

The Oxford School of Drama 20/21 Prospectus

AN INTRODUCTION

The Oxford School of Drama is the youngest of the UK accredited drama schools and yet is regularly rated as one of the top drama schools in the world. It is not hard to see why... with small year groups and set in a unique and beautiful setting in Oxfordshire, the school provides the perfect place for students to immerse themselves in their craft, in a safe and nurturing environment before being introduced to the industry.

Tutors, made up of specialist practitioners and industry professionals, equip the students for the challenges of the ever-changing industry, using a holistic personalised, modern teaching approach that is based on classical traditions.

Our graduates regularly secure lead roles in film, television, radio and theatre, and are winning awards on both sides of the Atlantic. They are dynamic, diverse and equipped well for life beyond graduation.

This prospectus will offer a flavour of why we have achieved such phenomenal success in our short history, but we would encourage you to attend an open day to meet our vibrant community and witness for yourself the amazing atmosphere of this unique place.

Edward Hicks, Principal

“The Oxford School of Drama is in the top rank of British drama schools. Many of its alumni have appeared with distinction at the National Theatre, and they are conspicuously well trained for a wide-ranging career.” Nicholas Hytner, former Artistic Director, National Theatre

“The school is at the forefront of professional training for actors.”
Ofsted

The School is set in an inspirational location. It has attractive grounds and open views of the Oxfordshire countryside. The School comprises converted eighteenth century farm buildings and purpose built studios and is situated on a

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Roman site of historic importance. It is on the edge of the Blenheim Palace Estate in Woodstock, eight miles from Oxford. The studios are housed in buildings ranging from the historic to the contemporary. Movement classes are held in the Dance Studio, built in 1997. The New Studios, completed in 2001, comprise two rehearsal studios and a tutorial room. There are a further two rehearsal studios, a Radio Room and a student common room which was extended in 2016. In 2006 a new building was constructed on site which houses a 50 seat studio theatre, a second student space with kitchen, tutorial rooms and a store. In 2009, the School built a new library to house its computer facilities offering internet access including drama online, an extensive range of play scripts, reference books, musical scores and DVDs to facilitate your research. In 2013 an extra storey was added to the eighteenth century Barn to allow further rehearsal space.

The spaces are atmospheric and well cared for. Classes for the Foundation Courses also take place at St Hugh's Hall in Woodstock, Kirtlington Village Hall and the Village Hall in Tackley. Transport is provided.

The School uses Pegasus Theatre, The Theatre Chipping Norton, The North Wall, the Oxford Playhouse and the New Theatre as well as major London theatres for voice workshops and public performances. Audio material is professionally recorded at Hats Off Studios and film work is shot on location.

The Oxford School of Drama

- Offers three courses, a Three Year Acting Course, a One Year Acting Course and a 6 month Foundation Course. The Three and One Year Courses train students for a career as an actor. The Six Month Course introduces techniques and develops creativity in students who may be going on to audition for drama school or are planning to go to university.

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- **accepts only a small number of students.** We have one of the lowest intakes of any accredited school, which means that here you'll be treated as an individual, and not get lost in a crowd.

"In all lessons [students] are rapt and attentive" Ofsted 2015

- **offers truly vocational drama training.** We provide practical, hands-on training to talented students who are committed to forging careers as actors. The teaching here is driven by the needs of the industry and the emphasis is entirely on essential practical work.

"By the end of their courses, students' work fully meets professional industry standards." Ofsted 2015

- **attracts teaching professionals of the highest calibre.** Most of our tutors combine teaching for us with successful professional careers. They are rigorous and exacting and are absolutely dedicated to enabling you to achieve success.

"Outstanding teaching, learning and assessment delivered by a highly skilled and experienced team of tutors and theatre professionals, ensure students make excellent progress." Ofsted 2015

- **provides a creative, supportive environment.** You will always be challenged and always supported. We are particularly proud of the special spirit of enquiry and co-operation between tutors and students which is essential to our success.

"Successful applicants exhibit significant innate talent and potential, and staff work hard to ensure that these students realise their potential." Ofsted 2015

- **has an in-depth professional development programme** to give students exposure to key figures in the industry whilst still at the School, and also includes business skills and post-graduation advice and care.

"students develop exceptional performance skills; internationally renowned performing arts practitioners and theatre and casting directors recognise and acknowledge the high quality of students graduating from the school" Ofsted 2015

- **concludes both its Three Year and One Year Courses with a season in London.** The location of the School means that during the training your focus and energies are directed to the development of your craft.

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However, as it is best to start your career in the capital, both of our professional courses finish with seasons in London. This enables you to relocate and become fully involved in professional life whilst still having the support of the School.

- **has a consistently excellent graduate employment record.** Over the last three years the school has achieved a 95% employment rate in the profession, much of which is work at the very highest level.
- **provides opportunities to develop a wide variety of new work through collaborations between students, new writers and directors at Soho Theatre.** Over the last 12 years students have had work written for them by Phoebe Waller-Bridge (Fleabag), Tom Wells, Penelope Skinner (winner of George Devine and Charles Wintour Most Promising Playwright Awards), Patrick Marber (Closer, After Miss Julie), and Luke Barnes (Bottleneck).

