

## COVID Class and Rehearsal Guidance

This guidance is to help Students, Staff, Directors and External visitors with classes, rehearsals and workshops and how they can be managed in a Covid safe and respectful way.

The guidelines are in line with the latest Government Guidelines last updated on the 19th of July to reflect Stage 4 and the final Step in the Government's roadmap out of lockdown.

The following guidance has been carefully established with all members of the Covid Committee, which is made up of several representatives from the Acting and Production Department, chaired by the Principal, Fiona Francombe. These measures have been put in place in order to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing, as well as to manage any risk relative to Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

### **Mask Wearing Etiquette**

***We invite all staff and students to support each other's choices about mask wearing, during this time. Please remember that everyone will be feeling differently about the easing of restrictions and returning to school, so please be respectful and mindful of each other.***

- Masks are to be worn when travelling around any BOVTS building, as well as communal areas such as kitchen, common room areas, toilets, changing rooms etc.
- Upon entering your classroom or rehearsal space, please maintain wearing your facemask, until invited to unmask if you wish to do so, by your tutor or director.
- For **classes**, tutors may establish that they are happy for you to take your mask off for an exercise. This is at the discretion of the tutor, and of course it is your right to keep wearing your mask if you feel safer doing so. Until a tutor establishes that they are happy for you to take your mask off, please maintain wearing them.
- For **final- year show rehearsals**, it is ultimately the Director's decision to establish how they want to establish mask- wearing in their rehearsals, this includes for read-throughs, sharing research and warm- ups. Again, your choice regarding mask- wearing will be supported and respected. There is an expectation that masks will be worn as much as possible.
- You do not need to wear a mask when you are up in the space, rehearsing/ blocking/ performing, running a scene or running lines on stage.
- If you are being filmed or working in front of the camera, you do not need to wear a mask.

- If you are observing a scene or exercise and are not part of the active work, we expect you to still maintain wearing a mask.
- **For stationary desk/ computer work or in shared office spaces**, masks do not need to be worn if room capacity is maintained, ventilation is good, and you have established with those you are sharing the space with that they are happy for you to unmask. When you leave your desk please wear a mask until you have returned to your workstation.

## **Social Distancing**

**We invite all staff and students to support each other's choice about social distancing during this time. Please remember that everyone will be feeling differently about the easing of restrictions and returning to school, so please be respectful and mindful of each other.**

- Staff and students are no longer required to maintain social distancing. However, in the interest of minimising risk a continued effort to minimise contact wherever possible is advised.
- If an exercise or rehearsal requires close- contact, please check with your partner and group you are working with that they are happy to have that close- contact. If someone has not given you permission, then please maintain physical distance.
- Tutors and Directors must be prepared to adapt classes or rehearsals if somebody wishes to maintain social distancing.

## **Ventilation**

- It is the responsibility of all to ensure that good levels of ventilation are maintained in each class.
- Please ensure all available windows and outside doors are kept open as much as possible to promote good airflow.
- During the cold weather, short sharp bursts of fresh air will work just as well, whilst also maintaining a comfortable temperature.
- In rooms where there is reduced access to outside fresh air, keeping internal doors will also help with airflow.
- In rooms where ventilation is limited, fans have been placed. Fans have now been proved to help break up air particles.

- After classes and rehearsals, please open the windows to welcome the next class in.

### **Cleaning/ Hygiene**

- Please remember to wash or sanitize your hands regularly. There are extra sanitizing facilities being put in place around the buildings to help you to do this.
- There is an expectation that all staff and students will keep each room tidy, clean and organised. Each room will be supplied with surface cleaner, blue roll and wipes to wipe down chairs and any other high contact surfaces that have been touched, for example, tables, door handles and equipment, after each class. Please place all disposable items in the C- 19 specific bin for safe disposal.
- Staff and students are asked that they take responsibility for cleaning surfaces, equipment, and high touch areas after use.

### **Voice and Singing Classes**

- Due to the nature of the work of singing/ voice classes extra measures may be put in place to make these classes as safe as possible. This will mean you will be expected to wear a mask.
- It will be at the tutor's discretion to decide when it is appropriate for masks to be taken off for educational purposes. Reasonable measures will be put in place in order to promote safer singing and voice work, for example taking place in well- ventilated spaces, singing back- to- back, wearing masks whilst singing or expelling long breaths and keeping as much distance between each person.