



**MUSICAL THEATRE TRAINING ACADEMY**  
at Preston College

 PCMTTA

 @mttaprestoncol

[www.preston.ac.uk](http://www.preston.ac.uk)



# WELCOME

At the Musical Theatre Training Academy (MTTA), we create a vibrant and energetic environment in which you can explore, experiment and develop in the disciplines needed within the Musical Theatre industry. Led by tutors with professional industry experience, this programme is designed to prepare young performers for the next steps in this highly competitive profession.

MTTA is based at Preston College in the Visual & Performing Arts building which is equipped with industry standard facilities including a versatile 100 seater theatre, rehearsal studios and dance studios with sprung harlequin flooring. We also have the Amphitheatre – our unique outdoor performance space. In addition to the performance facilities, the College has many other resources available, such as an onsite gym, fantastic library services and multiple food outlets including a Starbucks café.

## PURPOSE

At MTTA our ethos is to help and guide each performer to achieve their potential and their highest learning grades. We aim to instill our performers with a willingness for continuous improvement through personal reflection, the exploration of creative thought processes, and a desire to seek out and undertake new challenges to extend their capabilities.

Overall, our aim is to educate each performer in an aspirational atmosphere to discover their strengths and to support them in their progression, whether that is university, drama school, or independent 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 Diploma or a 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.





# MUSICAL THEATRE DISCIPLINES

## UAL LEVEL 3 EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN PERFORMING & PRODUCTION ARTS

The Level 3 Programme will develop your skills in the disciplines of musical theatre which are acting, singing and dancing. Proficiency in these three disciplines is essential for a successful career in the musical theatre industry. Masters of these disciplines are sometimes referred to as 'triple threats' as these performers are more adaptable and can take on a wider variety of roles.

During the two year programme you will expand your technical and theoretical understanding and practical ability in each discipline and apply this in performance. On successful completion of the programme you will achieve an industry recognised qualification and the skills needed to be a strong candidate for universities and drama schools.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The programme focusses on the three main disciplines of musical theatre:

#### ACTING

#### SINGING

#### DANCING

Each week you will attend two classes per discipline. One of which will be a technique-based session that focusses on overall skills development of the subject. The other will be project-based, where you will be encouraged to put your skills into practice through collaboration with other performers to deliver a practical project, which might culminate in a final performance. The programme progresses through different phases to encourage autonomy in each discipline.



## YEAR 1

### Phase 1 – Skills Development

During this phase you will go back to basics and build upon your existing strengths, instilling the correct techniques and discipline needed for the rest of the programme.

### Phase 2 – Production process

Building on your skills from Phase 1 you will now explore the different processes in the creation of a performance from both a performance and a production perspective.

### Phase 3 – Professional Practice

At the end of year one, you will be given the opportunity to experience every stage of a full production process from auditioning and rehearsals to the final performance.

## YEAR 2

### Phase 1 – Advanced Skills Development

Following on from year one, you will focus on more advanced skills needed in each discipline and take a more autonomous role within each class. You are expected to be able to justify decisions and apply the different theories into your own practice, building your own personal repertoire to take forward to auditions and showcases.

### Phase 2 – Professional Industry Awareness

During this phase you will be free to explore contemporary issues facing the Musical Theatre industry and how these issues affect the creation and production of shows.

### Phase 3 – Professional Practice & Final Major Project

Just like in year one, it is now time to put everything into practice. You will go through a full production process, however this time; you will select your own area of focus for a research project that will accompany your rehearsal and performance process.

## 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.

## AUDITIONS

You will be required to attend an audition which consists of:

- > A dance workshop
- > Acting monologue audition – selected by MTTA
- > Individual singing audition – selected by the individual

This process is required for us to assess your ability for the programme.





# PROGRESSION ROUTES

Our Level 3 Musical Theatre programme is ideal preparation for progression to drama school or university for both performance and non-performance roles.

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

- > Central School for Speech and Drama
- > Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
- > Guildford School of Acting
- > The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts
- > The Arden School for Theatre
- > University of Chichester Conservatoire
- > BIMM Manchester
- > Urdang Academy
- > The Institute of Contemporary Theatre

Our graduates have gone on to study BA (Hons) qualifications in:

- > Musical theatre
- > Acting
- > Dance
- > Teaching
- > Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance
- > Music Performance
- > Journalism
- > Set design and construction

## 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
- > Hands on industry experience
- > Workshops

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Alongside the study programme, you will be provided with opportunities to perform in a variety of professional settings such as; regional theatres and corporate events. This gives you the insight into the life of a working performer.

