

The Oxford School of Drama Large Print 21/22 Prospectus

Introduction:

The Oxford School of Drama is a world-leading conservatoire offering professional actor training on a Three Year and One Year Acting Course, plus a Six Month Foundation Course.

We are proud to be one of the youngest conservatoires in the UK and despite our short history, we boast an illustrious award-winning alumni who work as actors, writers and directors, across all areas of the industry in film, radio, television and theatre.

Only an hour outside London, nestled in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside, the environment is unparalleled for actor training, enjoying stunning Cotswold stone studios and a theatre, with superb views across the Blenheim estate. Our location reflects the supportive and nurturing ethos of the school, and being a small drama school, we are able to offer bespoke, rigorous and progressive training. A training that learns from the past but embraces the future. As the students work through their course and grow in confidence, the training becomes more outward-focused with productions moving to offsite venues, including schools and local theatres before ending with a London season introducing our students to the wider industry.

The well-being of all our students is paramount and we enjoy helping each actor to reach their full potential. Enabling them to graduate with confidence in their own abilities to not just work in the industry, but offer new ideas and new voices to an ever-changing future industry. We believe that talent comes in all packages and we are committed to offering our conservatoire training to talent across the country, no matter what their background. It is our mission to embrace difference and to celebrate the individual, ensuring the industry reflects the multi-cultural, diverse and eclectic characters that are integral to this evolving sector.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing our passion for training the next generation.

Edward Hicks, Principal

Why Choose to Train at Oxford

Small means INDIVIDUAL

The small-scale of the School, no more than 19 students per year group and 125 students at any one time, ensures you get the individual attention and support that you need to make the most of your potential.

*The tutors really knew us as people and performers and could then really understand what we needed and how and when we needed it. **OSD graduate***

We CARE about you

We know that acting training can place demands on your physical and emotional energy so we place great emphasis on your pastoral care and support throughout your training.

*I think the culture at The Oxford School of Drama is particularly special. It's a giving, caring and encouraging environment. **OSD graduate***

A place for DISCOVERY

We aim to train individual artists giving you the space to be playful and exercise your creativity. One of the features of graduates from the School is the high number who have been successful as makers in the theatre and film industries as writers, directors and producers, as well as actors.

*The school enabled me to find a way to access my own truth and that of the character. That honesty and truthfulness excited me then, still does now and is what I strive for in my work as a director. **OSD graduate***

TRUTHFUL and connected

We have a reputation for training that is honest, truthful and rigorous. It asks for a level of commitment and dedication that will not only give you the skills and confidence to succeed but prepares you for the demands of the performing arts industries.

*There is an absolute requirement for honesty and truth and a requirement to understand what that means and needs. **OSD graduate***

Be part of the WIDER WORLD

You will have the opportunity to collaborate with some of the UK's most exciting directors and writers to develop new work for the stage and film. As a student on the Three Year and One Year course you will contribute to new theatre and film commissions for performance on stage and in short films.

'Oxford inspired me to be tenacious and self-sufficient in the industry. To write, to work hard, to be grateful, to be kind and to use the skills I have to collaborate with others and make my own work.' **OSD graduate Alumni**

SUCCESS

Our graduates leave the School with the technique, skill and knowledge they need to enjoy successful and sustainable careers in TV, Film and Theatre. Over the last 3 years graduates have achieved a 93% employment rate in the profession, much of it at the highest level.

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, Artistic Director, The Bridge Theatre**

FOCUS on developing your craft

Our secluded setting means no day to day distractions. This allows you to completely focus on your training.

I loved that the school itself is so remote and tucked away from real life, which means you are just completely immersed in the training with no distractions! **OSD graduate**

Three Year Acting Course

This is a demanding conservatoire course based on the values of classical acting, adapted to suit the needs of the contemporary world. 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. The course is designed to help you reach your full potential through vocal, physical and imaginative techniques, and provide you with the ability to continue learning and developing beyond these three years and throughout your professional life. You will be taught in group classes and through regular one-to-one tutorials across all of the core disciplines. You will have many opportunities to work with leading practitioners from theatre, film and television as well as key industry casting directors and agents. In your final year you will make your transition into the performing arts industries by spending your final term in London making work with directors and writers and performing at venues in London.

