

PROGRAMME EXAMPLES FOR ACTING

INITIAL

ACTING



For many young candidates this will be their first exam. The maximum programme time is 2 minutes for a monologue and 2 minutes for a mime. The monologue can come from a published play, a book of monologues or be adapted from a book. The mime should have a simple storyline that the candidate can relate to.

TOP TIPS

- ▶ Choose material that the candidate is familiar with, giving them the opportunity to use voice, body and space to explore a range of moods and/or characters..
- ▶ Encourage the candidate to use the space and imagine their surroundings.
- ▶ Find opportunities for expression through facial expressions, body language and voice to ensure personal involvement, connection with and an understanding of the material.
- ▶ Choose a mime scenario that is close to the candidate's own experience and, if possible, have a real experience of the activity or environment.

All pieces are available in published versions. A variety are also available online or in the [Trinity Anthology](#).

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 1

This programme shows the examiner a candidate's imagination and sense of humour when talking to the other characters in *The Bear*, contrasting with detailed observation of a familiar situation in the mime.

WHAT

WHY

Monologue

The Bear by Raymond Briggs, Tilly
Dialogue taken from the book. Either the sequence where Tilly is woken up by the Bear, or her comments when she tells her parents about it.

There is an opportunity to show Tilly's surprise at being woken by a Polar Bear, her expressions as he licks her face, and her physical effort when pushing him. This could flow into the dialogue with the parents as she arrives at breakfast excitedly to describe what has happened - finishing on 'Can he stay Mummy?' The sections could be explored as separate pieces, depending on the aptitude of the candidate. For example, more physicality in the first section, more text in the second section.

Mime

Getting Ready for School

Explore a familiar storyline using the space to create an environment such as a bedroom, or kitchen.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 2

This programme shows the examiner two contrasting characters, one keen to go out and explore, and another doing their best not to be noticed.

WHAT

Monologue

Pinkalicious by Victoria Kann

WHY

An opportunity to address the audience while pretending to be in an imagined environment, such as an open space or garden full of cherry blossom. The candidate could enjoy smelling the air, playfully discovering the tall trees, spring flowers and butterflies, and then demonstrate flying the kite.

Mime

Opening presents in secret

This mime could include careful dexterity, unwrapping the present without tearing it to check what's inside and then hearing someone coming and quickly trying to cover their tracks.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMME 3

This programme shows the examiner a contrast in character and physicality - a curious child and an assertive scarecrow!

WHAT

Monologue

The Scarecrow and his Servant by Philip
Pulman, Scarecrow

Adapt the scarecrow's lines speaking to Jack

WHY

Using the scarecrow's dialogue from the book when he first meets Jack, is a good opportunity to work on physicality - making the scarecrow a little stiff and uncomfortable at first as Jack helps detach him from the post, and then trying out jerky movements as he learns to walk.

Mime

Goldilocks story

The mime could present the whole story or only part of it, such as first arriving at the house and being curious to look inside, or trying out the beds and falling asleep.

PREPARE TO PERFORM

PRACTICAL ACTING SKILLS
FOR ASPIRING PERFORMERS

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