The Schools 2015 Ofsted inspection found it to be outstanding in all areas – leadership and management, quality of teaching, learning and assessment, personal development, behaviour and welfare and outcomes for learners.

Principal Edward Hicks

Executive Director Liz Wilson

Head of Courses Kirsty McFarland

Deputy Head of Courses Juliet Seal

Operations Administrator Naomi Strong

Admissions Administrator Katherine Ellis

Admissions Administrator (maternity cover) Laura Murray-White

“She is capable of getting to the truth of a character at the drop of a hat. And I think it’s because first of all, she’s enormously talented, and secondly, she’s incredibly well trained”. Nicolas Cage on Claire Foy

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THREE YEAR ACTING COURSE

This is a demanding course based on the traditional values of classical acting, adapted to suit the needs of contemporary media. It is practical, not theoretical, and aims to equip you with all the skills and expertise you need to become a dynamic and courageous actor. The training is very much student-centred, giving time for individual attention.

You will begin the first year with simple exercises and improvisations, spending time exploring yourself and the dynamics of human behaviour. First performances will be short improvisations, moving on to detailed scenes and finally a full scale production at the end of the year.

In the second year the emphasis shifts to the rehearsal process, looking at how to work creatively and effectively in the rehearsal room and how to adapt to the stylistic demands of different dramatic texts. Second year productions are presented to your fellow students and tutors and, in the summer term, are open to the public.

The third year is about developing your flexibility, confidence and ability to work quickly under pressure. Core classes in voice, movement, film and television, radio and sightreading continue to help you meet the variety of demands the industry will place on you. You will take part in the Agents' Showcase in London, record an audio showreel in a professional studio and have the opportunity to audition for the BBC Carleton Hobbs Radio Award. You will also film specially-written material on location with a professional crew.

Throughout the course, the time given to the core disciplines of voice, movement, film and television, radio and professional development alongside acting classes, is crucial to enabling you to realise your full potential as an actor. These subjects are taught by specialist tutors with many years' experience in the profession and teaching at this School.

London Season

Moving to London for the final term of the course means you will be where most employment opportunities for actors start. Rehearsals for public productions, masterclasses, individual auditions and special projects are organised to help you grasp the exciting possibilities on offer. In 2018-19 students had a showcase at Soho Theatre, performed Mark Ravenhill's pool (no water) directed by Hannah Hauer-King at the Royal Court, filmed specially commissioned scenes and

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performed a new play, Sami Ibrahim's Winter Wonderland, directed by Blythe Stewart at Soho Theatre. In addition, they worked on projects with outstanding industry professionals such as theatre directors Joshua Roche, Max Elton, Fay Lomas and Melanie Spencer and casting workshops with Gordon Cowell, Nadine Rennie and Lottie Hines.

Application Requirements

To audition you must be eighteen or over when the course begins and have thought carefully about pursuing professional acting training. Whilst academic success at GCSE or A-level is not a requirement for entry, a degree of intellectual and emotional curiosity is important.

Qualification

This course is validated by Trinity College London as equivalent to an honours degree (Level 6 in the Government's National Qualifications Framework). It is also accredited by The Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre.

Graduate Spotlight membership is available to all students on the Three Year Course.

Equity Membership is awarded to all students who complete this course.

There is funding available for students on this course through the Dance and Drama Awards Scheme and Advanced Learner Loans.

"An extraordinary place to train. Throughout the three years, I was always inspired, encouraged and provoked. The course was very well structured: I had the opportunity to grow and reach my full potential and felt fully prepared and ready to forge my own career in the industry when I left." Mark Strepan (BBC1's New Blood)

"It's a brilliant school; it's small and you get a lot of individual attention."
Pandora McCormick (TV3 & BBC1's Red Rock)

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ONE YEAR ACTING COURSE

This is an intensive course with an extended final term to allow for the last five weeks to take place in London in preparation for performances at Soho Theatre. It is designed for those who have completed their academic studies and have some theatre or film experience already. This is a course for high achievers who are knowledgeable about the industry and are determined to succeed.

It is important that you are bright and flexible but at the same time able to meet the challenge of trying new methods of working. We expect you to be fearless in your understanding of yourself and your appreciation of others.

Term One A thorough analysis of the basic principles of acting and their application to a wide range of demands: from Shakespeare through to the techniques required for film and television. Techniques are drawn from the work of Stanislavski, Michael Chekhov and Uta Hagen among others.

Term Two You will be fully immersed in all aspects of the rehearsal process in preparation for a full scale production in front of tutors and students at the School. You will audition for the BBC Radio Carleton Hobbs competition and record a personal showreel in a professional recording studio.

Term Three This includes the filming of specially commissioned scenes. Over recent years these have been written by William Boyd, Phoebe Waller- Bridge and Vicky Jones. There is also a full scale public production at The North Wall, one of the professional theatres in Oxford.

For the final part of this term all classes take place in London where you will take part in the Agents' Showcase and rehearse for your final production at Soho Theatre. In 2019 students performed a new play especially written for them by Holly Robinson and directed by Alice Malin.

