

STEP Into Drama School 2011



STEP into Arts Management 2011

**A resource for young people thinking of
applying to Drama School or
studying for a career in the theatre industry**

step
southwark theatres'
education partnership

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the Ernest Cook Trust**

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Drama School and other routes into the Industry

STEP into Drama School is a programme developed to offer young people living and learning in Southwark information about jobs in theatre and the performing arts sector.

This includes finding out about how to apply and audition for Drama School, what jobs there are available and what training schemes there are around in Technical Theatre and what other jobs exist, for example in Arts Management.

Working in the arts industry offers a variety of roles. Many people who start off wanting to be actors, end up in other jobs entirely. This is often because, the more you find out about a career in acting, the more you realise that it's a very difficult industry to get into and be successful in.

Here's some advice from some young actors who are doing other jobs in the industry at the same time as looking for acting work:

'Things work-wise may be quiet for a while so come up with ways of keeping yourself active. Think outside the box in terms of networking, for example, to earn money outside of acting, instead of getting a job in a bar get a job in a bar in a theatre.'

'As cheesy as it sounds it's no longer a dream it's a business and you are the product you have to sell, think of it in those terms and don't let it overwhelm you. You need to think that the more industry-related skills you have the better!'

'Remember the name and contact of everyone you meet and work with, you never know what they'll go on to do - it's all about networking.'

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A career in the industry

Learn how to direct /produce film or theatre

The Met London Film School offers MA courses or a two-year degree course whereby you can journey from learning the practical skills of film-making into becoming a film master. In addition **LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts)** offers a well respected one-year diploma course in Directing.

Interested in Acting?

The routes into acting are varied. Although it is possible simply to get a 'break' by walking straight from school into the professional world, in the performing arts it is very unlikely. A recent report found that 86% of working performers had been professionally trained. So if you are convinced that this is the career for you, you are much more likely to succeed with training than without it. Where better to find the training you need than a Drama School?

Set Design? Prop Design? Costume Design?

There are plenty of aspects of what makes a successful set, prop or costume designer. One of them is patience: you have to be able to communicate ideas and visions with many people working on the project, all of which will have different roles. **The Guildhall School of Music and Drama** have a course called *Design Realisation Pathway*. It is a fantastic and exciting course which enables young people to create or design props, costumes or sets throughout the first two years, until within the third year when you decide on what it is you would like to specialise in.

Stage Management

Do you fancy being responsible for taking a director's vision and 'making it happen'? Look to Stage Management! A Stage Manager might be responsible for sourcing props, budgeting, and managing schedules. **Central School of Speech and Drama** offers an exciting BA course in Stage Management whereby throughout the three years you can work on anything from large-scale to smaller productions, developing your experience and understanding what being a Stage Manager really means.

Events Management /Design and Communication

There are plenty of courses out there which will help you step into the industry, for example **London College of communication (LCC)** offers a course called *Production for Live Events and in Television*. In addition, if you consider yourself an artist but are interested in bringing your artistic talents into the field of theatre, **Camberwell College of Arts**, offer up all sorts of design courses, such as Illustration, Graphic Design or even Design and Communication.

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ARTS MANAGEMENT

Arts Management is a course which combines the skills of business, arts and entertainment. A course in Arts Management will train you to become an individual capable of running, supporting and promoting events such as theatrical productions, installations or exhibitions.

There are many courses in the UK, for example **Arts University College in Bournemouth** has a course which is directed completely to those creative people who make projects, or even just 'ideas', become reality.

'Theory, technique and practice will underpin each year of study. To replicate the team nature of professional arts and event management, you'll work together on briefs to devise, develop and deliver an arts event each year. You'll develop the creative, business and technical skills to become a successful arts and event management professional.'

(Arts University College Bournemouth)

Success as an Arts Management Professional might lead you into being the individual who organises what goes on at the O2 Arena, or you may even be responsible for the acts each year at Glastonbury. **London South Bank University** offers a well-known Arts Management course.

Take a look at www.ucas.co.uk to find many other courses offering opportunities for young people to expand their horizons and consider entering the exciting, challenging and ever-changing, world of the Arts.

'The course provides an excellent combination of academic, management and practical skills which will enable you to develop expertise in a wide range of areas and thus provides an excellent framework for various careers in the arts and cultural industries and related fields'

(London South Bank University)

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London South Bank University

BA (Hons) Arts Management

Full Time - 3 years

LSBU's Arts Management course provides a blend of specialist practical modules alongside general management modules, both of which teach students the fundamental skills required for a successful career in the arts. The specialist practical modules include compulsory placements, which can be taken in the UK or abroad. These placements have in the past been provided by organisations including the Glastonbury Festival, the O2 Arena, the National Theatre, Sadlers Wells and the Courtauld Institute

Another key practical module students undertake in the second year of this course is to create, manage and deliver an event from scratch, allowing students to fully experience all aspects of the work involved in such a project. Students need to raise the necessary finance, contract artists, market, sell and promote the event, as well as assume responsibility for management on the night and the final evaluation. Previously students have held these multi arts events in a number of professional venues across London including The Rhythm Factory, Ocean Music, Candid Arts Trust, Dingwells and Cargo

Career and progression opportunities

The Arts Management course has an excellent employment record and graduates are working in artistic programming, education, policy, marketing, events, fundraising or administration in organisations such as the Live Art Development Agency, Mariinsky Theatre Russia, Museum of London, Royal Festival Hall and the O2.

