

Prospectus / 2022

The Best of Both Worlds

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Welcome from Head of GSA

Guildford School of Acting (GSA) is the conservatoire of the University of Surrey. Established in 1935, GSA is regarded as one of the UK's premier professional vocational institutions, delivering world class performance and technical theatre training. As a founding member of the Federation of Drama Schools, accredited by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre, GSA enjoys national and international renown as a centre of excellence in professional arts training and education. Our student centred ethos places the student experience at the centre of our pursuit of artistic and intellectual excellence.

GSA's training and education produces accomplished actors, performers, actor musicians, dancers, teachers, theatre and performance makers, stage managers, theatre technicians, directors, choreographers and musical theatre creators. At GSA, students are encouraged to collaborate, innovate and experiment, through reflection and exploration of the social, political and cultural challenges of the contemporary world. Commitment, curiosity, courage and generosity will be an ever present necessity and requirement.

We are living during a time of significant and profound change which will define our society and culture for generations. We aspire to educate, train and develop creative individuals to enhance and further our collective understanding and appreciation of the plight of the human being, being human.

Above all, GSA believes in the power and potential of the arts to transform society and culture. We encourage each student to take full advantage of the opportunities that await them, to meet the challenges of pursuing fulfilling and successful careers, by not merely seeking to make a living, but also, to make a difference.

If you are inspired by the potential of what GSA can offer we look forward to welcoming you to GSA at an Open Day, Applicant Day or at one of our productions.

The world is greatly in need of the imagineers, storytellers, artists, creators, and technicians.

We hope you will want to be one of them.

Professor Anna McNamara
Interim Head of Guildford School of Acting



Why GSA?



Institutional Reputation

Established in 1935

The GSA brand name gives our students immediate visibility in the entertainment industry and a reputation for quality and professionalism. We're passionate about constantly upholding and developing this reputation, ensuring our students have the technical skills they need whilst also encouraging them to develop their artistic integrity, entrepreneurship and creativity to succeed as artists today and in the future.

World Class Facilities

Consistent investment across campus

As part of the University of Surrey, GSA facilities rank amongst some of the best professional training facilities in the UK Conservatoire sector. These include the £4.5million 190 seat Bellairs Theatre and 60 seat Rex Doyle Studio Theatre; student accommodation; the Library and Learning Centre which has seen investment of £16million over the last 5 years; and access to the £36million Surrey Sports Park.

Training Excellence

Surrey is ranked fifth for drama and dance in the Complete University Guide 2022

Our rigorous process of training and development is proven to develop versatile, dynamic performers whose attention to detail, professionalism and talent gives GSA graduates an unrivalled reputation and employment record across the creative industries.

A high percentage of GSA alumni appear in the cast lists of West End shows and national tours and graduates gain professional representation or professional contracts within the first year.

Innovative Research

Diverse research centres

Our research, which encompasses both traditional and practice-based forms, addresses performance in history and contemporary culture. It ranges from Shakespeare to performance philosophy, and includes work in theatre history, contemporary dance, performance and the nonhuman, actor training, musical theatre, performance and cognitive science, mental health and disability arts. As a university conservatoire, we benefit from a close relationship between scholarship, performer training and theatre industry. Guildford School of Acting is home to two research centres: The Surrey Shakespeare Centre and the Centre for Performance Philosophy.

Teaching Excellence

Industry leading staff and visiting professionals

Students at GSA are taught by leading West End directors, casting agents, designers, theatre practitioners, experienced professionals and leading academics, giving our students a comprehensive support network and knowledge base they can utilise pre and post graduation.

GSA Family

Whether you're joining GSA on one of our foundation or degree programmes, taking part in our part-time classes or attending one of our performances, the energy and passion of being part of the GSA community is undeniable. Through our collaborative approaches to learning and teaching and the extensive support network available to students both personally and professionally we hope that you'll be inspired and proud to be part of the family. At GSA our staff, students and alumni come from all over the world. Our diverse student cohort and global focus are core elements of life at GSA.



Alumni focus



Persia Babayan-Taylor
Actor-Musician graduate

I chose to come to GSA as it is one of the only schools that provide an 'Actor-Musician' course and it is one of the best drama schools in the country. My main passion was acting but music had always played a huge part in my life, I didn't want a career as a solo musician but loved the idea of integrating my musical skills into performance and theatre. That was a very exciting prospect.

"The audition process was also one of the most beneficial ones I did. The panel had time for me and really wanted to listen and see what I was capable of."

I'd encourage applicants to make sure they are fully prepared. Everyone feels nervous at the audition so you want to be incredibly comfortable with all your material to make the experience as enjoyable as possible!

