

Sarah Beaton is the set and costume designer for Mix the Play. In this video she tells us more about what her job involves and how she got into it.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the short film and do the exercises to check your understanding.

### Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–j next to the numbers 1–10.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1..... a gap year        | a. the decoration used on the stage so the viewers know where the play takes place |
| 2..... to commission     | b. to interest or involve  |
| 3..... the stage         | c. a hidden meaning that isn't obvious   |
| 4..... to engage         | d. to come through something   |
| 5..... the set           | e. the raised platform where plays are performed in a theatre                      |
| 6..... scenography       | f. a story that gives the background for the main story                            |
| 7..... a backstory       | g. the art of designing and painting the scenery in a theatre                      |
| 8..... to filter through | h. a year spent between school and college or university                           |
| 9..... a subtext         | i. admired and respected a lot   |
| 10..... prestigious      | j. to choose someone to do a specific piece of work                                |

### 1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- |    |   |             |              |
|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Sarah believes that the set design is like a visual language that helps people to understand the story. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Sarah went straight from school to study set design.  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Sarah studied set and costume design in London for three years.   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Sarah thinks her role is the most important in the theatre.   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Sarah won a prize for her set designing.  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Sarah prefers all plays to be very similar.   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

**2. Check your understanding: gap fill**

Complete the notes with one word in each gap.

1. People engage with images more than with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A lot of extra information comes through the set, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the scenography.
3. Sarah studied at the Central School of Speech and Drama in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Working with many different people, Sarah felt she was part of a big \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When Sarah won the Linbury Prize for Stage Design, she was commissioned to design an \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Sarah is now in her fifth year in the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Sarah says she still feels \_\_\_\_\_, which is nice.
8. Sarah likes working with plays that are told in a way which is \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Check your understanding: gap fill**

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

|            |     |       |           |
|------------|-----|-------|-----------|
| production | gap | stage | costume   |
| lighting   | set | opera | secondary |

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ designer creates the clothes for the play.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ designer does the scenography.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ manager co-ordinates operations involving the scenery, costumes, lighting, sound, etc.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ manager is responsible for organising the play and communication between actors, crew and other staff.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ designer creates the atmosphere, sense of the time of day, etc. through lighting.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ year is a year off from full-time education.
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ school is a school for students aged 11–16.
8. An \_\_\_\_\_ house is a theatre designed especially for performing operas.