Throughout the course your application to voice and movement classes is crucial to developing your technical ability and vital if you are to realise your full potential. Core classes in film and television, radio and professional development run alongside acting classes and are taught by specialist tutors with many years' experience in the profession and teaching at this School. You will have regular individual tutorials in singing and voice and termly individual tutorials in acting and movement.

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The Oxford School of Drama is a small school and will always remain so. Some years we have taken as few as 14 students on the course, and never more than 19. This means that if we offer you a place then you can be confident that we believe you will succeed and, provided you are prepared to be brave, flexible and open to new approaches, we will work hard to make this happen. So at the end of the course, you will be one of a small number of graduating students rather than one in a group of 100 or more, as is the case at some graduate showcases.

“My training at OSD was invaluable. The tutors truly care about the students achieving their best. In my professional life I use everything that I was taught and, although it was hard work, the course has fully prepared me for what lies ahead.”
(Ritu Arya)

As a School we make no distinction between the graduates of our One and Three Year courses. They all achieve at the highest level. In recent years graduates have secured their first acting jobs with employers such as BBC Television, ITV and BBC Radio and on stage for The Royal National Theatre, Theatre Royal Haymarket, English Touring Theatre, Royal Court, Nuffield Theatre Southampton, Chichester Festival Theatre, Theatre Centre, Barbican Centre, Bristol Old Vic, Glasgow Citizens Theatre and Eastern Angles.

“I loved the intensity of the One Year Course and appreciated the level at which we were expected to work. It opened my eyes, it opened doors and gave me, not only a process, but a key to how to navigate this unpredictable industry. You get amazing tutors and great insight from working professionals.”
Ella Bruccoleri, Sister Frances in BBC’s Call the Midwife

Qualification

This course is validated by Trinity College London as degree equivalent, Level 5 in the Government’s National Qualification Framework. It is also accredited by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre.

Graduate Spotlight membership is awarded to all students on the One Year Course.

Equity membership is awarded to all students who complete this course.

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There is funding available for students on this course through the Dance and Drama Awards Scheme and Advanced Learner Loans.

To audition for this course you must be twenty-one or over when the course begins. We are currently one of only three vocational schools to receive Government funding for our One Year Course.

TRAINING AND TECHNIQUE ON THREE YEAR AND ONE YEAR COURSES

Technical Classes

Every day begins with voice and body conditioning. These build stamina and help to develop the necessary vocal and physical skills you will need as an actor.

Voice

Voice work aims to develop creative as well as psychological aspects of the work, in particular:

- range and flexibility
- muscular release
- imaginative connection
- breathing techniques
- working in a range of styles
- accents
- period language
- working in a variety of spaces
- phonetics
- heightened language

Movement

Movement work aims to develop creative as well as physical potential of the body, in particular:

- alignment: independent spinal check
- muscular release
- core strength
- flexibility
- neutral body
- balance and fluidity
- physicality of language
- moving with impulse

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- animal studies
- clown and circus skills
- mask work
- laban efforts

Singing

The ability to sing and tell a story through music is a valuable asset and you will leave the course with a wide variety of material appropriate to your capabilities. There are regular singing tutorials throughout the One Year Course and in the Second Year of the Three Year Course. The singing tutor works closely with the voice department to make sure that the voice is safely developed to its full potential. Specialist laryngologists in London are available if further consultation is required.

Film and TV Training

The two key elements to achieving truthful acting on the screen are firstly that you learn how to apply your acting technique to the specific requirements of film and television and secondly that you understand and feel at home with the technical demands of the media, whether it be making a self-tape or working on a film set.

Training in acting for camera takes place throughout the Three Year Course and begins in the first year with an understanding of the techniques involved in film-making. At this stage you will learn how best to relate your work to the demands of the camera. In your second year you will be involved in every element of the film-making process – from script analysis through shooting to final edit – learning more about how to adapt your acting to the technical demands of the medium. Students are increasingly finding their first jobs are in film or television and, in order to prepare you for the realities of this, in your final year you will record a short film shot by a professional crew on location which is professionally edited and is for you to use where appropriate.

Your training in acting for camera will begin early on in the One Year Course with monologues to camera at the end of term one. These provide you with the opportunity to marry the discoveries you have made to the requirements of the recorded media. The training continues in term two with further acting for camera

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classes and the recording of scenes. In your final term you will make a short film using a professional crew and editor and which is for you to use where appropriate.

Microphone Technique

There is an increasing amount of employment demanding skills in microphone technique, not only in radio drama and voice-overs for radio, film and television, but also in recent years the ever-expanding possibilities on the internet and for training purposes.

You'll become familiar with the demands of the medium through a series of classes and specialist projects which aim to develop your technique to the standard necessary for professional work. Recordings are made of monologues, narrative readings, voice-overs and dramatic texts.

Each year Three Year Course students audition to take part in the BBC Radio Drama Carleton Hobbs Bursary Award. This is a scheme exclusive to Federation of Drama School members in which students compete for a six-month contract with BBC Radio Drama.

Students on both courses record an audio showreel at professional recording and editing studios.