Qualification

This course is validated by Trinity College London and regulated by Ofqual. It is Level 6 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework. Equity membership is awarded to all students who complete this course.

Entry Requirements

Entry is by audition only. You must be over the age of eighteen when the course is due to start in September 2021. There are no academic qualifications required for entry to the course.

Funding

There is government funding available for students who are accepted on to this course. The Dance and Drama Awards Scheme and Advanced Learner Loans will support both course fees and living costs. Additional bursaries are also available. Please see all details on funding your course on the fees and funding page.

Graduates of this course include Sophie Cookson, Maimuna Memon, Faye Castelow and Dipo Ola.

Course Outline

Year One

In this year you will concentrate on foundation exercises in acting, movement and voice that will be the building blocks for shaping your approach to being a creative actor. You will spend time exploring yourself and your identity as well as the dynamics of human behaviour. Our tutors are all specialists in their field and draw from the approaches and techniques of Stanislavski, Uta Hagen, Michael Chekhov, Linklater, Laban and Lecoq among others. The first performances that you will share will be work you have made to express your creative voice. You will have an introduction to film and you will begin to build your vocal technique in acting through song. The first year ends with a full scale production.

Year Two

In the second year the emphasis shifts to the rehearsal process, looking at how to work creatively and effectively in the rehearsal room with different directors. You will develop your skills in approaching diverse texts with lots of opportunities to explore the context and relevance of a range of classical and modern plays across four productions in the year. The work on freeing your voice and building confidence in your physical expression will continue throughout this year. You will be encouraged to be open, playful and imaginative

through ensemble work in clown and mask. Acting for screen will include mock shoots and the opportunity to devise and create a film.

Year Three

Your final year is about applying your craft in performance with flexibility and confidence. You will work towards entering a career in the performing arts by building your knowledge and experience through talks and workshops with leading practitioners and meetings with key industry professionals. You will acquire skills in auditioning, film and television castings and in self-taping and you will showcase your skills in the production of film and audio show reels as well as an industry-targeted Showcase at a theatre in London. For your final term you will consolidate your skills through a programme of creative development projects with directors and writers as well as rehearsing and performing a new theatre commission in a London venue.

“The training is specific and multifaceted and the teaching staff are experienced in the industry and from differing backgrounds. This gives the students many perspectives, all bonded by the overall ethos of truth, trust and hard work. It’s a very safe space in which to make the discoveries about acting that you’ll take with you for your whole career.” **Charity Wakefield – Georgina in Hulu’s *The Great* and William Shakespeare in The Globe’s *Emilia***

“The tutors really knew us as people and performers and could then really understand what we needed and how and when we needed it. The approach is fundamental to marking the school out from others. There is an absolute requirement for honesty and truth and a requirement to understand what that means and needs.” **Peter Stickney – Artistic Director of The Lord Chamberlain’s Men; the UK’s premier all male theatre company.**

“I think it’s an incredible training that prepares you for absolutely anything the profession (and life) has to throw at you! It’s 3 years of hard work, laughter, tears, joy, therapy, imagination, creativity... It gave me resilience and made me value grit. It’s fully immersive; it demands your heart and soul and so does the life of an actor.” **Cassie Bradley – *Mary Magdalene* in The History Channel’s *Jesus: His Life* and *Natalie* in ITV’s *Coronation Street***

One Year Acting Course

This is an intensive course that takes place across four terms in a full calendar year. It is designed for those who may have some experience in the performing arts and who are able and willing to reach their potential as a creative artist over a year of intensive activity. You will be taught in group classes and through individual tutorials that aim to address your

particular needs. It is important that you are open, curious and have a desire to experiment with new methods of working. We expect you to be prepared to be bold and fearless in your willingness to understand yourself and respectful and appreciative of the courage of others. Three terms of the course take place at the School and then you have a final term in London where you will rehearse and perform a new writing commission and take part in your final Showcase performance. Throughout your year of training you will have many opportunities to work with leading directors, writers and producers from theatre, film and television. This will give you the experience of working as a professional artist and support your transition into the performing arts industry.

Graduates of this course include Babou Ceesay, Jude Owusu, Claire Foy and Richard Gadd.