I enjoy our showings and when we get to perform to the whole school and see their reaction. Hearing music always puts a smile on people's faces. We have beautiful studios which are brilliant spaces to work in. Our tutors are incredibly professional and knowledgeable and every session is beneficial to our progression as performers.

In first year I lived in Millennium House on the University campus. It was lovely to connect with non-GSA students and have time to unwind in a comfortable flat! All accommodation is in close proximity to the library and shops which is great.

I will always remember the guidance given by the tutors. I feel like they will always be there for support should we need it.

"Since joining GSA I have a more confident and positive outlook on my future prospects as a performer."

I now look at these possibilities less nervously and with more excitement about what is to come.



Ned Porteous

BA Acting graduate

Known for playing Joseph Tate in ITV's Emmerdale and Mark Fowler in the BBC soap opera EastEnders.

Out of the drama schools I had auditioned for, GSA seemed to have this overwhelmingly warm and welcoming vibe that I just didn't find anywhere else. I had heard good things from both colleagues and mentors. It just clicked for me the day of my audition that this was where I'd like to spend the next three years of my life.

GSA has such a strong sense of community and family and one of my happiest memories of GSA would have to be the end of the first term, after completing our 'story telling' block. You really got to sit back and think, these are my colleagues now, this is my company, let's get to work!

I really felt like GSA wanted to prepare me as much possible for the industry by giving me both dance and singing lessons. Everything seemed to work hand in hand with each other - what I learned in one group singing class I could easily apply to my Shakespearean methodology.

Whilst at GSA I gained the ability to forgive myself as a performer which really took the edge off and gave me much more room to develop.

I'd advise GSA students to throw yourself completely into every lesson and every activity - you will get out what you put in. It's also important to learn, very quickly the ancient art of patience! And most importantly, give yourself a break... this is a marathon, not a sprint.

“

Whilst at GSA I gained the ability to forgive myself as a performer which really took the edge off and gave me much more room to develop.

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Performances & Productions

At GSA we pride ourselves in delivering performances and productions to the highest professional standards, showcasing the skill and talent of our students.

It's also important that our students have the opportunity to work with external directors, introducing them to the realities of industry practice.

Information on performances, productions and booking can be found on our website: gsauk.org



Facilities

Teaching space

Students at GSA have access to purpose-built studios and tutorial rooms within the GSA building and across the University campus.

Performance space

Productions are staged in the 190 seat Bellairs Theatre, 60 seat Rex Doyle Studio Theatre as well as in theatres and venues in and around Guildford and London, giving students the opportunity to experience a wide range of professional performance environments. These external venues include the renowned Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and The Mill Studio in Guildford, and various venues in London's West End including the Shaftesbury Theatre, The Criterion Theatre and the Soho Theatre.

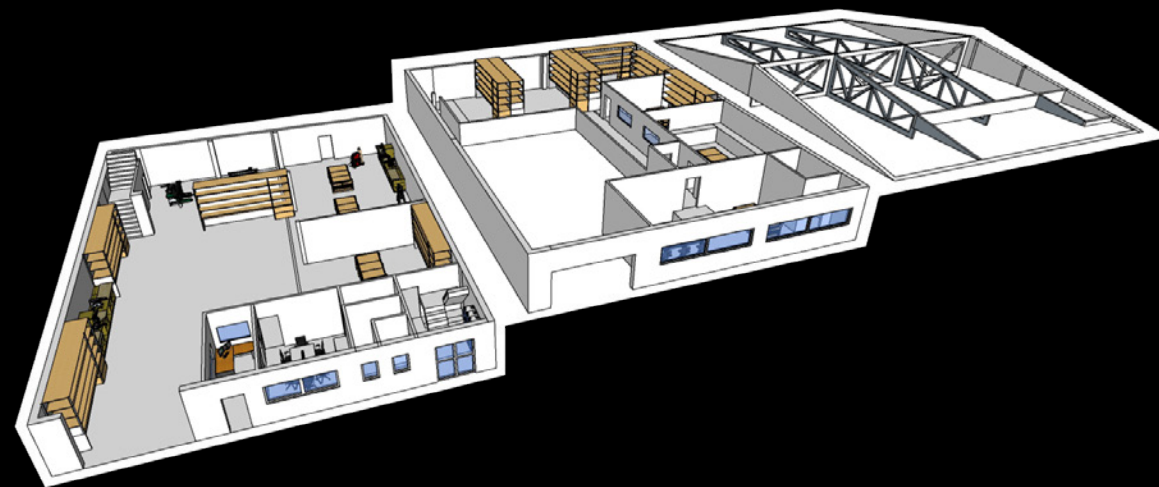
GSA is situated on the University of Surrey's beautiful campus offering students state of the art, purpose built facilities within a lively University environment just ten minutes' walk from Guildford town centre and only 34 minutes from Central London by train.



