PDA Safe-Practice (based on Governmental Guidance)


General advice

1. Providing space for performers and other attendees to be socially distanced from each other and from any audience, production team members or other individuals, wherever possible during training, rehearsal, pre-production, performance and any other form of performing arts activity.
2. Reducing group/cast sizes, audience sizes, and length of performance where possible.
3. Using back-to-back or side-to-side positioning (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible. Avoiding rehearsing and performing face-to-face wherever possible.
4. Using floor tape or paint to mark areas to help people maintain social distance, where possible.
5. Considering using booths, barriers or screens between performers and between performers and audience.
6. Displaying scripts onto screens in rehearsal rooms to reduce contact requirements and to support accessibility.
7. Removing non-essential common areas such as waiting rooms.
8. Taking steps to improve ventilation as far as possible, both through the use of mechanical systems and opening windows and doors.
9. Screening of anyone prior to entry into venues, which may include, but not be limited to, a COVID-19 symptom questionnaire.
10. (for non-performers) In England, you must wear a face covering in entertainment venues, including theatres and concert halls. Audiences should be discouraged from activities which create aerosol (shouting, chanting, singing, &c).

Independent rehearsals advice:

- Plan ahead – know what is going to happen in the rehearsals room. Don’t invite unnecessary cast or crew to the rehearsal if their presence is not required.
- Do not attend the rehearsal, lesson or assessment if you are feeling sick or member of your household is presenting COVID like symptoms.
- Regularly wash hands. Ensure adequate amounts of hand sanitizer and surface cleaning products are available in the rehearsal room. Appoint a stage-manager or director.
responsible for ensuring this and knowing where to go to replenish empty or low stock levels.

- Props, equipment and costume need to belong to and be the responsibility of the performer. These items should not be shared otherwise they will be subject to 72 hours quarantine before being cleaned and returned to circulations. Ideally, performers will bring these items to the rehearsal or assessment.

- Keep doors open (where permissible and safe to do so); this will help with airflow and avoid unnecessary touching of handles. Please make sure that doors are closed at the end of the rehearsal and not left open. Do not block emergency exits.

- Consider whether the rehearsal / assessment need to be adjusted for vulnerable students.

- Body microphones (which would require quarantine after use) and theatrical make-up can only be self-attached or applied.

- Rehearsals should be scheduled to allow travel outside of peak times for those students who commute. Rehearsals may need to be staggered and students called at specific times to reduce unnecessary gathering of individuals.

- Please consider if your rehearsal can take place outside if weather permits and it is safe to be on uneven surfaces for your performance. Research suggests that work outdoors is safest during the pandemic. If working with open windows or outdoors, students should be requested to bring an extra layer of clothing.

- The BBC has made this video for a discussion of covid-safe performances and rehearsals (of a musical), which students might find helpful: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/entertainment-arts-53769971