Course Outline

Term One

The first term is a thorough exploration of the basic principles of acting alongside work on freeing the voice and gaining confidence in your physical expression. Our tutors are all specialists in their field and draw from the approaches and techniques of Stanislavski, Uta Hagen, Michael Chekhov, Linklater, Laban and Lecoq among others. You will develop confidence in your imaginative skills through improvisation and the playful exploration of your physicality. During this term you start to develop your knowledge of the performing arts industries through tutor-led group research and talks with leading practitioners, including graduates of the School.

Term Two

In this term you will be fully immersed in all aspects of the theatre rehearsal room in preparation for a full-scale performance in front of students and tutors at the School. You will continue to work through the Linklater progression to create a deeper connection between breath, voice and text. You will build confidence and skill in your physical life and you will be encouraged to be open, playful and imaginative within the movement curriculum. Acting through Song will support you in applying vocal technique to a piece of music and you will have the opportunity to use your performance skills in presenting a song to your peers at the School. In this term you will be introduced to screen work and you will become familiar with working on a set through mock shoots that prepare you for filming a series of short films in the following term. Preparing you for the industry continues in this term with workshops to give you guidance on all aspects of life as a professional actor as well as with mock castings and auditions for theatre and screen work. At the end of this term you will have worked on your microphone technique and recorded a personal audio showreel in a professional recording studio.

Term Three

You will perform in two theatre productions in this term including a full scale public production at the North Wall Arts Centre in Oxford with a full design team. At the other end of the scale you will be given the opportunity to exercise your creativity by directing and producing a piece of theatre within the student year group to share with students and tutors. Clown presentations will further develop your ability to be open and playful with an audience. You will build your professional knowledge by meeting bodies such as Equity and Spotlight, exploring the role of agents and casting directors and developing your business awareness. You will also showcase and develop your skills by performing in a professionally directed and edited short film shot on location. You will have further opportunity to build your ability to tell a narrative through song through ensemble and individual song work across a range of musical genres.

Term Four – The London Season

This term takes place in London and marks your transition into the industry. You will be in the rehearsal room working on a new play with the writer and director for performances at a London venue. This will be followed by an intensive rehearsal for your Showcase performance to agents, casting directors and other key industry professionals. A series of masterclasses and mock casting sessions with directors from theatre and film will develop your skills and experience of working with professionals in the industry.

Qualification

This course is validated by Trinity College London and regulated by Ofqual. It is Level 5 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework. Equity membership is awarded to all students who complete this course.

Entry Requirements

Entry is by audition only. You must be over the age of twenty-one when the course is due to start in September 2021. There are no academic qualifications required for entry to the course.

Funding

There is government funding available for students who are accepted on to this course. The Dance and Drama Awards Scheme and Advanced Learner Loans will support both course fees and living costs. Additional bursaries are also available. Please see all details on funding your course on the fees and funding page.

“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***

“The One Year Course was perfectly suited to me. I learned so much in that year and felt so ready to tackle the industry when I left. The wonderful ability to learn with and from your peers has stayed with me. The freedom to be brave and fail are scarce in this industry and having such a nurturing environment gave me that opportunity.” **Jude Owusu – title role in RSC’s 2018 production of *Tamburlaine***

“The teachers encourage you to really look at yourself and find what makes you as an individual, special and different to everyone else. There are no carbon copies being made at Oxford, every student thrives in their individuality. They also prepare you realistically for the struggles you will inevitably face when you leave.” **Tanya Reynolds – Lily in Netflix’s *Sex Education* and Tosh in The Royal Court’s *Scenes with girls***

Six Month Foundation Course

Our Foundation Course in Acting is a vigorous 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, are planning to act at university or simply wish to develop your presentation and communication skills. The course is also very useful for those who have so far been unsuccessful at drama school auditions and offers support in audition technique. The course is mainly taught by tutors who also teach on our One and Three Year courses and with over 32 hours of tuition per week it will really give you a taste of life and insight into training at a world-class 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 over 25 years, graduates are now pursuing successful careers in the industry, including at the National Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, Royal Exchange Theatre, Kiln Theatre, BBC, Channel 4 and Netflix. The course lasts two terms. Entry is by audition only and there are no academic requirements.

Course Outline

Application Requirements:

To audition for this course you must be eighteen or over when the course begins.

Acting Methods and Techniques:

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

Movement:

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

Verse and Poetry:

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

Animal Studies:

The study and embodiment of animals 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:

An opportunity to explore a variety of performance combat skills

Improvisation & Devising:

Classes to expand your creativity and increase your confidence

Funding:

There is no public funding available for this course.