Tutorials

You will receive regular individual tutorials with core tutors in voice, movement, singing and acting to address your particular needs.

Professional Development

We ensure that central to your training are classes in all the skills you will require to manage and sustain your career as an actor.

Your professional development classes are an integral part of your training and are not just tagged on to the end of your course. They cover a wide range of subjects including the skills needed to: research the employment market; raise your awareness of the current climate in the British cultural industries; produce photographs and CVs; deal with agents and casting directors; manage your career both in and out of work and run your own business.

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Graduates, industry professionals, casting directors and agents visit to talk to you about their experiences in the industry. There is a strong link between graduates and current students so that, as well as the Principal, former students are pleased to provide you with support and guidance as you start your career.

Tutors

The School has a small team of committed tutors from the profession whose teaching is carefully integrated with the aim of enabling each student to make excellent progress on their course.

The School has always had tutors who combine teaching here with their own professional work and it is a feature of the spirit of the School that those tutors continue to dedicate themselves to our work.

Voice tutors are designated Linklater specialists and movement tutors are Laban or Lecoq trained. Acting tutors draw on the traditions of Uta Hagen, Constantin Stanislavski, Michael Chekhov and Sanford Meisner.

Edward Hicks, the Principal, takes the role of Head of Acting. Kirsty McFarland, a movement specialist and long-serving tutor at the School, is Head of Courses.

“I’ve been constantly impressed by the quality of the students The Oxford School of Drama produces. It’s a very special place in which to learn and always a joy to return to.”

David Yates, BAFTA award-winning director of the Harry Potter films

SIX MONTH FOUNDATION COURSE IN ACTING

Our Foundation Course in Acting is a lively and rewarding course that will introduce you to a range of performance methods and techniques. It’s both challenging and fun – and helps you to develop your creativity and establish the beginning of a technique that will be invaluable for the future, whether you are going to audition for drama school or are planning to act at university.

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To audition you must be eighteen or over when the course begins. The course is mainly taught by tutors who also teach on our Three Year and One Year courses and with over 32 hours of tuition per week it will really give you a taste of life at drama school.

Graduates of the Foundation Course have gone on to train on our own Three Year Course and at other leading drama schools including RADA, LAMDA, Drama Centre and Guildhall, but also to study unrelated subjects at all the major universities. As the course has been running for 17 years, graduates are now pursuing successful careers in the industry, including at the National Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, Royal Exchange, Tricycle Theatre, BBC and Channel 4.

The course lasts two terms. Entry is by audition only and there are no academic requirements, which means that if you have enjoyed performing in school or youth theatre productions but haven't studied Drama or English you are still welcome to apply.

There is no public funding available for this course.

Foundation Course students generally live in Oxford or Woodstock. The School has a list of local families who are happy to host students.

Course Outline

Acting Methods and Techniques

The practical exploration of the actor's craft through the work of teachers such as Constantin Stanislavski, Michael Chekhov and Uta Hagen

Movement

Classes to encourage your understanding and awareness of your body and its potential in movement and stillness

Voice

Classes designed to improve the quality and flexibility of your voice

Verse and Poetry

Study of form and expression in poetry with particular emphasis on the language of Shakespeare

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Animal Studies

The study of the physical world of an animal in preparation for the development of character

Singing

Practical work preparing songs and developing singing technique

Film and Television

Introductory classes in acting technique for film and television

Stage Combat

Leading to an Academy of Performance Combat examination

Professional Development

Guidance in making informed decisions about your future

“The Foundation Course in Acting was a great introduction to drama school. After just six months I not only felt more confident and open as a person but more prepared to begin my training.” Freddy Carter

Students who completed the Foundation Course and went on to further training here or at another drama school:

Lydia Rose Bewley, I Live with Models, E4’s *Drifters*, E!’s *The Royal*, ITV2’s *Plebs*, *The Inbetweeners Movie*

Nicola Coughlan, Channel 4’s *Derry Girls*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* in the West End

Lisa Jackson, National Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre

Camilla Whitehill, writer

Mark Strepan, BBC3’s *Clique*, BBC1’s *New Blood*, Channel 4’s *The Mill*

Philip McGinley, regular in HBO’s *Game of Thrones*, ITV1’s *Coronation Street*, *Homefires* and *Manhunt*,

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Bronte Tadman, Newbury Watermill, Theatreb Royal Winchester, Theatre503, national tour of Peppa Pig

Tom Padley, RSC, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith, BBC1's Silent Witness

Tom Gibbons, regular on BBC Radio 4's *The Archers*

Cordelia O'Neill, writer

Freddy Carter, Netflix's Free Reign, Bath Theatre Royal, Channel 5's 15 Days

Theo Ancient, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Belzy Day, assistant at United Agents

Aimee Lou Wood, lead in Netflix's Sex Education

Fiona Porritt, assistant producer Les Enfants Terribles

Cecila Redman, winner of 2017 Spotlight Prize

"The Foundation Course was a life changing experience for me. I applied to the course after finishing my BA in English, and the six months I spent at OSD not only cemented that drama school was the right path for me, but also gave me freedom and confidence as a performer which was invaluable to me when going forth an applying for full time courses. My time at OSD was truly formative for me as an actor". Nicola Coughlan, Clare in Channel 4's Derry Girls

