



MUSICAL THEATRE TRAINING ACADEMY
at Preston College



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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 instil 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available for students who study a Level 3 Performing Arts course at Preston College. Scholarship students receive a range of benefits including £1,000 over a two year Level 3 course, 50% contribution to your bus pass, free college gym membership, ambassador hoodie and evidence to support your university or drama school applications.

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
ELIGIBILITY AND THE
APPLICATION PROCESS VISIT**

www.preston.ac.uk/scholarships

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**
- **SINGING AUDITION - SELECTED BY THE INDIVIDUAL**
- **ACTING THROUGH SONG**

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 students 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, and the Institute of Contemporary Theatre.

Our graduates have progressed to a wide range of BA (Hons) degree programmes including:

- **MUSICAL THEATRE**
- **ACTING**
- **DANCE**
- **TEACHING**
- **CREATIVE WRITING**
- **DIRECTING**
- **PERFORMANCE**
- **MUSIC PERFORMANCE**
- **JOURNALISM**
- **SET DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**



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

There are a range of annual trips that allow students to experience shows and professional workshops these can be to local theatres, drama schools and even as far afield as London, Paris or New York!

WORKSHOPS

We regularly invite current industry professionals to provide workshops and Q&A sessions with our students, providing you with the opportunity to receive training and advice from experts in their field.



ALUMNI



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 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."



BENJAMIN ARMSTRONG

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

"After graduating from the University of Chichester, I went on to complete a Master's degree at the Royal Academy of Music as a Disney Theatrical Productions Scholar. During my studies, I had the opportunity to perform in the world premiere of a new musical; a project I was also fortunate enough to be involved with during my time at MTTA."

I now run Ben Armstrong Castings, working both independently and alongside several leading industry agencies. In addition, I founded and organise RepresentAsian, an annual West End event that celebrates and showcases performers of Asian heritage, providing a platform to champion diversity and representation within the theatre industry."



MILLIE QUINE

CLASS OF 2021 - GRADUATED FROM THE ARDEN SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Millie graduated from The Arden School of Theatre, Manchester, in 2024 after studying Musical Theatre. At Preston College's Musical Theatre Training Academy. During her training, Millie became a member of the National Youth Theatre and a Tap Attack North Associate. She has performed for nearly two decades with a range of professional and amateur companies, including The Sound of Musical Theatre Company, The Christie Musical Theatre Company, SAPOS, StAMP and Entracte. Passionate about developing young talent, Millie launched her own theatre school, Theatrix UK, offering drama and musical theatre classes, workshops, holiday clubs and after-school programmes for children aged 2 to 11.



THEO HEAVYSIDE

CLASS OF 2024 - STUDYING AT WILKES ACADEMY

"At MTTA I learnt many valuable things to help prepare for the industry. I have been able to develop my skills in all three aspects of musical theatre, and due to this, secured my place at my dream university Wilkes Academy."

Whilst studying at MTTA, as a scholarship student, I had the opportunity to perform two full scale productions including playing the lead role of 'Jack' in 'Disco Inferno', and 'Judas' in 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. Both performances were vital towards my training and I could not have asked for better support from the tutors and the staff."



TRYSTAN CUMMINGS

CLASS OF 2026 - PROGRESSED TO URDANG TO STUDY BA (HONS) IN MUSICAL THEATRE

"Before starting at MTTA I was familiar with musical theatre but I was definitely not at a point that allowed me to step out of my comfort zone. I had been a dancer for a while but had never really had much acting or singing experience. But my time here forever changed that, as I've had the opportunity to play multiple large roles in productions and the help from the tutors has allowed me to secure a place at Urdang, my dream drama school!"

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 STUDIOS

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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