Exemplar 1

My first real experience with the performing arts came six years ago in the form of my school's production of The Wizard of Oz, when I was twelve. I clearly recall standing backstage during the dress rehearsal and knowing that this was absolutely what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

Since then, I have taken on every opportunity I've been able to grab, and gotten a foot in as many doors as possible. Shortly after deciding to pursue Musical Theatre, I began singing lessons to correctly train my voice in a variety of genres (including classical, Musical Theatre and pop) after several years of casual singing in choirs and solo. I then utilised this training to sing tenor, alto and soprano in my school chamber choir. This year, I have had the privilege of being invited to sing at the Cheltenham Music and Jazz Festivals as a soloist and in a band. I also direct my school choir with students from all year groups, and regularly take responsibility for extra-curricular music. I believe my experiences with music make me an ideal candidate for the course as I have studied both practical music and theory for a number of years, making me a quick learner and giving me a firm understanding of music within shows.

I also consider myself extremely fortunate in the acting opportunities I have been offered. Since The Wizard of Oz, I have been lucky enough to be in nine school productions since including Bugsy Malone, The Sound of Music and Cats, taking on increasingly significant roles in a variety of styles such as naturalism, physical theatre and melodrama. I have recently been able to apply the experience I have gained when directing my school's KS3 production of The Story of Kylie and Rick, giving younger students with less stage experience advice and direction in areas such as projection, enunciation and stage physicality. Directing this play required me to show a huge amount of dedication and organisation to ensure that rehearsals were well-run and all aspects of the show came together; this has prepared me for the commitment I will need to show when studying Musical Theatre at BA level. I was able to deal with the issues presented to me, such as having cast members drop out a week before the show, having to postpone due to illness and changing the play when we couldn't get the performance rights, which taught me a lot about adaptability and working under pressure. I have also had the chance to work in the school's technical crew in the stage and the lighting departments, which gave me a different perspective on productions and an understanding on how all the elements of a show come together.

After seeing many shows on and off the West End, it brought to my attention the standard of dance required for a career in Musical Theatre. Since the age of fifteen, I have committed myself to achieving a high standard in multiple styles, putting in over five hours a week of learning time and an additional four hours of teaching younger students as a way of perfecting my own basic technique. I am proud to have risen to Grade IV standard in tap, modern and ballet (with plans to begin Grade V ballet and tap in January) in only three years, and have also risen to high standard in commercial street and body conditioning/jazz fusion. My commitment to and progress in dance is one of my proudest accomplishments as it took a huge amount of focused training.

I believe my ongoing dedication and passion towards the study of Musical Theatre in the classroom, in extra-curricular activities, and outside of school, would make me an ideal candidate for this course. I have spent the last six years taking every chance possible to fine-tune my technical skills and gain as much experience as possible in order to prepare me for Musical Theatre as a future career. I believe that this course is among the most well-rounded and offers the best preparation for life in an extremely competitive industry.

Exemplar 2:

Nowadays media portrays an important part in society not just with its larger influences but the personal influence to anyone watching something that I did; the idea that by doing something I love and have a passion for will connect me with people all round the world or even make a difference to one person, inspires and drives me forward in wanting to pursue a career in acting. The feeling of developing a character through rehearsals, getting on stage and successfully taking on that persona completely is like no other to me. Whilst on stage I am totally immersed in being that character but in between acts and afterwards the adrenaline rush is difficult to put into words.

I am hard working and set myself high personal standards that allow me to challenge myself. I use my communication and teamwork skills constantly, making sure it is a collaboration of everyone’s creativity, but I also work well on my own using my critical thinking to develop and adapt my own ideas.

I have been actively involved with my local youth theatre since 2016, until they had to close last year due to the economic climate. I enjoyed taking part in workshops in various aspects of the performing arts such as, stage fighting, dance, circus and mask work. We did a range of performances, one of which that stands out being a comedy – The Great Race, where I had to be several characters from a pirate, French businessman to a member of the Russian mob. This rapid change of accents, characters and costumes certainly developed my adaptability! These activities furthered my interest in a career in the creative arts and I want to broaden my abilities further.

In my BTEC performing arts, I am focusing on refugees as a topic to use the verbatim technique, to create a piece of work which has involved a lot of research to develop and ensure I can portray the character accurately. Working as part of a group I enjoyed developing and adapting a duologue from Macbeth into a piece to fit the present day. As director, I developed my leadership skills but also needed to be collaborating with the others in my group to develop the scene further. During year 12, I had the opportunity to take part in a workshop provided by Frantic Assembly where we looked into movement and lifting. This required me to listen to the instructor and make sure I communicated with my partner as it could’ve been dangerous if either of us dropped the other. This also meant there had to be trust between the two of us and I was able to develop my communication skills.