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RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

History of the School

2019 CDMT Accredited School

2017 Founding member of the Federation of Drama Schools

2015 Deemed 'outstanding' in all areas by Ofsted

2013 Rated one of the Top 5 Best Acting Schools in the World by Acting in London

Quality of One Year and Three Year courses rated 'exemplary' by Trinity College London

2011 Deemed 'outstanding' in all areas by Ofsted and awarded Grade 1

2009 Quality of One Year and Three Year courses rated 'exemplary' by Trinity College London

2008 Deemed 'outstanding' in all areas by Ofsted and awarded Grade 1

Studio Theatre designed by Roger Stretton of architects Berman Guedes Stretton is shortlisted for RIBA Ibstock Downland Prize

2006 Awarded 'Beacon Status' by the Quality Improvement Agency

2005 Deemed 'outstanding' by Adult Learning Inspectorate and awarded Grade 1

2004 Picked by the BBC as one of the top five drama schools in the UK

The Students

[Supporting Actress 2019](#) Nominee: Claire Foy for First Man

[Leading Actress 2018](#) Nominee: Claire Foy for The Crown

[Leading Actor 2017](#) Nominee: Babou Ceesay for Damilola, Our Loved Boy

BBC Audio Awards

[Best Single Drama 2019](#) Nominee: Emily Steele's 19 Weeks

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Best Debut Performance 2017

Winner: Lee Rufford for The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner

BBC Carleton Hobbs Bursary Award

Runner up 2019: Kurtis Lowe

Runner up 2018: Annabel Facer

Critics' Choice 2019

SeeHer Award Winner: Claire Foy

Critics' Circle Film Awards 2019

Best Supporting Actress Nominee: Claire Foy for First Man

Critics' Circle Theatre Awards 2019

Best British Actress Nominee: Claire Foy

Eastern Eye Arts, Culture and Theatre Awards

Best Actress in a Film, TV & Drama 2019

Nominee: Kiran Sonia Sawar for Pure

Best Actress in a Film 2016

Winner: Kiran Sonia Sawar for Murdered by My Father

Edinburgh Comedy Award 2016

Winner: Richard Gadd for Monkey See Monkey Do

Golden Globe Awards

Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture 2018

Nominee: Claire Foy for First Man

Best Actress in a Drama Series 2017

Winner: Claire Foy for The Crown

OffWestEnd.com Theatre Awards

Best Female Performance in a Play 2019

Nominee: Gemma Barnett for A Hundred Words for Snow

Primetime Emmy 2018

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series

Winner: Claire Foy

Screen Actors Guild Awards

Best Female Actor in a Drama Series 2018

Winner: Claire Foy for The Crown season 2

Best Female Actor in a Drama Series 2017

Winner: Claire Foy for The Crown season 1

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Screen Nation Film and Television Awards

Best Male Performance 2017

Nominee: Babou Ceesay for Damilola, Our Loved Boy

PRODUCTIONS

An exciting aspect of the Three Year and One Year courses is the opportunity to immerse yourself in the great writing of the past (Shakespeare, Chekhov, Ibsen, Miller, Williams) as well as making the new work of the future.

Public productions are performed at professional theatres in London such as Soho Theatre and the Royal Court. Past public productions include:

[Paradise Lost](#) by Clifford Odets

Director Jonathan Humphreys

Southwark Playhouse, London

[Plasticine](#) by Vassily Sigarev, in translation by Sasha Dugdale

Director Natalie Abrahami

Southwark Playhouse, London

[Love's Labours Lost](#) by William Shakespeare

Director George Peck

The Park Lane Hotel, London

[Serious Money](#) by Caryl Churchill

Director Jessica Swale

The Royal Court Upstairs, London

[How To Find Us](#) by Jodi Gray

Director Cordelia Monsey

Soho Theatre, London

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[A New Face for Fast Times](#) by Luke Barnes, Adam Brace, Joe Harbot, Gareth Jandrell, Patrick Marber, Amy Rosenthal, Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Alexandra Wood

[Director](#) Vicky Jones
Soho Theatre, London

[Julius Caesar](#) by William Shakespeare
[Director](#) Paul Hart
The North Wall, Oxford

[Paradoxy](#) by Gareth Jandrell
[Director](#) Dan Coleman
Trafalgar Studios, London

[Flashes](#) by Isley Lynn
[Director](#) Polina Kalinina
Soho Theatre, London

[Spring Storm](#) by Tennessee Williams
[Director](#) Alice Malin
The North Wall, Oxford

[Shudder](#) by Jodi Gray
[Director](#) Chelsea Walker
Soho Theatre, London

[Three Sisters](#) by Anton Chekhov
[Director](#) Max Key
The North Wall, Oxford

[Wonder Winterland](#) by Sami Ibrahim
[Director](#) Blythe Stewart

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Soho Theatre, London

CURRENT GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

Jack Barton, lead in feature film *The Letter for the King*

Sophie Cookson, lead in feature film *Red Joan*

Jude Owusu, lead in Shakespeare's Globe's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