Production facilities

Production facilities at GSA include a state-of-the-art 100Gb optical fibre network fitted throughout the Ivy Arts Centre; a fully automated flying system; cutting-edge robotic cameras; professional-grade video production equipment; bespoke GDS prompt desk and wireless comms; high-end computer workstations with dedicated software; and a fully-equipped construction workshop and wardrobe department.

Our sound stock includes: Yamaha and Digico sound desks; a wide range of PA including Inspired Audio, D&B, JBL, and Meyer; Sennheiser and Shure radio equipment; industry standard microphones, and a range of instrument microphones. Lighting equipment includes ETC and MA consoles on site, as well as other console brands to explore and learn. We have a range of in house stock and also hire a wide variety of intelligent lighting fixtures.



GSA Scenic Studios

Open since October 2019, our new GSA Scenic Studios are the base for all our teaching and production work in scenic arts and design. This fully refurbished unit allows for scenic construction in both wood and metal, plus full paint facilities, and contains state of the art equipment, including a CNC machine and 3D printer, a CAD suite and dedicated studio and learning spaces for prop and model making. Our facilities put us at the forefront of conservatoire training in these creative disciplines.

Everything in one place

GSA is situated on the University of Surrey Stag Hill campus which is home to a wide range of amenities, including a laundrette, a post office, a bookshop, a health centre and our recently refurbished convenience store, SimplyFresh. There's also a large supermarket nearby, and a weekly food market is held on the Stag Hill campus.

Food and drink

The ThEATre coffee shop is situated within the GSA building and serves hot drinks and a selection of hot and cold food.

In addition, there is a wide selection of coffee shops and food outlets on the University campus.

Auditions

For those students who are required to audition, we try to make the process as enjoyable and constructive as possible. We do not expect you to already be an accomplished performer but we are looking for potential and, if we see it, we would like you to feel convinced that GSA is the best place for your training.

The audition process enables us to make informed choices about candidates and their ability to undertake the rigorous training we offer. It gives you the opportunity to see whether this is the right school and training for you, and to demonstrate whether you have the aptitude and ability to sustain a career in the performing arts industry.

We look for vibrant and energised candidates, with a clear passion for their subject and craft, who can be imaginative and open to learning.

GSA is committed to ensuring that the audition process continuously seeks to widen accessibility, targets underrepresented groups and increases student diversity across the conservatoire.

For more information on audition requirements and available support please refer to the GSA website: gsauk.org

Interviews

Where applicable, interviews provide us with an opportunity to get to know you better, and you with an opportunity to ask questions in a one-to-one setting. We want to know what excites you about performance and why you think performance and its creation are important subjects to explore both critically and practically.

Interviews also give us a chance to envisage how you might participate in academic conversation and critically engaged practice.

In interviews for Production programmes we are looking for commitment and enthusiasm for a successful career in the entertainment industry.

We also encourage you to question us, and to learn more about what makes your chosen programme tick. Ultimately, these interviews are intended as a conversation premised on curiosity and an open mind.



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Overall, I auditioned at 6 different schools and I must say that GSA, from the off, made me feel the most welcome. I didn't really feel like I was in an audition because the whole process seemed very relaxed and I seemed to enjoy it more rather than feeling any pressure.

Having a workshop and being able to perform a monologue at my first round audition made me really get a feel for the place, unlike other schools where you would just perform a couple of speeches and then leave. The recall was a lot of fun too, and it really did make me want to gain a place at GSA. When I did, I couldn't believe it, in fact, I still can't believe it! I feel privileged to be part of such a great institution.

”

James Bibby
BA (Hons) Acting

Student focus



Christina Bennington

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre graduate

Creating the role of Raven in *Bat Out of Hell* was an exhilarating and overwhelming experience. I'm incredibly lucky to have a very solid training behind me that has allowed me to give my absolute best performance, 8 shows a week, since I graduated.

I attended a GSA Summer Course and fell in love with the school. To me, GSA was a place where I could learn all the skills I needed to succeed as a performer, and also where my unique talents would be celebrated and nurtured. The teachers taught me to have opinions and be valued as a creative brain in a room, something which has proved incredibly valuable in my journey to becoming a West End leading lady.

The balance between healthy competition and a family atmosphere at GSA is perfect. I was constantly pushed in every discipline, while being equally supported emotionally. It's easy to get the best out of people when everyone is striving for excellence together, as a team effort.

If you choose to audition at GSA it's incredibly important to choose material that shows you off to your strengths. Work out what you find most interesting about yourself and play to it. Be ready to work the hardest in the room, but to also be the nicest. The industry is smaller than you think, and that rings true for colleges also. Break a leg!