Voice:

Classes designed to improve the quality and flexibility of your voice

"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 and 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***

*“I absolutely loved every minute of my time on the Foundation Course. I was utterly inspired by my teachers and fellow students, and the course exponentially broadened my mind on what a career in the arts could look like.” Fiona Porritt – Assistant Creative Producer, **Les Enfants Terribles***

*“The Foundation Course helped me to know that this was what I truly wanted and was ready for and gave me a real experience and understanding of what the Three Year course would be like. I was challenged out of my comfort zone every single day and I grew so much in those six months in a supportive and wonderful environment. The tools I learnt are the basis of every role I undertake now today in my career. It was truly the most life changing time for me.” Lydia Bewley – Bunny in Channels 4’s **Drifters** and Jane in **The Inbetweeners** films*

Focus on Alumni

The Oxford School of Drama enjoys an impressive record of graduate employment and our students are diligently prepared for sustainable careers. Our graduates go on to establish themselves across all areas of the arts and creative industries for many years after graduating – as actors, directors, writers, theatre-makers and more.

Recent Graduate Employment

- Ritu Arya in ITV’s *Sticks & Stones*, Netflix’s *The Umbrella Academy* and Hampstead Theatre’s *Genesis Inc*
- Lee Boardman in Amazon’s *Absentia*, ITV’s *Bancroft* and *The Trouble with Maggie Cole* Cassie Bradley in The History Channel’s *Jesus: His Life*, ITV’s *Coronation Street* and *McDonald & Dodds*
- Olivia Bromley in ITV’s *Emmerdale*
- Ella Bruccoleri in BBC’s *Call the Midwife*
- Freddy Carter in Netflix’s *Shadow and Bone*, Epix’s *Pennyworth* and Netflix’s *Free Reign*
- Catherine McCormack in Sky 1’s *Temple* and National Theatre’s *My Brilliant Friend*
- Dipo Ola in Alibi’s *We Hunt Together* and Channel 4’s *Baghdad Central*
- Caitlin O’Ryan in Starz’ *Outlander*
- Babou Ceesay in Alibi’s *We Hunt Together*, BBC’s *Dark Money*, AMC’s *Into the Badlands*
- Jemma Powell in Sky’s *Devils*, Heyday Films/StudioCanal’s *The Secret Garden* and Netflix’s *The Stranger*

- Margaret Clunie in ITV's *Victoria*
- Tanya Reynolds in Netflix's *Sex Education*, The Royal Court's *Scenes with girls* and Working Title Films/Blue Print Pictures' *Emma*.
- Claire Foy in *The Girl in the Spider's Web*, Dreamworks' *First Man* and The Old Vic's *Lungs*
- Arthur McBain in BBC Films' *Judy* and ITV's *The Trouble With Maggie Cole*
- Jude Owusu in the RSC's *Tamburlaine* and The Globe's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
- Samantha Colley in Sky's *Britannia* and National Geographic's *Genius*
- Emily Lloyd-Saini in Sky's *Code 404*, Channel 4's *Catastrophe* and co-host of *Still Legit* podcast
- Faye Castelow in *The Audience*, Nuffield Southampton Theatres and *Leopoldstadt*, Wyndham's Theatre
- Sophie Cookson in BBC's *The Trial of Christine Keeler*, Revolution Films' *Greed*
- Naveed Khan in 20th Century Fox's *Death on The Nile* and The RSC's *Tamburlaine*
- Richard Gadd in Showtime's *One Normal Night*, Sky's *Code 404*, wrote and starred in Edinburgh & Bush Theatre sell-out *Baby Reindeer*
- Andrew Gower in Amazon's *Carnival Row*, Alibi's *Miss Scarlet and the Duke* and Starz' *Outlander*
- Nell Hudson in Starz' *Outlander* and ITV's *Victoria*
- Celyn Jones in ITV's *Manhunt*, Crab Apple Films' *Mr Jones*
- Annabel Scholey in BBC's *The Salisbury Poisonings*, BBC 1's *The Split* and Sky's *Britannia*
- Kiran Sonia Sawar in BBC's *The Capture*, HBO's *The Nevers* and Channel 4/House Productions' *Brexit*
- Catherine Steadman in Starz' *The Rook*, Channel 4's *On the Edge*
- Seán T. Ó Meallaigh in TG4's *Dominion Creek* and The History Network's *Vikings*
- Laurence Ubong Williams in *The Watsons*, Chichester Festival Theatre and Menier Chocolate Factory, and The National Theatre's *The Welkin*
- Charity Wakefield in Hulu's *The Great* & The Globe's *Emilia*

How to Apply

Applications for entry in September 2021 are open until 31 May 2021. We advise you to apply as early as possible.