Professional and industry links

A wide range of guest lecturers include professionals from the Donmar Warehouse, Gasworks Gallery, Oval House, the O2 and the Royal Opera House.

For more information: www.lsbu.ac.uk

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TOP TIPS - GET INVOLVED

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEPS

HERE ARE SOME TOP TIPS ON HOW TO BUILD YOUR EXPERIENCE NOW

SEE Go to as many productions as you can, ranging from puppetry, street entertainers and children's theatre to big productions of the classics not forgetting opera, musical theatre, one-person shows, performance poetry, spoken word, live art and any other sort of performance you can get to.

There are lots of opportunities to see things for free or at reduced rates. Sign up on websites that give you access to these offers. If you can't see as much stuff as you'd like, read what other people are saying about theatre that you wish you could see.

REVIEW Think about writing your own reviews about things you go to see. Theatres are always looking for young people's reviews of what they have on and offering your opinions to local theatres is a way to get yourself noticed. You can also apply to be a reviewer for *A Younger Theatre* (a website dedicated to young people's reviews of theatre)

RESEARCH Know about the industry more widely by reading publications about what's happening in the profession. Websites which offer the latest news include *The Guardian* and *The Stage*

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TOP TIPS - GET INVOLVED

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HERE ARE SOME TOP TIPS ON HOW TO BUILD YOUR EXPERIENCE NOW

JOIN Find out where your local youth theatre companies are. Enrol and gain confidence as well as practice - both in performing, producing and directing! There are a wide variety of youth theatres in and around Southwark that are usually free to join.

Follow local youth theatres and education departments of some of the bigger London theatres on Facebook or Twitter to keep up-to-date with workshop programmes that they have available.

VOLOUNTEER Bulk up that C.V or portfolio by visiting theatre companies and asking specifically if they need help with Set Design, Ushering, Lighting Design or even help with Press and Marketing. Not only will this put experience on your C.V and may even make you stand out from the rest, it will also give you a real insight into the industry you are stepping into.

READ Read as many plays as you can and think about ways they could be staged.

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YOUTH THEATRE

GO LOCAL

Blue Elephant www.blueelephanttheatre.co.uk

The Globe www.shakespeares-globe.org.uk

Half Moon www.halfmoon.org.uk

London Bubble www.londonbubble.org.uk

Oval House www.ovalhouse.com

REACT www.rewrite.org.uk

Real Drama www.rdttheatre.co.uk

Southwark Playhouse www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Theatre Peckham www.theatrepeckham.co.uk

Unicorn Theatre www.unicorntheatre.com

The Young Vic www.youngvic.org

GO NATIONAL

National Youth Theatre www.nyt.org.uk

To find out more about theatre for young people in Southwark

visit the **STEP website** www.step-partnership.co.uk

find us on **Facebook** Southwark Theatres

follow us on **Twitter** @STEPSouthwark

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Where to find out about jobs

Getintotheatre is a website for finding out about jobs in the industry

Case studies of professionals

Find out about the role of a Community and Education Officer, an Audience Development Officer, a Theatre Manager or a Press and Marketing Assistant

Job descriptions for 80 different jobs in the industry

Ever wondered about being a Casting Director, Fight Director, Wig Maker, Stagedoor Keeper, Youth Theatre Leader, Flyman, Pyrotechnician, Theatre Critic, Voice Coach?

Find answers to your questions about routes into the industry

What are the duties of an Assistant Stage Manager?

Should I do an apprenticeship in Technical Theatre?

What are the routes into becoming a theatre company manager?

Tips about how to get the most out of work experience placements

Work experience is what you make it. Go in with the right attitude and you can learn loads, have a great time and even make contacts that might help you get proper work one day.

A glossary of theatre lingo that you may not have come across

Going dark

Rigging

Kill

In the gods

Lists of current vacancies in theatres across the country

www.getintotheatre.org

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Search for information

USEFUL WEBSITES

UCAS

Applying to university

www.ucas.com

Creative and Cultural skills - Apprenticeships

Find out about apprenticeships in the creative industries

www.ccskills.org.uk

IdeasTap

Networking and funding for young people in the arts

www.ideastap.com

A Younger Theatre

Giving young people a voice in the arts

www.ayoungentheatre.com

Off West End

Finding theatre off the beaten track - including ticket offers

www.offwestend.com

Masterclass

Free workshops/talks with professionals for anyone aged 17-30

www.masterclass.org.uk

AND MANY, MANY MORE

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