Alessandro Rossetti

MA in Stage and Production Management graduate

I work now as a Senior Stage Manager in large-scale events and opera productions, with lots of experience at different companies. I have had the opportunity to work on two shows in two stadiums in Italy and Saudi Arabia with Balich Worldwide Shows – the leading company in Olympic ceremonies and other large-scale shows worldwide. It is a privilege to work in a community of professionals who constantly strive to achieve the best possible results, through the common belief that what we do is special and everlasting. In opera I have worked as an Assistant Stage Manager with English National Opera at the London Coliseum for an opera that opened the 2019-2020 season and for an important opera festival in Florence. Because of my job commitments I was awarded the Internationalisation Award from my Faculty and I could not be more honoured and proud of my achievements.

Being part of huge processes that create unforgettable memories for the audience is a privilege, but being part of cultural change is an honour, as it happened to me when I worked in Saudi Arabia as a Stage Manager. What I enjoyed

the most is also working with a whole range of event professionals, coming from all over the world with different backgrounds.

The courses are run by professionals with vast experience in their field. Separately, Guildford's proximity to London allowed me to interact with theatre professionals and employers in London's West End. One of the best things about my course was being able to improve my technical and practical skills, such as prop making, carpentry, set building and painting. I also enjoyed the ability to speak with professors about my professional development. My lecturers were always available when I asked for guidance and support.

A couple of words of advice, that I would like to share, is to make contacts and understand how the industry is structured from the first year. Secondly, be ready to adapt to a range of different theatre jobs. Any job that puts you on a stage will help you to have a holistic vision of work for your future career as a Stage Manager.



Alexandra Mardell

BA (Hons) Acting graduate

I currently play Emma Brooker on *Coronation Street*, ITV. I am also the co-artistic director of JunkBox Theatre Company. The most exciting thing for me in my job is meeting and working with other actors/directors/writers etc. There's always so much to learn from everyone, so many interesting stories.

I always attended dance and drama classes as a child, mainly focussed on musical theatre. But as I got older I wanted to focus on acting for television. For me, the only option was drama school.

When I first visited GSA it felt homely. The other students were so friendly and supportive, rather than competitive as I had witnessed at other schools. We're all in the same boat at the end of the day. My happiest memories at GSA are all with my class mates. Back stage stories, tech day, watching the other class in their showcase. 3 years of working so intensely together, they know you better than

anyone! Although many of my friends and family would disagree, I would say I'm quite shy. Throughout my time at GSA I would often feel as though I couldn't do it. I can't be funny in comedy, can't sing the high note in mix quality, can't write my monologue phonetically. My class mates would always tell me off when I always seemed to manage it in the end. We had such a supportive year group, and over the three years, they helped me to overcome my self-doubt. But I still can't write phonetically! At GSA many of the tutors have taught for years, worked as performers themselves and really care about sharing their knowledge and experience with the students. Although they can seem intimidating in your first year, by the time you graduate, they're your friends!

GSA was the drama school for me! The perfect balance of feeling settled and under pressure! Also, Guildford is lovely!



Cletus Chan

MA Musical Theatre graduate

I made my West End debut in *The King and I* at the London Palladium.

I started musical theatre relatively late, at the age of 15. I always knew I liked performing as I'm also a musician. Since then, I've been taking steps towards my goal and I am so happy to be able to say I'm a professional musical theatre actor!

I chose GSA for its outstanding reputation and its incredible employment rate. It is almost impossible to open any programme without seeing a handful of GSA graduates. I also chose GSA because of its equal emphasis on all three disciplines. I felt that GSA has the most well rounded MA course and does not try to pigeon hole you into a particular discipline. Many schools are known to excel in one or two disciplines, I believe that GSA excels in all three. The sheer intensity of the MA programme at GSA really pushed me to become a better performer. GSA understands that we only have one year and they pack it with as much training as possible. After a year, it really feels like I've received 3 years' worth of training!

One of the happiest moments I've had at GSA was when we first stepped out onto the Shaftsbury stage for our showcase. After training so intensely for a year, my classmates have become a second family. It was very emotional to share a West End stage with them.

GSA has instilled a high level of professionalism and tenacity in me. The industry is so competitive, you have to be a professional and constantly work on honing your craft. The weekly professional development classes really prepared me to enter this competitive industry, giving me the skills and drive to continue despite constant rejection.

If you choose to audition at GSA make sure you are completely prepared for all scenarios you could possibly face. Arrive early, be polite, have a 16 bar, 32 bar and 2 minute cut of your songs, because you never know what curve balls they might throw at you. But most importantly, let your passion shine through. You would be surprised by how far a good personality and good manners can get you!

