

Lexi Clare - Interview

What is your current job?

I am a theatre producer and actress, currently based in London.

What is your highest degree (and major)? Where did you study?

MA Performance (Musical Theatre) at Mountview Academy Of Theatre Arts. Prior to this I studied a BA at the University of Auckland, double-majoring in Classical Studies and Media, Film & Television.

What drew you to Classical Studies, Ancient History, Egyptology, and/or ancient languages?

Well, I grew up reading tales of Greek Mythology so I'd always been drawn to Classical Studies but I didn't initially plan to study it at university. I started off majoring in Drama but after I took a paper in Greek Tragedy, I was absolutely hooked.

What was the name of your favourite paper?

That's such a tough one! Greek Mythology Through Tragedy was the paper that began it all for me, but towards the end of my degree I also adored Greek And Roman Epic Poetry.

How has your studies in Classical Studies, Ancient History, Egyptology, and/or ancient languages benefited you in looking for employment?

I've made so many connections with people in the theatre world here in London directly due to my love of Classical Studies - my first Assistant Director job was on a production of Antigone. Other applicants for the role had far more experience in directing, but I was able to have a really brilliant discussion with the director on the play itself and the way tragedies are typically staged. Having that background and interest in Classical Studies was what got me hired! When I was studying my MA, I had the opportunity to write a thesis and create a performance based on anything that interested me. I chose to look at contemporary approaches to staging Greek chorus, which means I was able to take the knowledge I had gained during my undergraduate degree and combine that with my passion for performance. As part of the process I interviewed industry leaders within the theatre community about Greek Tragedy and thereby had the opportunity to form valuable connections because of the specialist knowledge I had.

What skills have you learnt in the process of your studies that are transferable to an industry based job?

I think people respect the analytical skills that studying any of these topics equip you with, and that is very useful in all manner of employment situations. I would also say that stories and figures from ancient history feature so prominently in literature and culture in the Western World, and having that knowledge really broadens your understanding of so much else in life.



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What do you think is the biggest misconception about studying Classical Studies, Ancient History, Egyptology, and/or ancient languages?

That it has no relevance to the world today or to getting a job - in my experience this couldn't have been further from the truth. People also assume that the people who study it are boring, which is definitely a misconception! I found that studying Classical Studies meant that I was surrounded by incredible and very interesting people, and it felt very much like a family.

Who is your favourite god or goddess? Why?

Persephone. Her story is one of the first that really stuck with me as a child and I love that she rules the underworld alongside Hades. I'm also pretty partial to pomegranate.

If you could invite three people in ancient history, real or fictional, to dinner, who would they be?

Medea, Circe and Aphrodite