

SOLUTIONS UPPER-INTERMEDIATE 5
CULTURE 1: RADA

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**WHEN AND
WHERE DID IT
ALL BEGIN?**









**HOW DO YOU
DEFINE A GOOD
ACTOR?**



1 **SPEAKING** Look at the photo. What are the people doing?
Would you like to be an actor? Why? / Why not?



2 Read the text. What three things does it mention that a RADA student learns?

RADA


4.10

- A** Becoming a truly great actor requires talent, hard work and hours of study. In Britain, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) ¹ _____ trained and produced many of the country's most famous actors since it was established in 1904, but just how does RADA turn passionate young hopefuls into respected professionals?
- B** One of the methods RADA teaches is the Stanislavski acting technique. The technique was devised ² _____ the famous Russian actor Konstantin Stanislavski in 1911, after he had been performing in theatres ³ _____ over thirty years. It requires actors to really live the role that they are playing. The actors not ⁴ _____ have to learn the lines that they have to say, but also recreate everything about the character's life.
- C** But if modern audiences would be surprised to discover that students learn an acting technique that is over a century old, they might ⁵ _____ astonished to discover that they also study a form of theatre that has been around for over two millennia: Greek tragedy. The Greeks used to study playwriting and acting and produced some important theoretical works on the subject. Their ideas are still considered very relevant today and anybody ⁶ _____ wants to obtain a degree from RADA has to study them.
- D** RADA students also spend many hours training their voices and learning ⁷ _____ use their bodies to communicate in the same way that a musician learns how to play an instrument. A RADA student's objective is to use their creativity to transform written words into a three-dimensional character. Evidently, becoming an actor is ⁸ _____ serious business and definitely not for people who are only interested in fame.

3 USE OF ENGLISH Complete the text about RADA. Write one word in each gap.



**HOW CAN AN
ACTOR GET INTO
HIS/HER
CHARACTER?**

4  **4.11** Listen to an interview about how actors prepare for their roles. Match the people (1–3) with the things that they did (A–C).

1 Konstantin Stanislavski


2 Meryl Streep

3 Leonardo DiCaprio

___ **A** studied psychiatric patients

___ **B** prepared a list of questions

___ **C** prepared for a film about the Second World War

5  4.11 Listen again. Are the sentences true or false?

Write T or F.

- 1 Copying certain emotions is not so difficult for actors. ___
- 2 The Stanislavski system involves actors asking themselves questions about their own acting ability. ___
- 3 Meryl Streep studied a foreign language. ___
- 4 Meryl Streep wanted to read poetry in a foreign language.

- 5 Leonardo DiCaprio met people who had had experiences that he wanted to recreate in a film. ___
- 6 Leonardo DiCaprio visited a psychiatric hospital on an island to prepare for a film. ___

6 SPEAKING Work in pairs. Discuss the questions (1–2).
Use the ideas below to help you.

build confidence cause embarrassment

develop communication skills feel uncomfortable

understand human behaviour

- 1 Do you think drama should be a school subject for all students, or just a hobby for those who are really interested?
- 2 What skills do you think you can learn from studying drama and how useful are they in real life?

7 INTERNET RESEARCH Find out how your favourite actor / actress started their career. Did they study drama? Where? What was their big break? Then share your information with the class.

ASSIGNMENT: SUMMARY

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY