

Design for Performance Presentation and Interview Guidelines

UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts September 2026 entry

Thank you for applying to join our **Design for Performance** course for September 2026. 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 are not answered here.

We want to make sure that our application process is accessible to everyone and will make reasonable adjustments if you have a disability or requirement. If you have any questions about this, please contact Julie at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org or call us on 0151 330 3232. 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 Julie at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org or call us 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, 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 Design for Performance is as follows:

Arrival and registration

Session A Presentation and interview

During this time, you will be allocated a slot to present your pre-prepared presentation and have a short interview. You will talk through your presentation individually before a small panel, followed by an interview to allow for the panel to ask further questions. Each candidate will have 10-15 minutes in total.

Session B Group Task

This task 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.

Your Presentation

What to present?

You are asked to present your creative ideas and approach to at least one aspect relevant to design for performance (e.g., costume, set, props, puppetry, or 3D work) for either:

a) A project or 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

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

You may present your ideas either as a hard copy (e.g., a sketchbook or artifact) or digitally (e.g., PowerPoint on a USB stick) A laptop will be available for your use, or you may bring your own tablet or laptop.

You will need to talk through the presentation, explaining what you did or what your ideas are for your future project. We encourage you to use notes throughout the presentation. If

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

Please feel free to wear whatever you feel comfortable and professional in. 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, use the following starting points to help structure your presentation:

A project or production you have already worked on:

- 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 did not? How might you do it differently in the future?

A project or production you would 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, costume, props, puppetry or 3D work. Think about what makes a striking design in one or more of these areas.

For both of the above

- When showing us your ideas (or pieces from your portfolio or sketchbooks), 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.
- 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.

Your interview

Your interview will have three questions as follows:

Question 1 refers to your presentation piece:

- Using your past experience and knowledge, how would you explain what design for performance is?
- How do you think the skills you have demonstrated in your presentation are relevant to design for performance?

Question 2 refers to Design for Performance as a career:

- What got you interested in design for performance and is there a specific aspect of this that you lean towards?
- Why is teamwork important in Design for Performance?

Question 3 refers to your future ambitions:

- How will coming to LIPA Sixth Form College help you and your skills to progress?
- What do you see as your next step beyond LSFC?

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 – 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 ambition? 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 drama studio, 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 have 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 ensure you are dressed comfortably. Do not wear any restricting clothes.

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 decision email from us in March 2026 which will state the outcome of your audition and interview.