

The logo for Actor Training Academy (ATA) is rendered in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The letters 'A', 'T', and 'A' are interconnected, with the 'T' having a horizontal bar that extends to the right, forming a shape similar to a stylized 'A' or a 'W'. The background of the entire page is black, with yellow geometric lines forming a triangular shape in the top left and bottom right corners. On the left side, there is a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, lit from the side, showing their hair and the collar of a shirt. In the lower right, there are two smaller silhouettes of people, possibly actors, in a dynamic pose, also lit from the side, with their reflections visible on a dark surface below them.

ATA

ACTOR TRAINING ACADEMY
at Preston College

 ActorTrainingAcademy  @ATAPrestoncol

www.preston.ac.uk

WELCOME

PURPOSE

At the Actor Training Academy (ATA) we create a vibrant and energetic environment in which you can explore, experiment and train in a wide variety of important acting techniques. Led by tutors with industry experience this programme is designed to train young actors to prepare them for their next steps in this industry.

Based at Preston College, one of the largest Further Education Colleges in Lancashire, ATA is at home in the Visual & Performing Arts building which is equipped with industry standard facilities including a versatile 100 seater theatre, rehearsal studios, and TV and audio recording studios.

In addition to the performance facilities, the College has many other resources available, such as the on-site gym, fantastic library services and multiple food outlets including our own Starbucks café.

Our aim is to train young performers to develop their creative thought process and build on their individual strengths whilst improving on the newer theories. Our learners get results in terms of assignment grades, but also in terms of offers to high quality, Higher Education institutions.

Programmes at ATA are designed to bring multiple benefits. Learners are driven to achieve their highest personal levels and grades and are prepared for those important next steps into further training at university, drama school or independent training establishments.

ATA has a strong history of learners progressing into highly acclaimed drama schools (see pages 8-9 for some examples of our Alumni), so not only will you leave with a qualification, but we aim for you to leave with an offer for further training.

ACCREDITATION

Our courses are accredited by the University of the Arts London (UAL) – a top two world ranking university. Upon completion of one of our programmes, graduates will achieve either a Level 2 or Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing and Production Arts.

The Level 3 Extended Diploma carries the same UCAS points as three A-Levels or a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma, this along with the skills you develop on the programme supports your progression to the best training and education options after college.



ACTING FOR STAGE & SCREEN

UAL LEVEL 3 EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN PERFORMANCE & PRODUCTION ARTS

The Level 3 Diploma will train you in techniques and skills which are essential to the acting industry today. You will increase your knowledge, understanding and practical ability in multiple areas of actor training. This development should not only lead to successful completion of the qualification but will strengthen your application for Drama School or University.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course will focus on four main facets of acting performance; Voice, Movement, Stage Performance, and Screen Performance.

SCREEN PERFORMANCE

You will take part in a range of Screen Performance projects over the two years of the course, from short episodic pieces of the same story, to short films, voice over work, adverts and music videos. This will culminate in a show reel of your abilities at the end of your second year.

STAGE PERFORMANCE

You will be constantly and consistently working towards a live performance, taking the form of extracts, full length plays, showcase duologues and audition pieces. These performances will all be underpinned by theoretical aspects.

VOICE

Over a variety of projects you will study your voice, how it is created and how to use it appropriately in different acting scenarios and for different characters.

MOVEMENT

You will study the way people move and how you can manipulate your own movement styles adapting to different acting scenarios and characters.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For entry at Level 3 you are required to have five GCSE Grades at 4 or above, one of which must be Maths or English Language. If you have studied our Level 2 programme and wish to progress to Level 3, you must have at least a Merit as your final grade. All new entrants will be subject to an audition before being offered a place.

For entry at Level 2 you are required to have four GCSEs at grade 3 (D) or above including English Language and Maths. You must complete an induction period to assess your level of learning and pass an audition, where you will perform a prepared piece of any form lasting 2-3 minutes.

AUDITIONS

At your audition you will consist of:

- > A short, pre-prepared monologue which can be from any film, play or TV show of your choosing; performed from memory, lasting 2 minutes.
- > A screen test, using a short piece of dialogue which will be provided to you.



PROJECTS

Our entire teaching ethos is about learning through experience. Projects are the core of our development process. Here are just some key projects we cover:

END OF YEAR SHOW (1ST & 2ND YEAR)

Our timetables change at Easter to allow learners to focus on the end of year performance project. All lessons become focussed on one full length play, which is externally auditioned and performed with full production aspects to an audience.

