Performing Arts

Styles & Influences: Devising Theatre with Purpose

Task

You are going to be part of a devised performance project in September. To help you prepare, this summer task will get you thinking like a theatre-maker.

1 – Research two Theatre Styles or Practitioners

Choose from the following list (or request your own with teacher approval

Styles:
- Physical Theatre (e.g. Frantic Assembly, DV8)
- Verbatim Theatre (e.g. The Paper Birds)
- Epic Theatre (e.g. Bertolt Brecht)
- Naturalism (e.g. Stanislavski)
- Theatre of Cruelty (e.g. Artaud)
- Dance Theatre (e.g. Pina Bausch, Akram Khan)
- Musical Theatre-influenced devising (e.g. Complicité)
- Musical Theatre (original creations)

For Each:
- Who are they / what is the style?
- What are 3 to 5 key features or techniques of the style?
- Name one piece they created or inspired and describe what it was about (how it was created/ how it was influenced) in 2 to 3 sentences.
- Present your findings as a written report or presentation

2 – **Creative Application**

Now think like a theatre maker - respond to the stimulus below:

*I could never have dreamt that there were such goings-on
in the world between the covers of books,
such sandstorms and ice blasts of words,
such staggering peace, such enormous laughter,
such and so many blinding bright lights,
splashing all over the pages
in a million bits and pieces
all of which were words, words, words,
and each of which were alive forever
in its own delight and glory and oddity and light.*

By Dylan Thomas Notes on the Art of Poetry

- How could your chosen styles/ practitioners be used to respond to the stimulus?
- What emotions, themes, or moments from the poem connect with your chosen styles/ practitioners?
- What ideas could you explore (e.g. imagination, chaos, wonder, light, language)?

Present your ideas as a written report or presentation

Bring your completed work to your first BTEC Performing Arts lesson in September. You will:

- Share your ideas in group discussions
- Use them to inspire your devised performance
- Your research will be used in your log books that will be submitted alongside your performance at the end of the project