My other subjects may not initially seem related to acting but the Geography independent investigation required me to use critical thinking to analyse the data I collected, whilst also making sure I stuck to deadlines and managed my time. Both geography and biology are content heavy subjects which allow me to challenge myself and also require wider reading. Because of Lockdown I was required to remotely study and be more independent to stay on top of my work; all skills useful for acting.

Work experience as a TA in a class of 4-5 year olds, meant that I had to be patient and organised but also be able to follow instructions of the teacher I was helping. I worked closely with other people over a 2 day period as part of my expedition section of my DofE where we had to be self-reliant but also work together communicating as a team.

Having achieved Grade 2 in ballet, I was working at Grade 4 before stopping to focus on my A-levels. This shows my commitment to my extracurricular activities but also my school work and my willingness to progress and develop the skills they give me. I have a Grade 3 in singing for musical theatre and was working towards my grade 5 before Lockdown was put in place.

By continuing my studies of drama into university it will allow me to work in a more professional setting and provide more opportunities in the industry. It also allows me to develop my skills further so that I am able to work and succeed in the industry.

Exemplar 3

There is nothing like performing live; the feeling I got dancing on the West End stage as part of the Bobby Dazzler showcase convinced me this was my future. All the practice that I had put in came together making all the effort seem worth it with every movement fitting into place. The adrenaline that kicked in made me feel that anything was possible throughout the performance and the high feeling walking off the stage at the end knowing that we had nailed the performance is something I want to repeat over and over again.

I am a competitive dancer and I have been interested in studying dance since a very young age, taking part in many dance lessons outside of school. I find dance inspiring as you can feel like you’re someone else and you get lost in the movement and feel like part of the music. I have been studying Ballet, Modern, Tap and Jazz for 15 years as the 4 main disciplines of dance. Over the last 4 years I have studied Ariel Arts Acrobatic Arts and Contemporary to increase my repertoire and make me a more rounded dancer. I particularly enjoy the practical side of dance and being able to work with a team or individually to push myself to my full potential. I believe this course would provide the framework for me to continue to develop this potential, as I am passionate about practical performance. I am dedicated, hard-working and believe that one of my key strengths is that I have innovative and creative ideas. I persevere in all challenges and tasks set, even when this is not within my comfort zone.

I also enjoy studying about the history of dance. The dancers who have influenced me are Sergei Polunin and The Frantic Assembly theatre company. Frantic Assembly inspire me as their actors use dance to convey a performance which uses physical theatre when words wouldn’t show the power that movement does. Sergei Polunin inspires me because his family did not have a lot to begin with but, with determination, he managed to become one of the world’s best technical dancers with a real passion for what he was doing.

Throughout my time studying dance, I have learnt all about the techniques and the determination needed to become a professional dancer, and I really do believe that I am ready to make that jump. My ambition is to become a professional dancer and your course would provide the platform to achieve this ambition. I am someone who has the skills and ambitions to become an enhanced dancer with a range of skills to be able to perform to a very high level. This may lead to a career on cruise ships and being able to teach dance as a fully qualified teacher. With this in mind, I have worked extensively with younger years using my leadership skills to put on a show called ‘A Night at The Movies’ which was a gym and dance based show where I choreographed dances and gymnastics routines. As part of the school’s Tech Team, I also helped the stagehands and stage crew to put on a breathtaking performance. I am right for this Level 6 Diploma course as I will work harder to achieve and to prove that anything is possible if you put in the effort and have the determination.

I am currently studying A levels in Theatre Studies, Food technology and Product Design. I have also taken an extension of Trinity Arts Award Gold level 3. I really enjoy all of my subjects as I get to learn a range of different skills and I can put knowledge that I learn in my subjects into other subjects into other areas of my life. Trips I have taken part in include ‘Move it 2017’ dance convention, at London Edexcel, performing on ‘Her majesty’s theatre’ taking part in Bobby Dazzlers and competing regularly within my community. Whilst at the ‘Move It’ Dance convention I took part in the ‘Move It Dance Championships’, which gave me a look into what I could potentially be doing if I am given the chance to pursue dance as my career. Outside of my academic studies I take part in around 14 hours of dance training to practice my technique and to give me the skills I need.

In conclusion I am a hardworking individual who strives to get the best in everything I take part in and challenge myself daily to make myself a more rounded individual with more qualities and attributes. Dance is something I feel compelled to do. I hope that by combining this passionate calling with my strong work ethic I will be gaining from and contributing to the art of performance.