Charity Wakefield, lead in *Emilia* in the West End

Babou Ceesay, lead in BBC's *Dark Money*

Nick Biadon, lead in national tour of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*

Freddy Carter, lead in Channel 5's *15 Days*

Dipo Ola, in Channel 4's *Baghdad Central*

Ella Bruccoleri, regular in Season 8 & 9 of *Call the Midwife*

Claire Foy, lead in *Lungs* at The Old Vic

Joshua Leese, in HBO's *Chernobyl*

Nell Hudson, lead in ITV's *Victoria*

Keon Martial-Phillip, in *Summer Rolls* at Park Theatre

Willy Hudson, in *Bottom* at Soho Theatre

Arthur McBain, regular in ITV's *Glass Houses*

Molly Chesworth in Newbury Watermill's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Andrew Gower, regular in Prime Video's *Carnival Row*

Richard Flood, lead in HBO'S *Shameless*

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Catherine Steadman, lead in Starz's *The Rock*

Hiftu Quasem, lead in Perth Theatre's *Miss Julie*
Rhys Bevan, regular in BBC Radio 4's The Archers

Lee Boardman, in feature film of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

George Hannigan. Lead in *The Play about a Bank Robbery* in the West End

Olivia Williams, regular in ITV's *Emmerdale*

Cassie Bradley, regular in ITV's *Coronation Street*

Victoria Blunt, lead in Hampstead Theatre's tour of *Prism*

Tom Gibbons, regular in BBC4's *The Archers*

Cat White, in Laura Wade's *The Watsons* in the West End

Richard Gadd, lead in Sky One's *Code 404*

Tanya Reynolds, lead in Netflix's *Sex Education*

James Meteyard, lead in national tour of *Electrolyte*

Laurence Ubong Williams in Chichester Festival Theatre's *The Deep Blue Sea*

Olivia Rose Smith, lead in Theatre503's *The Amber Trap*

Emily Lloyd-Saini, lead in Sky One's *Code 404*

Daniel Burke, in Shakespeare's Rose Theatre's *Romeo and Juliet*

Jim Fish in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in the West End

Kiran Sonia Sawar, lead in Channel 4's *Pure*

Lewis Doherty, lead in The North Wall and Nottingham Playhouse's *Boar*

Karlina Grace-Paseda in *Witness for the Prosecution* in the West End

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Edward Wostenholme in *The Starry Messenger* in the West End

MASTERCLASSES AND EXTERNAL ASSESSORS

It's important that you understand the needs of your future employers and feel comfortable talking to them about yourself and your work. During your course you'll have the opportunity to have workshops, feedback and specialist classes with top-flight directors, agents and casting directors from professional theatre, film and television. In recent years the following people have visited the School:

Jane Arnell, Casting Director

Amy Ball, Casting Director, Royal Court Theatre

Peter Bennett-Jones, Agent

Cressida Brown, Director

Jenny Duffy, Casting Director

Daniel Edwards, Casting Director

Gemma Hancock, Casting Director

Paul Hart, Artistic Director, Newbury Watermill Theatre

Lottie Hines, Casting Director

Jonathan Humphreys, Director

Lucy Jenkins, Casting Director

Jack Lowe, Director

Alice Malin, Associate Director, ATC

Steve Marmion, Director

Simon Massey, Film and TV director

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Sookie McShane, Casting Director

Joyce Nettles, Casting Director

Ruth O'Dowd, Casting Director

Annelie Powell, Casting Director

Andre' Ptaszynski, Producer

Nadine Rennie, Casting Director, Soho Theatre

Vicky Richardson, Casting Director

Ginny Schiller, Casting Director

Lisa Spirling, Director

Sam Stevenson, Casting Director

Blythe Stewart, Resident Assistant Director, Donmar Warehouse

John Strickland, TV Director

Chelsea Walker, Director

Gill Wilkinson, TV Director

The Cameron Mackintosh Professor of Contemporary Theatre

Students have the special privilege of attending seminars and lectures given by the visiting professor at St Catherine's College, Oxford.

The post has been held by:

Stephen Sondheim (1990)

Sir Ian McKellen (1991)

Sir Alan Ayckbourn (1992)

Sir Michael Codron (1993)

Sir Peter Shaffer (1994)

Arthur Miller (1995)

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Lord Attenborough (1996)
Sir Richard Eyre (1997)
Thelma Holt (1998)
Dame Diana Rigg (1999)
Sir Nicholas Hytner (2000)
John Napier (2001)
Stephen Daldry (2002)
Sir Tim Rice (2003)
Patrick Marber (2004)
Phyllida Lloyd (2005)
Sir Patrick Stewart (2006)
Kevin Spacey (2008)
Michael Frayn (2009)
Sir Trevor Nunn (2010)
Meera Syal (2012)
Michael Boyd (2013)
Stephen Fry (2014)
Simon Russell Beale (2015)
Claude-Michel Schönberg (2016)
Sir Trevor Nunn (2017)
Deborah Warner (2018)

GUIDE TO ACTOR TRAINING

In 2006 The Oxford School of Drama was awarded 'Beacon Status' in recognition of its educational excellence. As a result of this it began an initiative, together with a small group of truly vocational schools in both the drama and dance sectors, to identify the essential characteristics of a vocational training.