Accommodation

As part of the University of Surrey, GSA offers a wide range of student accommodation. Our rooms are comfortable, secure and priced to suit different budgets – allowing you to focus on your programme and enjoy everything that Surrey has to offer.

Our accommodation is situated on three key sites in Guildford and is arranged in Courts of Residence (groups of self-catered housing), providing you with a comfortable, safe living space to make your own. We group our rooms into a range of price bands, allowing you to give us your preferences based on what you can afford.

On Stag Hill campus you will find our original accommodation close to all the amenities of our largest campus. Meanwhile on the nearby Manor Park campus, a dynamic, car-free student village has been created – with a subsidised bus service – in an area of wonderful natural beauty. Hazel Farm, just two miles from campus, allows us to cater to a range of budgets.

Whether you live at Stag Hill, Manor Park or Hazel Farm, the University's facilities, beautiful open spaces and Guildford's lively town centre are only a short walk or bus ride away.

Full details of our accommodation allocation policy, pricing structure and room layouts can be found at surrey.ac.uk/accommodation





At GSA we offer the best of both worlds – the benefit of a relaxed campus university set among pretty countryside with the amenities and social life you would expect from the lively town of Guildford and London on the doorstep.

Our friendly, safe community, set in the heart of Surrey, is the perfect home from home, just a ten-minute stroll into town, with a regular bus service running late into the night.

Guildford has some of the best shopping in the region where you'll find all of the high street favourites plus a great choice of independent retailers.

The town boasts over 100 places to eat and drink as well as clubs, pubs and bars.

Guildford is also the perfect base to explore from, adjacent to the A3 main road and on a direct railway line between London Waterloo and Portsmouth. It's also in close proximity to the UK's two largest international airports, Heathrow and Gatwick.

A direct train to London takes just 34 minutes from Guildford so these excellent transport links make a trip to the capital easy to enjoy, whether heading into town for a night out, a West End show or some sightseeing.



Programmes at GSA



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The Foundation Course in Acting at Guildford School of Acting provided me with the necessary skills required to achieve a place at a drama school, however, I quickly realised that the course isn't just about the place on a BA. The creative freedom and flexibility of the syllabus provided such a tailored experience for our cohort and really allowed us to gain as much experience from the year as was possible in the relatively short time we had. We had the opportunity of working with external directors throughout the course which created a width of understanding of different styles of working and adapting to new approaches to text. I found this course to be hugely valuable and incredibly formative for me as an actor.

”

Ed Shamwana

GSA Foundation Acting Course Graduate
2020 (GSA BA Acting 2020-2023)





Foundation

Why GSA?

The UK's leading conservatoires, within the Federation of Drama Schools (FDS), receive thousands of applications each year for entry onto their performance programmes for as few as 20-30 places. Auditioning for these performance programmes at some of the nation's leading conservatoires is highly competitive. GSA's Foundation programmes in Acting and Musical Theatre aim to provide students with the basis of the fundamental techniques in Acting, Singing and Dance. Both the Acting and Musical Theatre pathways are focused upon providing an insight into life within a conservatoire and preparing students for the rigours and expectations of conservatoire training and higher education.

Programme overview

The Foundation Acting and Musical Theatre programmes are separate pathways, each with a distinct identity and aims and objectives. The core elements of each programme are calibrated according to the differing requirements of each genre and are constellated.

Please refer to gsauk.org for the most up to date information regarding the programmes on offer at GSA and fees and funding information.

Foundation Acting

The Foundation programme in Acting aims to nurture and develop skills and techniques for those who either wish to train within a conservatoire or higher education environment in pursuit of a career within the creative industries, or for those who feel they are ready to try and enter the profession after a year of intensive training.

The Foundation Acting programme is delivered over three teaching blocks/terms, focusing upon the rudiments of the disciplines required for the aspiring actor/artist wishing to pursue a career within the industry. Throughout each teaching block/term the programme focuses on the delivery of a diverse and extensive range of subjects including:

Acting Technique

Students will study various acting techniques and the basics of practitioners including: Stanislavski, Sanford Meisner, Uta Hagen and Michael Chekhov. Students will investigate approaches and techniques both to acting and text analysis through the study, research, and rehearsal of scenes from a contemporary play and works from both the Naturalistic and American Realism movements.

Audition Technique

Preparation and guidance for the selection and delivery of contemporary and classical monologues required for Drama School auditions. Audition technique is taught in group sessions allowing each student the opportunity to study the work of their peers and also learn from each other's feedback. At the end of Teaching Blocks 1 and 2 there will be mock audition sessions where the students will receive feedback from a panel made up of Drama School practitioners and industry professionals.

Skills

A range of skills-based classes are delivered within the programme.

