

RADA

Hello!

I am Richard Keith, and I am the Course Leader on the BA Acting at RADA. I wanted to say a few things before you submit your application.

Firstly, please make sure you have read all our notes about choosing speeches, preparing, filming etc. This guidance is to help you perform at your best.

Secondly, it's important to remember that we are not interested in what you may or may not have done in the past, or how much acting you have or haven't done up until now. We take people onto the course from all different backgrounds and with different levels of experience.

Thirdly, avoid spending time trying to work out what we are looking for, because there is no single way to perform a speech. Your only task is to perform the speeches in your own way, which will give us the chance to see the real you.

Finally, we understand what you are feeling right now. Many members of the panel have been actors, or are currently actors themselves, so we know what it's like to audition. Ultimately, the panel wants you to do well: so please try to relax and enjoy the process.

Thank you for choosing to audition at RADA. We look forward to seeing your work!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Keith', with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Richard Keith (he/him)

BA Acting Course Leader and Chair of the Acting Admissions Panel

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Please read the following guidelines and instructions which will help you prepare for recording your self-tape.

Setting up

The most important thing for us is that we can see and hear you clearly. You don't need to go anywhere or use any specialist equipment - you can film where you're most comfortable, using your phone, and keep it steady by propping it against some furniture or books.

If you can, try and find a plain, light coloured wall to film in front of, so that you are the focus of the shot, rather than any pictures or ornaments in the background. You could hang a sheet up behind you if you want to cover a busy wall.

If you are using your phone to record, please ensure that the camera is NOT in 'High Efficiency' mode. You should be able to check this in your phone's camera settings. For iPhone, you will need to switch on 'Most Compatible' mode.

Try to film your speeches in one continuous shot, if you can. This will help create the sense that you're in the room with us, allowing us to observe your work in a natural and uninterrupted way.

We can only accept one file per stage, so if you have different files for each speech, please make sure to combine them before you upload.

Lighting

Choose a room with natural daylight if you can - make sure that the window is behind your camera, not behind you, otherwise we won't see you. If it's dark when you're filming, you could put a lamp behind your camera so that you're well lit.

Sound

Try and find somewhere quiet, so that the recording doesn't pick up any background noise or other people's conversations. Bathrooms can be a bit echoey because they have a lot of hard surfaces - rooms with soft furnishings, like a bed, will help your voice sound clearer.

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Framing

Shoot in landscape, so that your tape will fill the screen when we watch it - think TV, not TikTok.

A long shot will show your full body, with a little room above your head at the top of the shot.

A mid shot will show from your waist to the top of your head in the frame- again, with a little room at the top.

Try not to look straight down the camera when you're performing, as it might put you off. Instead, look slightly to the side (e.g. the edge of your phone), as though you're speaking to another character in your scene. You might find it helpful to have someone stand to the side of the camera, so that you can direct your speech to them.

Set up your shot, test a couple of lines from your speeches and then watch it back to make sure you're happy with it.

You don't need any costumes or props - we just want to see you do what you do best!

SUMMARY

1. Check your phone's camera settings
2. Do not look directly into the camera
3. Visualise the person you are addressing in your speech
4. Film in landscape
5. Try to film in front of a plain background
6. Can you be seen clearly?
7. Can you be heard clearly?

Self-tape submission requirements

If you are unable to follow the shot suggestions below due to lack of space, that's perfectly fine. Please just aim to film in a way that allows the panel to see as much of you as possible.

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Preliminary Round - Self-Tape Submission (Stage 1)

1. **Start in long shot:** Frame yourself in full body, ensuring there is a little headroom at the top.
2. **Introduction (1 minute):** Please start by providing your full name, postcode, and the course you are applying for. Then, tell us which two pieces you will be performing and explain why you chose them.
3. **Perform your pieces:** The total time for both of your speeches should not exceed 4 minutes.
 - Classical Speech A: Perform your first classical speech (maximum 2 minutes).
 - If possible, move closer to the camera for a mid-shot (waist to the top of your head).
 - Contemporary Speech: Perform your contemporary speech (maximum 2 minutes).
4. **Final Review:** After recording, watch it back to make sure that we can clearly hear you and that you are well-framed.

If you'd like to try it again, take a break, charge your phone if needed, and give it another go - but don't overthink it and record too many times. We want to see the real you.

If you are successful at Stage 1, we will ask you to submit a second self-tape. Please see below.

Recall Round - Self-Tape Submission (Stage 2)

It's a good idea to consider your second self-tape submission early as you will have two weeks to submit it when the Admissions Teams contact you.

1. **Introduction (1 minute):** As before, please start by providing your full name, postcode, and the course you are applying for. Then, tell us which piece and song you will be performing and explain why you chose them.
2. **Perform Your Pieces:** The total time for your speech and song should not exceed 3.5 minutes.
 - New Classical Speech: Perform your new classical speech (maximum 2 minutes).
 - Song Performance: Sing the verse and chorus of your chosen song (maximum 1.5 minutes) without any backing music.

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3. Final Review: Watch this tape back as well to ensure clarity in both audio and video.

SUMMARY

First Tape: Start with an introduction and then perform one classical and one contemporary speech.

If you are asked to submit a second tape:

Second Tape: Start with an introduction and then perform one new classical speech and one verse and chorus of a song (unaccompanied).