SCREEN PERFORMANCE (1ST & 2ND YEAR)

In both years of screen performance, learners will experience a range recorded performance styles, through the following:

- > Producing a Show Reel of short scenes to showcase acting ability for castings.
- > A short film in which both years will work together to produce.
- > Smaller stand-alone projects such as adverts, music videos and voiceover work.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (2ND YEAR)

In professional practice you will be exposed to a series of industry professionals, including actors, directors and drama school representatives. All industry exposure is built within the course and aimed at raising levels of aspiration and industry expectations.

DIRECTING (2ND YEAR WITH 1ST YEAR ACTORS)

This is a two year rolling project. In the first year actors will be split across various casts and complete a rehearsal process with second years who take on the role of directors. The resulting performances will be combined into a Showcase. The Showcase takes place around Easter and is performed to an audience.

Second year learners will study the art of directing and producing and select a contemporary play, edited down to between 30 and 40 minutes and audition first year actors for the roles.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Our Level 3 course in Acting for Stage and Screen is ideal preparation for progression to Drama School or University for both performance and non-performance courses and careers.

We have a strong history of our learners progressing to their top choices of well-respected institutions, such as:

- > Fourth Monkey Actor Training Company
- > Guildford School of Acting
- > Academy of Live and Recorded Arts
- > The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts
- > Arts University Bournemouth
- > The Arden School of Theatre
- > The Northern School of the Arts
- > Leeds College of Music
- > Liverpool Media Academy
- > Royal Holloway, University of London
- > St Mary's, Twickenham
- > University of York
- > University of Salford

Some of the courses our graduates have gone on to study are BA (Hons) qualifications in:

- > Acting
- > Acting for Stage & Screen
- > Acting for Recorded Performance
- > Directing
- > Writing, Directing & Performance
- > Theatre Production
- > Journalism
- > English
- > Events Management
- > Primary Teaching
- > Counselling

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to your studies there is a range of extra opportunities to enhance your experience including:

- > Additional Qualifications (A-Level Extra)*
- > Trips
- > Industry Showcase
- > Workshops
- > Gifted & Talented Scholarships^

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

If you have achieved both Maths and English at Grade 4 or above, you have the opportunity to take an extra qualification. At ATA you can choose from:

- > The A-Level Extra programme* which includes:
 - A-Level Maths
 - A-Level English
 - Level 3 Award in Applied Law

*The A-Level Extra programme has additional criteria which you must meet. For further details please visit www.preston.ac.uk/a-level-extra

INDUSTRY SHOWCASE

At our industry showcases you can perform pre-rehearsed duologues to an audience of working actors, directors and professionals, who will provide feedback on your performance, giving you the chance to get advice from professionals in the industry.

TRIPS

We annually visit London and New York to experience shows and professional workshops with trips to local theatres, drama schools and events also offered throughout the year.

*Extra qualifications such as LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) and A-Levels are subject to availability and meeting entry criteria. For more information on additional learning opportunities please visit www.preston.ac.uk

^Gifted and Talented Scholarships must be applied for separately, please visit www.preston.ac.uk/scholarships for more information and to apply.



ALUMNI



ALEX HICK

CLASS OF 2014, NOW A PROFESSIONAL THEATRE DIRECTOR TRAINED BY THE ROYAL HOLLOWAY & KING'S HEAD THEATRE, LONDON

"The acting course gave me a strong foundation for the start of my theatre career. It was incredible to be taught by industry professionals who are passionate not only about theatre, but about helping you achieve your goals. Their teaching has shaped how I look at theatre and how I work - I wouldn't be where I am today without them."



LUCY BUCKLEY

CLASS OF 2019, CURRENTLY STUDYING ACTING AT LEEDS COLLEGE OF MUSIC AS A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT

"ATA made acting a viable career option for me. Going from High School Drama Classes to ATA was an incredible leap, suddenly my passion and dreams were taken seriously and there was an amazing support system. The staff at ATA always went that extra mile to make sure I had everything I needed to excel. My time at ATA shaped me as a performer, and made sure that when I left, I was able to achieve all the goals I had set for myself."



CAITLIN FINNEY

CLASS OF 2017, NOW A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR TRAINED WHO TRAINED AT THE ACADEMY OF LIVE & RECORDED ARTS

"The Actor Training Academy at Preston College is an intensive full-time course, which has developed me into an intensive and creative artist. Not only is this course challenging and exhilarating, but the teacher's commitment and support towards your success was hugely recognisable. The opportunities I received at college prepared me for a place at drama school."