These will include:
Improvisation/Movement/Voice/Group Singing/Workshops and Masterclasses, including Historical Dance for the actor.

Workshops and Masterclasses will be given by both GSA faculty and industry professionals. Students will also have both group and one to one sessions.

Projects

In Teaching Block 1 students will work on either a Contemporary, Naturalism, or American Realism play with an internal 'work in progress' showing of selected scenes at the end of this teaching block.

In the first half of Teaching Block 2 students will work with a guest Director on either a Contemporary, Naturalism, or American Realism play with an internal showing of selected scenes.

In the second half of Teaching Block 2 students will work on a one week Acting for Camera project with an industry professional, learning the basic camera techniques and skills required for further Screen Actor training. Teaching Block 2 will end with the Writing and Directing project where the students will learn how to produce and develop their own work. Using a social issue based theme students will write and direct monologues/scenes culminating in a small scale public performance. Issues explored previously have included Homelessness and Knife Crime.

In Teaching Block 3 students will perform in a professionally supported Public Showcase (two performances) of work within one of GSA's performance venues.

The Foundation Programme is both an innovative and intensive course led and taught by GSA's highly experienced tutors and industry professionals.

Graduates of the Foundation Acting programme have successfully gained places at: RADA, LAMDA, GSA, ALRA, LIPA, East 15, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Mountview, Central School of Speech and Drama, Arts Ed, Rose Bruford, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and Manchester Metropolitan. Past Foundation Acting students have also gone on to successfully form their own theatre companies and become playwrights, directors, and film makers.

Foundation Musical Theatre

The Foundation programme in Musical Theatre aims to nurture and develop skills and techniques for those who aspire to training within either a conservatoire or higher education environment in pursuit of a career within the creative industries.

The programme is delivered over three teaching blocks focusing upon the rudiments of the disciplines required of the contemporary musical theatre performer. Throughout each term /teaching block, the programme focuses upon the delivery of a diverse and extensive range of subjects around the following core subject areas:

Dance: Jazz, Ballet and Tap

Classes are streamed with GSA BA and MA performance programmes based on ability and knowledge.

Audition Technique

Guidance and preparation for the selection and delivery of contemporary and classical monologues and song repertoire choices required for auditions onto professional performance programmes. Audition technique is taught in group and one to one sessions.

Acting Through Song

Understanding and analysing narrative through conveying truth and circumstance within the context of music and lyrics.

Acting Technique & Text Analysis

Students will develop approaches and techniques to acting and text analysis through the study and practice of contemporary and classical scenes.

Skills

A range of skills-based classes are delivered within the programme. These will include:

Voice / Singing / One to one Singing Tutorials / Workshops & Masterclasses

Workshops and masterclasses will be delivered by West End professionals and by faculty members from fellow conservatoires and other training institutions on their courses to ensure students are fully informed about the further training options available to them.

Applications and Personal Statements

Students are offered support and guidance for the submission of applications to conservatoires and higher education institutions.

Showcase

Students will perform in a professionally supported Showcase of work within one of GSA's performance venues.

The Foundation Musical Theatre programme is both an innovative and intensive course for the aspiring musical theatre performer led and taught by GSA's highly skilled and trained tutors and industry professionals.

Graduates of the Foundation Musical Theatre programme have been awarded places at; Arts Ed, Mountview, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Trinity Laban Conservatoire, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Bird College, GSA, London School of Musical Theatre, Tisch School of the Arts (NYU), Urdang Academy and Laine Theatre Arts.





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The staff members at GSA are truly inspiring. They really do care about their job and their students. They have a passion to get the best out of each person. I have been lucky enough to work with directors at GSA who have gone above and beyond for their students. The connections and friendships I have made with the students and members of staff are memories I will carry with me forever. It has been an unforgettable experience. I feel very grateful to have met these people and gone through this experience with them all.

”

Eilidh Loan
BA (Hons) Acting

Undergraduate

BA (Hons) Acting

Why GSA?

The training of an actor is an intensive process, which requires curiosity, courage and commitment. At Guildford School of Acting, our philosophy of actor training is founded on the development of the individual and their growth within the practice of the ensemble, helping you to develop your imagination, range, skills and technique.

Programme overview

The BA (Hons) Acting programme at GSA is designed for those who wish to pursue a career in theatre, TV, radio and film.

Taught through the ensemble, our training is rooted in the practices of Stanislavski, Lecoq and Laban. It provides the technical skills needed to become autonomous, embodied artists, able to work in response to the fast-changing landscape of the professional actor.

The development of imagination, sensation and play happens through improvisation, script-based, devised rehearsal processes and weekly fundamentals classes developing into screen acting, film and radio projects exploring the processes needed for today's recorded media.

