

PERFORMING ARTS

My inspiration and enthusiasm for performing arts developed from an early age due to regular visits to the theatre leading to an increasing involvement in children's theatre groups. I have been a member of the school drama group throughout secondary school and at present I am a member of the Saundersfoot Youth Theatre group which has given me experience of all aspects of theatre work. I also volunteer to help with the junior class of this group which has given me wide experience of teaching and learning. This has reinforced my burning ambition to explore all aspects of the theatre and gain a richer and broader understanding of the performing arts through studying for this degree. Of the productions I have been involved in, two stand out in particular. 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell gave me the opportunity to help design the set, experience in directing as well as playing several roles. I also found the play I performed for my As level practical examination immensely moving and thought provoking. 'Find Me' by Olwen Wymark, the story of a very troubled girl and the way in which she is treated by society is extremely emotive and gave me the opportunity of researching not only the complexities of Verity the leading character but a range of diverse personas since the play requires the ability to multirole. The experience confirmed my desire to explore contemporary theatre and to train in theatre arts.

I had the most amazing opportunity last summer when I had work experience at Industrial Light and Magic, the film company responsible for creating the special effects in major blockbusters such as the Harry Potter franchise, Transformers and the Star Wars series, and Skywalker Sound in California. This really opened my eyes to the world of film making from the scoring stage where an orchestra was recording, to the Foley Stage where sound effects were recorded for the final edit of a feature film. One of the most interesting experiences for me was being with an actor when he was recording voice-overs for a well-known animated T.V series. I was also given the opportunity to shadow the final sound edit where everything comes together to become mixed with the images on a major digital animated feature. At ILM I was introduced to the creation of visual effects from the initial building and animating of a digital character to the final composite.

My interests also include music. I have played the cello since the age of 7 and am the lead cellist in our school Symphony Orchestra and a member of the County Youth Orchestra. I have played in many performances both locally and nationally in the Birmingham Symphony Hall and Cardiff Millennium Centre as well as abroad. Orchestral playing has developed many of the skills I would need for theatre work, commitment, loyalty, teamwork and dedication to hours of rehearsals. An achievement of which I am extremely proud is the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Having gained Bronze and Silver, I have almost completed the Gold Award with just the residential service to complete in April 2012. This experience has been invaluable in gaining strength of character, team working skills and increased confidence to meet any new challenge.

My part time job for the past two years in a local shop involves interacting and communicating with the public, as does my role as Youth Representative on the town committee for the Boxing Day swim in Tenby which raises money for charities.

Wherever there has been an opportunity for me to broaden my knowledge and experience, I have pursued it fully. The experiences have ignited in me a real fervour for the theatre and I would relish the chance to explore every facet of theatre arts. I am ready and willing to put in all of the hard work needed to be successful in achieving my ambition to study for a theatrical degree. I can offer enthusiasm, commitment, determination and a strong desire to learn and to take part in all opportunities offered to me as part of a Performing Arts Faculty.