The Essentials Guide was launched at The Prince of Wales Theatre. The Guide has been welcomed by a large number of industry professionals including: Alan Ayckbourn (playwright), Marianne Elliott (director), Celestia Fox (casting director), Trevor Jackson (Casting Director, Cameron Mackintosh), Anne McNulty (Casting Director, Michael Grandage Company), Hannah Miller (Head of Casting, RSC), Adrian Noble (director), Jeremy Sams (director) and Wendy Spon (Casting Director).

The Guide outlines for applicants what you should be entitled to if you want to train as an actor. This includes information about what the minimum class contact time should be, what the curriculum should include, who should teach you and what sort of environment you should work in. The Guide also identifies signs of top quality training that anyone considering a career as an actor, dancer or theatre technician

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should look for in a course.

The Guide can be found at www.essentialsguide.co.uk or you can get a free hard copy by sending a stamped addressed A5 envelope to the School. **The Essentials Guide** has had a significant impact on the development of higher standards in training across the sector.

Funding

We work hard to ensure that applicants who are offered a place on our Three Year and One Year courses can access financial support to enable them to train at the School. There are two government schemes that support our students and bursaries and scholarships in addition to these. For the small number of students who have to pay the full course fees themselves, these are outlined on the Fees Sheet.

Dance and Drama Award Scheme (DaDA)

The Oxford School of Drama is privileged to be part of the Government's DaDA Scheme which provides grants for exceptionally talented people aged 18–23 years who wish to pursue a career as an actor. The maximum Award will fund 100% of a student's course fee and provide them with an annual living allowance of £4,550 in the form of a grant (it does not need to be repaid).

Awards are means-tested. All students who are eligible for a DaDA will receive one.

Advanced Learner Loan (ALL)

Students who are over the age of 19 are eligible to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan to help to fund their course. These are not means-tested and are available even if you have previously had a student loan.

ALLs also give access to bursaries to support your travel, living and childcare costs. The loan will only be repaid if annual earnings exceed £25,725 (2019/20).

Students in receipt of Government funding undertake qualifications validated by Trinity College London.

Foundation Course

No public funding is available for this course.

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Bursaries and Scholarships

There are a number of bursaries and scholarships available to students.

Garfield Weston Bursaries

These are aimed at students who are facing particular financial hardship.

Students who are offered a place will be invited to apply.

Mhairi Armstrong Bursary

This is provided by the family of Mhairi Armstrong, former Voice Tutor and Trustee, in recognition of her dedication to the work of the School. This bursary is given to a Three Year Course student at the end of their first year of training.

Laurence Olivier Bursary

The Society of London Theatre offers these annual bursaries to help second year students facing financial difficulty in their final year of training. The School is invited to nominate two candidates to audition for this bursary.

Sir John Gielgud Bursary

The School is invited to nominate one second year student who is facing financial hardship for this bursary.

Constellations Creatives Drama Student Bursary

The School is invited to nominate a student of east Asian origin for this bursary awarded by Yellow Earth Theatre Company to encourage and promote greater participation and representation of east Asian actors on stage and screen.

Spotlight Prize

The School nominates one third year graduating student to audition for the Spotlight Prize.

Hardship Fund

The Oxford School of Drama has established its own Hardship Fund which is distributed each year to students on the Three Year and One Year courses at the School. Students not in receipt of Government funding and students with disabilities are prioritised.

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DISABLED STUDENTS

We welcome applications from disabled students and are happy to make adjustments where we can to ensure our training is inclusive. Key course tutors and administrative staff have attended Disability Equality Training. If you have any questions about the courses or School, please telephone **Liz Wilson** on **(01993) 812883** or email l.wilson@oxforddrama.ac.uk

Accessibility

We have undertaken an audit to improve accessibility, which addresses all areas of the School. At the time of printing there is level access to all spaces except two tutorial rooms and the Music Room. There are three accessible toilets.

Support for Disabled Students

If you are offered Government funding, you can apply for additional funding from the Disabled Student Allowance. The DSA is a grant which can help to cover the cost of extra equipment and support that you require to access the training at the School. Your individual access requirements could be specialist IT equipment, a non-medical helper such as a note-taker, educational facilitator or BSL interpreter, or even help with travel expenses.

Information in accessible formats

We have a large print copy of our prospectus and enrolment form on our website. We can also supply an audio version. For students with limited dexterity or visual impairment we can provide assistance with completing the application form. For more information about these services, please contact Liz Wilson.

Entry process

We have taken specialist advice on our audition process, and it aims to be flexible enough to allow you to demonstrate your abilities in alternative ways if necessary. We would be happy for you to visit the School prior to your audition to assess the suitability of our facilities for your individual needs. If you would like further information about our selection process, please contact Liz Wilson.

We are still learning how to best improve our services to you and would appreciate any comments and suggestions you may have.

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LIVING IN OXFORD

Many students choose to live in Oxford. It's just eight miles from the School and a bus runs from the city to the School each day. More than just "dreaming spires", Oxford is a vibrant modern city, with plentiful cafés, shops, pubs, theatres, cinemas and restaurants.

