inevitable nervousness. **Also remember that we are not ultimately looking for excellence of presentation or technical skill, but your ability to express yourself in your work.**

### Tips to help you prepare for your presentation

Whether you are creating a piece especially for us or presenting something you have made previously:

- If presenting a project you'd like to realise in future, choose one that shows us both your existing skill and your potential in one or more aspects of design work in performance – whether set or costume design, sound or lighting design.
- If presenting a project you've already worked on or based on something you've seen, be prepared to discuss the challenges you faced when engaging with the work – what did you set out to achieve, and what were your inspirations and influences? What went well, and what didn't? How might you do it differently in the future?
- When showing us your ideas (or pieces from your portfolio or sketchbooks, if you have any), consider the order in which you present them – you may run out of time to present if you put your best work last. In addition to any relevant work that you are proud of, you may also consider bringing work you could improve on, to discuss how you would do this – remember, we are looking for ideas and potential, not necessarily polished, finished work.
- Think about what makes a striking design, whether in technical terms or in terms of set design or costume. Think of something you've seen - how did the sound design or lighting contribute to the overall performance? What did it look or sound like, and how did it make you feel? Were design elements an important part of the production, and if so, how? What worked well, and what didn't?
- Be imaginative and creative in what you show us – let your images, ideas and designs do the talking. Being able to explain your inspirations and vision in your work will help to highlight your ability and potential to develop your skills.
- Don't try and copy the style or approach of a particular set or costume designer, lighting or sound designer – use your own instinct, emotions, inspiration and imagination to shape your presentation. A friend or teacher can let you know if you are conveying what you want in way that is true to yourself.

## Your interview

Your interview will have three questions as follows:

### Question 1 refers to your presentation piece:

- *Why did you choose this work to present?*
- *How did you go about working on it?*
- *How do you think it went today and what can you learn from it?*

### Question 2 - What's your dream?

### Question 3 - How will coming to LIPA Sixth Form College help you to achieve this?

We have provided these questions so that you have time to think about what you want to say in advance. We want you to have the opportunity to speak honestly about yourself and your work.

## Tips to help you prepare for your interview

- Make some notes about each of the questions to help you shape your thoughts and responses – by doing this over a period of time, you may find that new ideas occur to you and that you can add to your possible answers the more you think about them.
- As with your application form, think about what makes you different – you may have wanted to design sets or lighting for some time now, but what makes you stand out from everyone else? Why would studying at LIPA Sixth Form College - rather than elsewhere - set you on the path to achieving your dream? What are you looking for by applying to us, and how do you think we can help you?
- What can you bring to your studies, and to us as a college, if you were offered a place? Think about all the different ways in which you could make the most of the opportunity – not just in the performance space, but outside.
- Practice answering the questions in front of a mirror, or with a friend or teacher who you can trust to give you honest, useful feedback. The more you practice what you want to say, the easier it will be to speak naturally and with confidence on the day itself.
- Look again at the information you put on your application form, and make sure you can talk about it if asked to - being able to talk confidently about things you've done or seen will help you to be more natural and 'yourself' in an interview.
- Above all, relax and enjoy the experience – we want to know about you, and only you can tell us that.

### What to wear

Please feel free to wear whatever you feel comfortable working in.

### What to bring

In addition to your presentation and any other supporting material you wish to show us (whether technically-focused or design-led), please bring water, refreshments and something to read, as there will be periods when you will be waiting around.

## What happens next?

The panel will consider all four elements of your application together - your audition, your interview, your contribution within the group workshop and the information on your application form (including your predicted GCSE grades). They will reach a decision regarding your application collectively.

You will receive a letter from us **in April 2019** which will state the outcome of your audition and interview.

### Feedback

We aim to make the presentation and interview experience as stress-free and positive as possible, and would welcome any feedback you may have about your experience today. After the presentation and interview, we will therefore email you to ask you to complete an anonymous online survey about your experience with us