MATT MCGIVERN

CLASS OF 2018, NOW A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR WHO TRAINED AT THE GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING

"The Actor Training Academy at Preston College provided me with the training necessary to further my career as an Actor. The course challenged me from start to finish and the opportunities I was presented with to better myself proved incredibly useful, especially when it came to auditioning for Drama School. The staff made sure that by the time I left I would feel comfortable working in a professional environment. I really value the time I spent there."



BRANDON WORRALL

CLASS OF 2017, NOW A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR WHO TRAINED AT THE ACADEMY OF LIVE & RECORDED ARTS

"Studying at the Actor Training Academy at Preston College gave me the tools I needed to get into Drama School. Over the two years I gained experience acting on stage and camera and learnt new skills throughout. The acting course always gave me good opportunities to use the skills I had learnt and put them to practice in a professional manner."



AIDEN KANE

CLASS OF 2018, NOW A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR WHO TRAINED AT THE ARDEN SCHOOL OF THEATRE

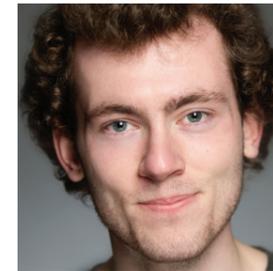
"The Actor Training Academy at Preston College really surpassed all expectations for me. Each tutor had industry experience, this helped me a lot because I trusted all the training which I was given. Due to the opportunities and skills I've gained from ATA I continued my training at the Arden School of Theatre in Manchester and I'm now a professional actor"



JADE HASLAM

CLASS OF 2017, NOW A PROFESSIONAL SET DESIGNER WHO TRAINED AT THE GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING

"Doing this course really helped me to get a broad understanding within performing arts. Even though it was an acting course I went on to do a degree in Theatre Production at the Guildford School of Acting. I loved every part of it, it wasn't anywhere near as easy as I thought it would be. It was definitely the best course for me and the best in the area."



JAMES SPEDDING

CLASS OF 2017, NOW A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR WHO TRAINED AT FOURTH MONKEY ACTOR TRAINING COMPANY

"The Actor Training Academy courses really highlighted to me that Acting could be realistic as a serious career choice and not just a hobby. I got to work on some extremely high standard shows where I really felt like I was part of a collective unit, free to explore creatively and working with those in the years above or below me. Looking back it was an important and extremely enjoyable experience."

FACILITIES

THEATRE

Our 100 seater theatre is a strong performance space which we have utilised in the traditional end-on style, but also in the round and traverse for various productions.

TV STUDIO

Our brand new TV studio is equipped with state-of-the-art Blackmagic Design equipment and a viewing gallery which live streams the footage from the studio to enhance learner development.

REHEARSAL STUDIO

We have three main rehearsal rooms, which are used for workshops, preparation and rehearsals. Performance spaces all have mirrors available so learners can scrutinise every element of their performance.

RECORDING STUDIO

Used for recording audio, this is an ideal environment for experimenting with voiceovers, audio books, voicing cartoons, video games and much more.

PREPARATION FOR PERFORMANCE TRAINING

UAL LEVEL 2 DIPLOMA IN PERFORMING & PRODUCTION ARTS

The purpose of this course is to train you in techniques and skills which will enhance your overall ability levels. You will develop a strong foundation of skills in all three major performance disciplines of Acting, Singing and Dancing. At the end of the course you will be able to progress to the Level 3 programme of Acting for Stage & Screen, or onto the Level 3 Musical Theatre programme. Your progression to your chosen course will depend on the achievement of the Level 2 qualification, your attendance and punctuality and on fulfilling the entry requirements of the Level 3 programme. Your Student Manager will discuss your progression options with you.

COURSE STRUCTURE

ATA ACTOR TRAINING ACADEMY

You will spend one full term studying acting in a number of contexts, covering three of the technical pillars taught on the Level 3 ATA course: Stage Acting, Movement and Voice. You will apply these techniques to scripts and other performance material in rehearsal settings, logging your progress within written portfolios.

MTTA MUSICAL THEATRE TRAINING ACADEMY

You will spend one full term studying the three technical disciplines taught on the Level 3 MTTA course: Singing, Acting and Dance. You will apply these techniques to a small Musical Theatre practical project, logging your progress within written portfolios.

PROGRESSION & PERFORMANCE

In your final term, you will take part in a full production process: from audition to rehearsal, through to a final performance. You will have the opportunity to research and audition for your preferred performance project (ATA or MTTA). You will also complete a personal research project that supports your rehearsal process.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must have four GCSE Grades at 3 or above. You will complete an induction period to assess your suitability for this level and must go through the Level 3 audition process.





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PRESTON

COLLEGE