With a strong emphasis on understanding the individual, we work with our actors to learn more about who they are, so we can best support them to forge the opportunities and craft a culture that they aspire to.

Much of the final year will be taken up with rehearsals for public performances and the West End showcase in front of invited agents and industry guests. Productions are chosen to reflect the needs and qualities of each year group, as well as engaging with both cutting-edge contemporary writers and challenging classic plays. There will also be a Scratch Season in the final teaching block – looking at the notion of self-made work and the actor creator.



Award

BA (Hons)

UCAS code

W410

Duration

3 Years

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade C/4 or above (or international equivalent).

CCC at A Level and MMM at BTEC.

Entry is also subject to successful audition. Candidates who can demonstrate exceptional talent, and can satisfy the panel of their ability to complete the programme may also be considered. A non-refundable audition fee will be charged.

“

Over the last decade or so we have seen a great increase in productions that integrate the skills of the actor with the skills of the musician in performance. Through this programme we aim to produce strong actors and strong performers with excellent skills as ensemble players and musicians. It's an exciting time in the industry to be looking at how the role of the actor-musician can be developed and defined by the students. Our BA Actor Musician Course received 100% overall satisfaction in the recent National Student Survey 2020.

”

Nicholas Scrivens
Programme leader

BA (Hons) Actor-Musician

Why GSA?

This BA (Hons) Actor-Musician programme focusses on developing your combined talents as an actor and a musician. The course sits alongside our internationally recognised performance programmes in Acting and Musical Theatre. This vocational programme of study introduces students to musicianship in performance, acting technique, voice, dance, screen acting and singing.

Programme overview

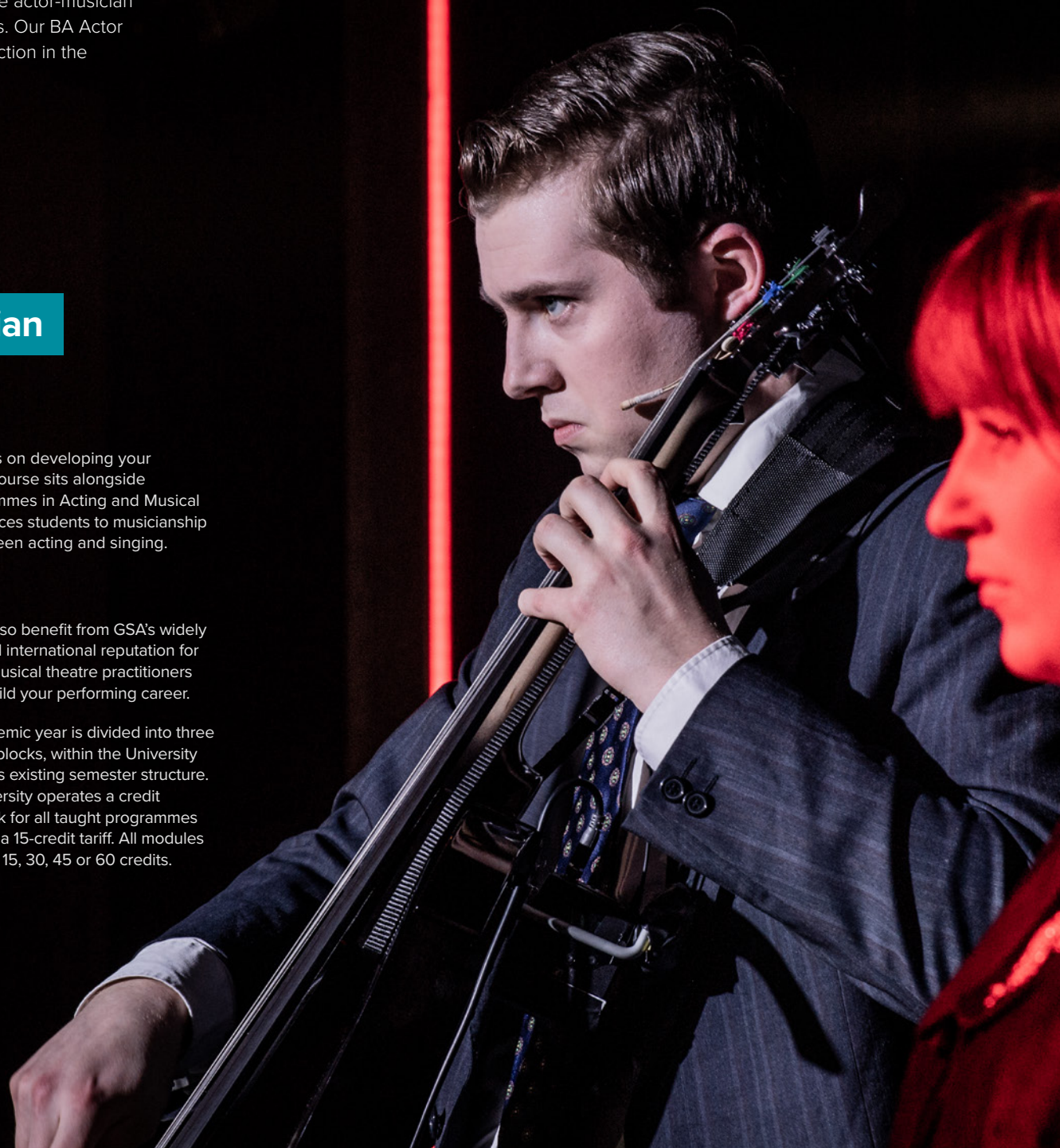
On our Actor-Musician programme, the focus is on developing your versatility to work professionally as an Actor-Musician in a wider range of theatrical contexts.

