

1 ► THE INTERVIEW Part 1

- a Read the biographical information about Simon Callow. Have you seen any of his movies?

Simon Callow is an English actor, writer, and theater director. He was born in London in 1949 and studied at Queen's University, Belfast, and the Drama Center in London.

As a young actor he made his name when he played the part of Mozart in Peter Shaffer's production of *Amadeus* at the Royal National Theater in London in 1979, and he later appeared in the movie version. As well as acting in the theater, he has also appeared in TV dramas and comedies and in many movies including *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Shakespeare in Love*. He has directed both plays and musicals and was awarded the Laurence Olivier award for Best Musical for *Carmen Jones* in 1992. He has written biographies of the Irish writer Oscar Wilde and Orson Welles, the American actor and movie director. He was awarded the CBE in 1999 for his services to drama.



- b Watch Part 1 of an interview with him. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 His first job was as an actor at The Old Vic theater.
- 2 When he watched rehearsals he was fascinated by how the actors and the directors worked together.
- 3 Acting attracted him because it involved problem solving.
- 4 Playing the part of Mozart in *Amadeus* was a challenge because he wasn't a fictional character.
- 5 Mozart was the most exciting role he has had because it was his first.

- c Now watch again and say why the F sentences are false.

Glossary

The Old Vic one of the oldest and most famous of the London theaters
Amadeus is a play by Peter Shaffer about the life of the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It was also made into a movie of the same name. In the play, Mozart is portrayed as having a very childish personality, which contrasts with the genius and sophistication of his music.

The Marriage of Figaro one of Mozart's best-known operas

box office the place at a theater or movie theater where tickets are sold

rehearsals /rɪ'hɜːslz/ time that is spent practicing a play or a piece of music

auditorium /ɒdɪ'tɔːrɪəm/ the part of a theater where the audience sits

- d Have you seen any movies or plays based on the lives of real people? Did you agree with the way they were portrayed?

► Part 2



- a Now watch Part 2. Answer the questions.

- 1 Which does he prefer, acting in the theater or in movies?
- 2 Complete the two crucial differences he mentions about acting in the theater:
There's an _____.
Every single performance is utterly _____.
- 3 Who does he say are the most important people in the making of a movie, the director, the editor, or the actors? Why?
- 4 Does he think acting in movies is more natural and realistic than theater acting? Why (not)?

- b Watch again. What is he referring to when he says...?

- 1 "It's important because you have to reach out to them, make sure that everybody can hear and see what you're doing."
- 2 "...I mean you never do, you never can."
- 3 "So, in that sense, the actor is rather powerless."
- 4 "...there are some, you know, little metal objects right in front of you, sort of, staring at you as you're doing your love scene..."

Glossary

(film) editor the person whose job it is to decide what to include and what to cut in a movie

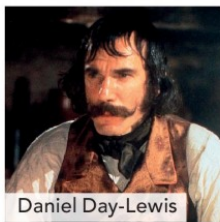
editing suite /'ɛdɪtɪŋ swɪt/ a room containing electronic equipment for editing video material

- c Do you ever go to the theater? Do you prefer it to the movies? Why (not)? What plays have you seen?

Part 3

a Now watch Part 3. What does he say about...?

- 1 watching other actors acting
- 2 the first great actors he saw
- 3 Daniel Day-Lewis
- 4 wearing makeup
- 5 the first night of a play



Daniel Day-Lewis



Laurence Olivier

Glossary

John Gielgud a famous stage and movie actor (1904–2000)

Ralph Richardson a famous stage and movie actor (1902–1983)

Laurence Olivier a famous stage and movie actor (1907–1989)

Edith Evans a famous stage and movie actor (1888–1976)

Peggy Ashcroft a famous stage and movie actor (1907–1991)

Daniel Day-Lewis a famous movie actor (1957–)

stage fright nervous feelings felt by actors before they appear in front of an audience

b Are there any actors you particularly enjoy watching? Why do you like them? Which of their characters do you like best?

2 LOOKING AT LANGUAGE

Modifiers

Simon Callow uses a wide variety of modifiers (*really*, *incredibly*, etc.) to make his language more expressive.

Watch some extracts from the interview and complete the missing adjective or modifier.

- 1 "...I thought what a wonderful job, what a **interesting** job..."
- 2 "My job was to reconcile that with the fact that he wrote *The Marriage of Figaro*, and that was **tremendously**..."
- 3 "...its fame, almost from the moment it was announced, was **overwhelmingly** **different** than anything I had ever done..."
- 4 "They're **different** media, they require different things from you as an actor..."
- 5 "...you bring **different** things to them."
- 6 "The beauty of the theater is that every single performance is **utterly** **different** from every other one."
- 7 "As a young man, and a boy, I was **lucky** to see that fabled generation of actors, of, of Gielgud and Richardson, Olivier..."

3 THE CONVERSATION



a Watch the conversation. Check (✓) the correct option to sum up their conclusion.

They agree that...

- 1 ☐ a live performance is always better because of the atmosphere.
- 2 ☐ a recorded performance is usually better because there are no distractions.
- 3 ☐ it's impossible to generalize because it depends on the event.

b Watch again. What do Devika and Mark say about the following things? Are they positive or negative?

- 1 **Devika** a big flashy superhero film
- 2 **Devika** some Shakespeare or any modern plays
- 3 **Mark** factors that could sway your enjoyment
- 4 **Mark** a major rugby match recently
- 5 **Devika** a crowd of other people enjoying the music

c Do you agree with the participants about the live performances being better than recorded ones?

d Watch some extracts and complete the missing phrases.

- 1 That's a **different** **different**. I love going to the cinema.
- 2 I think **different** **different** it's better or worse...
- 3 But if you go to a live one though, then you participate, **different** **different**, because you're part of it...
- 4 If you're sitting, **different** **different**, high up or with a slightly obstructed view...
- 5 I've been to plenty of live music events – concerts and festivals and things, **different** **different**, around the country, and I love them.
- 6 That's intriguing **different** **different**, the difference between the two.

e Which of the phrases in d do they use to...?

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ give themselves time to think
- ☐ ☐ check the others agree

f Now have a conversation in groups of three.

- 1 Do you think it's essential these days for an actor to be good-looking?
- 2 Which is more important in a movie, the actors or the special effects?



Go online to watch the video, review the lesson, and check your progress