There are no academic requirements for any of our courses and entry is by audition only. All applications are made via our website on the 'Apply Now' Page. First Round auditions are via self-tape and First Recalls will be conducted live over Zoom with members of the audition panel. It is our intention to hold Second Recall auditions in person at the School.

When applying, you will be given the option of selecting up to two courses. Please only select two courses if you are happy to be considered by the panel for both. Please note that it is only possible to submit one application per academic year. Additional information can be found on our website, where you can also take a virtual tour of the School, watch a short video by the Principal offering tips and guidance on recording a self-tape audition, and download a list of some of our suggestions for classical speeches.

Please follow the instructions below regarding submitting your First Round audition with your application.

The First Round Audition Procedure

You will need to film and submit two speeches of no more than two minutes each. ***You will also need to film yourself answering the question in point number 2.***

- A classical speech of your choosing from the 16th or 17th century. This can be Shakespeare or any other writer from that period; for example, John Ford, Ben Jonson, Mary Pix, Christopher Marlowe, Aphra Benn.

- A contrasting speech from a 20th or 21st century play.

1. Film a close up of your face introducing yourself (quite brief – name, age, course(s) you are applying for and the names of the pieces) and then change position by moving back from camera to a waist-up shot and do the two pieces. Your eyeline should be to the side of the camera.

2. Then move closer to the camera again and answer the following question:

- Choose a moment from a play or film which really impacted on you emotionally and tell us about it. How did you feel? (2 minutes)

3. Upload your audition to Vimeo/YouTube. Copy and paste the link into the indicated field on the application form.

Please allow up to 4 weeks for us to get back to you regarding the outcome of your audition. Please be sure to also check your Spam folder for emails from the School.

If your audition is successful, you will be asked to attend an online First Recall audition, and we will email you with instructions about what to prepare and the submission deadline. If your audition is unsuccessful, we will email you with information about when you will be able to call the School to obtain feedback on your audition from the Admissions Administrator.

Conditions of Entry

Please note the terms and conditions on our website.

The Oxford School of Drama does not hold a Tier 4 sponsor licence, therefore only UK nationals or those with indefinite leave to remain in the UK; i.e. permanent residency or settled status, are able to apply for our One/Three Year Courses. Citizens from the EU/EEA/Switzerland are able to apply for the Six Month Foundation Course, as a Visa is not required for courses of a 6 month duration or less. Please see our website for further information.

Virtual Open Days

Details of any upcoming Open Days will be announced on the website.

Fees and How to Fund Your Course

We want to make sure that everyone can get access to training so we work hard to ensure that applicants who are offered a place on our Three Year and One Year courses can get the financial support they need to enable them to train at the School. For most of our students that will be a combination of different government funding. There are two government schemes that support our students

Course Fees for the Academic Year 2021/22:

One Year Course

£17,500 per year for students without government funding

Three Year Course

£17,500 per year for students without government funding

Six Month Foundation Course

(September 2021 – March 2022) £8,400

Sadly there is no government funding available for this course.

Bursaries and Scholarships:

The School has a number of bursaries and scholarships available to support course fees and living costs for students who need extra support or who are facing financial hardship.

Three Year and One Year Courses:

Garfield Weston Foundation Bursaries

The Foundation has made a generous donation to the School to enable it to offer bursaries to students to support their course fees and living costs. Students who are unable to get access to government funding through a DaDA grant are the priority for these bursaries. Students who are offered a place will be invited to apply.

Dance and Drama Award Scheme (DaDA)

The Oxford School of Drama is privileged to be part of the Government's DaDA Scheme which provides scholarship 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). The awards are means-tested and eligibility depends on your household income. Once you are offered a place on the Three Year and One Year Courses we will invite you to apply for a DaDA grant. At Oxford all students who are eligible for a DaDA will receive one.

