



The arts past and present

The performance

Catherine

Does the General have any cream...?

Catharine

I'm feeling a little nervous today. Because obviously it's our first performance, and it's assessed, so it's part of our course. So we have to get the marks for it. And it's our first time for everybody in the cast. We've not done it before. We only heard what our characters were going to be a couple of months ago. So we've been rehearsing since then. Learning the parts by ourselves, and then doing stage rehearsals for the last few weeks. My favourite bit about getting ready for a performance has always been putting my make up on. I just find it very soothing and taking the time to do it.

Stage Assistant

Stand by and exit cue one – go.

Catharine sings again here.

Catharine

It's a very odd thing the way that you feel things while you're singing. Because obviously you're expressing quite strong emotions. But you cannot express them in too real a way, because if you've ever cried you know that it goes straight to your throat, and you get a knot in your stomach. And you can't sing at the same time. Hopefully, in the rehearsal process, and by yourself you've gone through all those emotions, and so you can then give a colour of them, and really mean it, but without actually inhibiting yourself and your singing.

Catherine continues singing

Catharine

I think I was chosen to play the Countess for the most part, as a learning opportunity, because it really drags a stronger type of singing and acting out of me that I haven't had to give before. But also in five years time or so, the nature of my voice is that I probably will be singing roles like that.

(CLEAR FOCUS PRODUCTIONS)