



Dear MA Acting (International) and MFA Acting (International) First Years,

Christina Gutekunst here, Head of Voice at East 15 (Loughton). I hope this finds you well and that you are having a nice summer! I am sending this on behalf of your voice teacher Hannah Benjamin.

Here is some preparatory work we would like you to do for your voice classes:

You will start with your vocal identity as the powerful resource in training and performance and from there work on different Shakespeare texts as a vehicle to build your voice.

As part of celebrating the **authentic and unique voice** in you, please be ready to share and perform a short speech or text of your choice, telling a story **you want to tell** in the first voice session, in autumn.

It could be something you have written yourself, a speech from a play you identify with/want to explore or a poem. It should be one minute long.

Speak it in your own accent. Speak in the way you need to speak to tell the story of your chosen text. Know who you are speaking to and how you want to change them through the words.

If you are a speaker of English as a second language, you can also speak the text in your own language as well as in English.

In preparation for the first term's work, please find the material attached we will be working on.

I would like you therefore to prepare the following to make it easier for yourself:

- Please select and prepare (understand it and know the circumstances) a Shakespeare speech - **strictly from the attached list and not one you have done before** - and cut it to 1 minute.
- Please prepare sonnet 12 for your first session: know what it is about, understand it.
- You don't have to learn it by heart.

I wish you a very happy summer!

Best wishes,
Christina Gutekunst

Head of Voice (Loughton), East 15 Acting School | University of Essex