## TRIPS

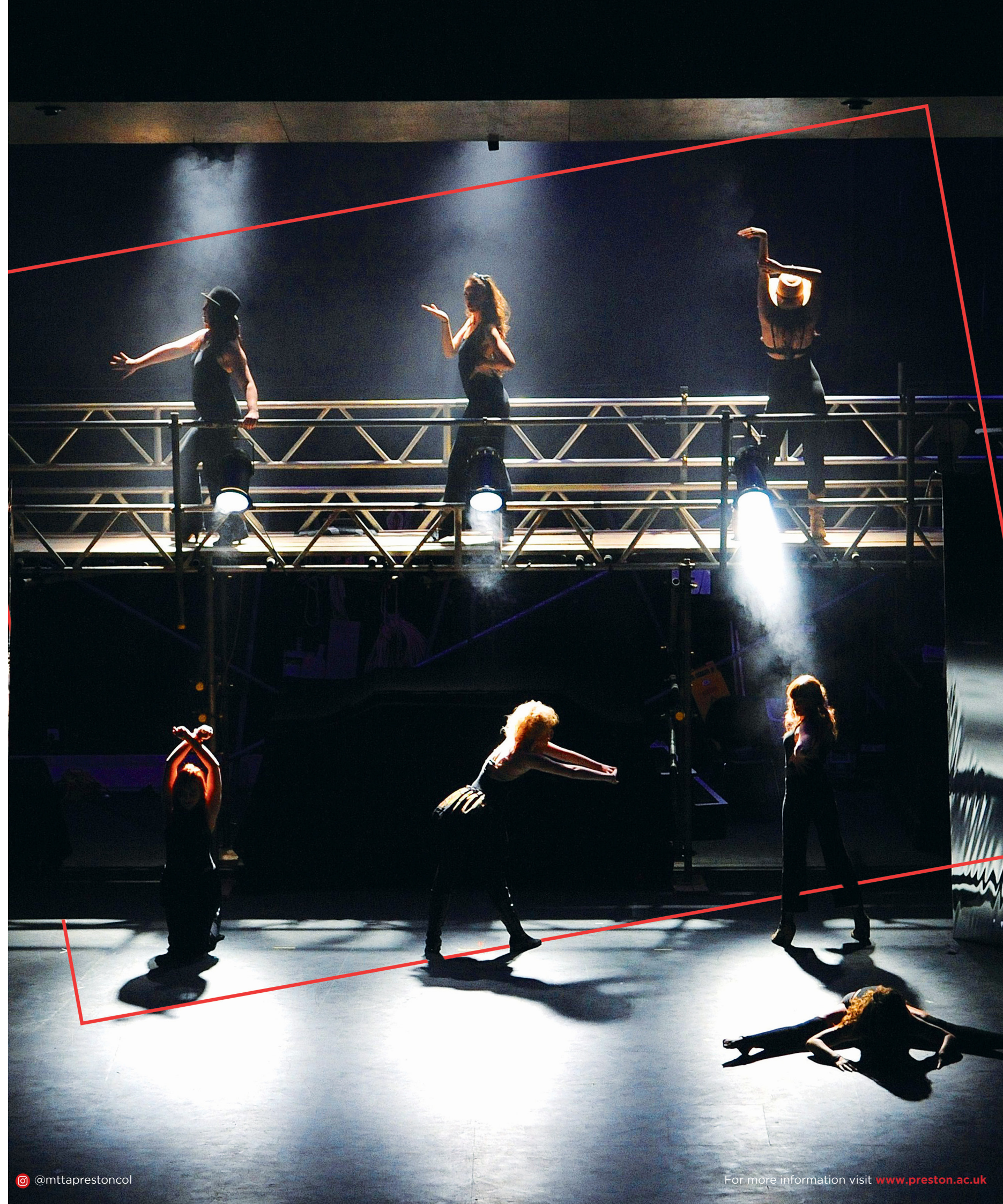
We annually visit London and New York to experience shows and professional workshops with trips to local theatres, drama schools and events also offered throughout the year.

## WORKSHOPS

We regularly invite current industry professionals to provide workshops and Q&A sessions with our learners, providing you with the opportunity to receive training and advice from experts in their field. Previous workshops and Q&A's have included current West End and UK Tour performers, national casting directors, choreographers for Strictly Come Dancing, radio and TV scriptwriters and the National Youth Theatre.

\*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](http://www.preston.ac.uk)

\*Gifted and Talented Scholarships must be applied for separately, please visit [www.preston.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.preston.ac.uk/scholarships) for more information and to apply.