Mhairi Armstrong Bursary

This bursary is in memory of Mhairi Armstrong, former Voice Tutor and Trustee of the School, 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.

Advanced Learner Loan (ALL)

Students who are 19 and older on the first day of the course are eligible to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan to help to fund their course. These are not means-tested and they require no credit checks. They are available even if you have previously had a student loan. When you take out an ALL you will also get access to bursaries to support your travel, living and childcare costs. The School will be responsible for applying for those bursaries on your behalf. The loan will only start to be re-paid after you leave the course and only when your monthly earnings exceed £2,214 (2020/21).

Laurence Olivier Bursary

The Society of London Theatre offers these annual bursaries to help second year students on the Three Year Course 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 on the Three Year Course who is facing financial hardship for this bursary.

Constellation Creatives Bursary

The School is invited to nominate a student of east Asian origin for this bursary awarded by New 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.

Equity Student Bursary

Equity makes two awards of £500 each year to help support actors at the start of their professional career. The school, alongside other Federation of Drama School members, nominates two students for the award. Nominated students must be existing Equity Student Members and in their final year of training.

Student 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.

Being a Student at OSD

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. Oxford is a vibrant modern city, with plentiful cafés, shops, pubs, theatres, cinemas and restaurants. There's lots on offer. There are seven permanent theatres including Oxford Playhouse, and numerous others which spring up across the city in the summer months. The School has strong links with The North Wall Arts Centre and Pegasus Theatre. Theatre companies that regularly visit Oxford include English Touring Theatre, Headlong, Wise Children and Frantic Assembly. Also within striking distance are London Theatres, Birmingham Rep Theatre, The Watermill in Newbury and Warwick Arts Centre. The Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford upon Avon is just 40 minutes away by car. The city hosts a plethora of live music venues and the Cowley Road Carnival is held annually each July. There are two world renowned museums, the Ashmolean and the Natural History Museum plus the contemporary visual arts gallery, Modern Art Oxford as well as a variety of cinemas. There are two rivers

running through Oxford where you can punt, lots of green spaces and even woodland if you venture a little out of the city.

Student Well-being

We view the welfare of our students as a top priority and we are aware that conservatoire training can be demanding and rigorous. We know that sometimes you may feel overwhelmed, homesick, worried about money or anxious about navigating the pressures of an intensive practical course, and we understand that it may be a while before you feel like you've found your feet. Our aim is to create an inclusive community and a safe, nurturing environment, where students feel happy, valued and comfortable about expressing and discussing any difficulties they may be experiencing. The School has an "open-door" policy, and students are actively encouraged to come forward to seek help and advice from tutors and staff regarding any issues that may be impacting their training and day-to-day life. To encourage respect, empathy and a healthy approach to the work, additional workshops are also included around respecting boundaries, resilience and cultural awareness. As well as leading a programme of individual tutorials, we are dedicated to ensuring that students have access to the services they need to help overcome any challenges they might face during their training. We can provide a listening ear, information or sign-post to specialist support and resources, including the services of external qualified counsellors affiliated with the School. We are committed to helping you realise your potential and ensuring that your OSD journey is a rewarding, fulfilling and inspiring one.

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.

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, quick and relatively inexpensive to get to London by train – frequent (every 10 mins during peak time) and by bus. If you want to make the most of country living, Woodstock is a beautiful historic town only a couple of miles from the school. Filled with history, the town is famed for its period buildings including St Mary Magdalene Church, the 18th Century Town Hall and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Blenheim Palace. It has all the amenities one might need, including shops, pubs, restaurants and a post office and is a great choice for those wishing to avoid the hustle and bustle of the city with 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.

Staff

Principal Edward Hicks

Executive Director Liz Wilson

Head of Courses Kirsty McFarland

Head of Acting Georgina Sowerby

Deputy Head of Courses Juliet Seal

Operations Administrator Naomi Strong

Administrator Laura Murray-White

Admissions Administrator Katherine Ellis

Trustees

Babou Ceesay, Frank Feehan QC, Eleanor Fuller, Deborah Lincoln, Natalie Macaluso, Anne Millman, Nina Raine, Peter Wilson-Smith MA (Chair)

Registered Charity Number 1072770

Founding Principal George Peck MA

The Oxford School of Drama

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