There's plenty on offer. There are seven theatres: Pegasus Theatre, The Oxford Playhouse, The Burton Taylor Theatre, the New Theatre, The North Wall, The Theatre at Headington, the Old Fire Station and numerous others which spring up across the city in the summer months. Theatre companies that regularly visit Oxford include the Almeida, The Globe Theatre, Royal National Theatre, English Touring Theatre, Headlong, Frantic Assembly, The Right Size and Shared Experience.

Oxford has an Arts Council funded theatre producer, The Oxford Playhouse, with whom the School has strong links. Also within striking distance are London theatres, the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, The Watermill in Newbury and Warwick Arts Centre. Stratford upon Avon is just 40 minutes away.

Venues around the city offer a whole range of musical experiences from rock to jazz, salsa, folk and classical. There are two world-renowned museums, the Ashmolean and the Pitt Rivers plus Modern Art Oxford and with two mainstream and two independent cinemas, there's always a wide choice of films to see. Transport within Oxford is good – great bus services and lots of cycle lanes. There's good public transport linking Oxford and Woodstock and it's also easy to get to London – frequent (every 10 mins during peak time) and cheap buses run 24 hours a day.

If you want to make the most of country living, Woodstock is a beautiful historic town only a couple of miles from the School. It has the gentrified feel of many Oxfordshire towns but with plenty of restaurants, pubs, wine bars and hotels, plus a museum and library, it has lots going on and the added advantage of being only 15 minutes from the School by bicycle. Other options on the school bus route are Yarnton and Begbroke, which are quiet, well-placed villages halfway between Oxford and the School. Kidlington is a busy town about five miles from Oxford which has a good range of shops including two large supermarkets, banks, hairdressers, takeaways and pubs, and excellent access to Oxford, and it's under an hour to London by train from its station, Oxford Parkway.

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WELFARE

We are particularly concerned with your welfare and understand that the courses are demanding and rigorous. As well as leading a programme of individual tutorials, tutors and staff are always on hand to support you. Should the need arise, the services of external qualified counsellors are available.

Travel to the School

The School provides a subsidised bus service from Oxford, Begbroke, Yarnton, Woodstock and Kidlington to the School. Parking spaces at the School are limited and are only available to students in exceptional circumstances.

HOW TO APPLY AND THE AUDITION PROCESS

Entry is by audition only. There are no academic requirements. We try to conduct our auditions and selection procedures in a manner that encourages you to feel at ease. We send you helpful advice on how best to prepare, how we make our decisions and our appeals procedure. At the audition we are happy for you to ask questions which we will try to answer.

The application procedure

The easiest way to apply is online via our website using the apply button at the bottom of the page. If you are unable to apply online, please contact the Admissions Administrator for further details on applying by post.

We will email you with details of your audition. If you do not hear from us within 14 days please contact us. Please do remember to check your Spam folder.

Applications open in October 2019. We ask for your availability and we make every effort to arrange the audition at a time suitable to you. We advise you to apply as early as possible.

The deadline for applications is 31 May 2020.

The audition procedure

1. You will need to prepare a speech from Elizabethan or Jacobean drama (e.g Shakespeare, Jonson etc) and a contrasting modern piece post 1950, each no more than two minutes long.

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2. You will spend a morning at the School, taking part in a group session as well as presenting your two monologues. You may be asked to stay into the afternoon for a recall so you should be prepared to spend the whole day at the School if necessary.

3. Free transport to and from Oxford is available if required.

4. EU students living overseas may apply for a first round audition via DVD or link to a secure website for the One and Three Year courses only. However, the deadline for these applications is 1 April 2020 in order to allow sufficient time for you to attend a recall audition. Before being offered a place, all students need to attend recall auditions at the School.

Conditions of Entry

Please note the terms and conditions enclosed.

We are unable to accept non-EU students on our courses unless they have UK residency with indefinite leave to remain.

Payment of Fees

Fees for EU students on the Three Year and One Year Courses are payable termly in advance. For non-EU students and Foundation students full course fees for the current year are payable in advance of the commencement of the course. Places on courses will only be confirmed on receipt of a deposit. The deposit will be returned within six weeks of successful completion of the course.

Open days

We run several Open Days a year to give potential students an opportunity to gain a real taste of life at school. During the day you will meet current students, staff and observe classes as well as have a Q&A session with the Principal, Edward Hicks. Please see our website for further information.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The Oxford School of Drama is an Equal Opportunities organisation. We select solely on the strength of talent, potential and suitability to be trained, irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, ethnic origin or income. We welcome applications from disabled students. For copies of our Disability Equality Policy or Equal Opportunities Policy, please contact Liz Wilson on 01993 812883.

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The Oxford School of Drama Trust

Founding Principal, George Peck MA

Trustees

Diane Borger

Babou Ceesay

David Etherington QC

Natalie Macaluso

Anne Millman

Nina Raine

Rick Scott

Peter Wilson-Smith MA (Chair)

Registered charity number 1072770

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Directors: Babou Ceesay, Natalie Macaluso, Anne Millman

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