# ALUMNI



**LUCY ELLA SMITH**

CLASS OF 2014 – STUDIED AT ITALIA CONTI ACADEMY OF THEATRE ARTS

*“During my time at MTTA I learnt about all aspects of the musical theatre industry, not only did the course teach me performance skills that I then used to further my career after I left, but it also taught me lots of life lessons and helped shape me as a person.*

*I got to work in all different areas of the industry from Theatre in Education to putting on a full scale musical in a professional theatre, all of which challenged me to develop my skills.*



**MILLIE HANSFORD**

CLASS OF 2016 – TRAINED AT THE PERFORMANCE PREPARATION ACADEMY

*“I spent two years at MTTA and gained loads of experience which prepared me for the next stages in my training and career. My performance experience was extensive, playing roles in four full-scale musicals, plays and several showcases. There are so many elements to this course and I'm glad I was able to spend all my time doing what I love. I was able to thrive in a supportive environment, which is*

*amount of support you are given from the staff. My own personal weakness was with the academic elements, there were many times when I needed to ask for extra help and I always knew it was available.*

*While on the programme, I got to take part in so many fantastic shows such as; Avenue Q, Jekyll & Hyde and RENT. Being able to perform such a varied set of musicals and characters is something not all colleges offer and I have extremely fond memories of all of them!*

*Since leaving The Musical Theatre Training Academy, I moved to London and began studying at Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts. This was also something I was given huge amounts of support with in the form of preparing monologues and material for drama school auditions.*

*My experience at MTTA and the support I had has enabled me to perform as a support act for artists such as Boyzone, Michael Ball, Kerry Ellis, Lesley Garrett and The Hallé Orchestra. After I left Italia Conti I signed to the London based Agent, Oxford Adams and shortly after secured my first Cruise job on the brand new ship Marella Explorer 2 as part of the Inaugural show cast.”*

*something that the academy instilled in us all from day one. The tutors really understood what I wanted to do and where I wanted to be after leaving and made sure I got all the help I could get to reach my goal. The tutors are at the heart of the programme, their incredible knowledge partnered with their care, motivation and ethos, gives you what you need to succeed.*

*Since leaving the MTTA I have graduated from the University of Chichester Conservatoire and am now represented by YOU management.”*



**CHARLOTTE HARGREAVES**

CLASS OF 2018 – GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER CONSERVATOIRE

*“During my time at MTTA I grew as a performer and a person. I particularly benefited from the show processes, where I played characters in shows such as; Avenue Q and Les Miserables. The Academy's facilities are exceptional. The dance studios and studio theatre are fantastic and enabled*



**BENJAMIN ARMSTRONG**

CLASS OF 2016 - TRAINED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER CONSERVATOIRE AND ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

*“My time at MTTA helped me begin to discover my place in this industry, and how I could fit in. The training, support and opportunities that were presented to us from day one have all*



**HARRIET HARGREAVES**

CLASS OF 2021: TRAINING AT THE URDANG ACADEMY

*“Throughout my time at MTTA, I was able to significantly evolve as an individual and as a performer. I learnt to believe in myself and trust gut instincts, enabling me to progress and develop in all aspects of musical theatre. I was able to push myself beyond personal limits and delve outside of my*

*me to work to my full potential. I didn't just explore performance skills, which I have found very helpful in my career so far. I was taught about the correct nutrition needed for the industry and about musicianship. The audition preparation classes helped develop the quality of my practice, which eventually led to me gaining a place at a prestigious drama school. Since graduating from MTTA, I have taken on roles in several productions, including two lead characters in professional pantomimes. The two years I spent on the programme were such good fun and I learnt so much.”*

*had a big part to play in my professional development, and college is a time that I'm very grateful for.*

*Since graduating from the University of Chichester, I have completed my Masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music as a Disney Theatrical Productions scholar, and am currently performing in the World Premiere of a New Musical - an opportunity that I was also fortunate to participate in during my time at MTTA.”*

*comfort zone. I achieved numerous goals throughout my time on the course; landing multiple lead roles, Distinction level LAMDA results and also gaining a membership with the National Youth Theatre. Since leaving the MTTA, I have progressed on to further training at The Urdang Academy, studying a degree in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre. In the future, I intend to graduate drama school and be successful in the industry through performing on the West End, cruise ships, touring companies whilst never forgetting my performing roots and where I started.”*



# 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.

## AMPHITHEATRE

The Amphitheatre at MTTA is a truly unique outdoor performance space. Built in the 1980s, the space has recently been renovated and used to host our end of year performance.

## 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.

## DANCE STUDIOS

There are seven dance and performance studios, five of which have sprung harlequin flooring, air conditioning and full-length mirrors.

# 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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