Over the course of your studies you will explore and develop broad and specialised performance skills in acting, singing, musicianship and dance, alongside important critical and evaluative skills.

As a result you will become a highly disciplined, individual and versatile performer who has both artistic integrity and the ability to work in collaboration with others.

You will also benefit from GSA's widely respected international reputation for training musical theatre practitioners as you build your performing career.

The academic year is divided into three teaching blocks, within the University of Surrey's existing semester structure. The University operates a credit framework for all taught programmes based on a 15-credit tariff. All modules are either 15, 30, 45 or 60 credits.



Award

BA (Hons)

UCAS code

AD29

Duration

3 Years

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade C/4 or above (or international equivalent).
CCC at A Level and MMM at BTEC.

Entry is also subject to successful audition. Candidates who can demonstrate exceptional talent, and can satisfy the panel of their ability to complete the programme may also be considered.

The course does not require a specific grade standard on an instrument. However, your playing and sight-reading ability should be of a high level and your understanding of harmony and music should be advanced.

A non-refundable audition fee will be charged.



BA (Hons) Applied and Contemporary Theatre

Why GSA?

Our BA (Hons) Applied and Contemporary Theatre course is designed to train highly skilled theatre makers of the future, who aspire to influence social change. Fully embedded within the GSA Conservatoire, the vocational modules help to deepen and develop your knowledge of applied theatre and cover all relevant aspects from multiple angles; creative, technical, teaching, entrepreneurial, professional development, work placement, whilst providing you with core skills training in the performing disciplines.

Programme overview

This programme is the first choice for those wishing to be thoroughly equipped with the knowledge and skill base to create theatre that can rapidly respond to, learn from and challenge contemporary issues. Society needs practitioners with a broad and dynamic skill set; problem-solvers who see challenges as opportunities. This course develops, enables and trains the next generation of performance artists and creative entrepreneurs.

You will explore devised and collaborative approaches to researching, creating, producing and performing contemporary performance practices, in addition to traditional historical scripted forms. You will be taught by industry-leading professionals, and will join a vibrant community of talented performers, performance makers, creative practitioners, stage managers and technicians.



Award

BA (Hons)

UCAS code

W438

Duration

3 years (4 with professional training)

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

GCSE or equivalent: English Language at Grade C(4) and Mathematics at Grade C (4) (or equivalent).

CCC at A Level and MMM at BTEC.

Candidates who can demonstrate exceptional talent, and can satisfy the panel of their ability to successfully complete the programme, may also be considered.



“

Attending GSA was life changing for me. I was suddenly surrounded by people who felt and thought like me. The staff respected my individuality, but pushed and challenged me to help me achieve my dream of performing in the West End eight shows a week. A total dream come true. GSA developed me into the performer I wanted to be.

”

Jed Berry

BA Musical Theatre graduate 2017.
Recently in Kinky Boots at the Adelphi Theatre

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre

Why GSA?

Guildford School of Acting is one of the world's most successful conservatoires for musical theatre training. Our alumni have appeared in the West End, on Broadway and across the world. We provide you with personalised industry-focused instruction and education, within the discipline of an ensemble, to develop your skills and abilities in preparation for a successful and rewarding career in musical theatre.

Programme overview

Our Musical Theatre programme will develop your professional and collaborative sensibilities through a rigorous process of training. You will learn a clear set of individual technical, critical and evaluative skills, with practical classes in the core disciplines of dance, singing and acting. Our programme achieved 97% overall satisfaction in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2020.

Your skills are continually developed through integration exercises, scene work and rehearsal projects and productions of classic and contemporary musicals. Technical tuition in dance, singing and acting enables our performers to become multi-skilled and highly versatile to meet the demands of the contemporary Musical Theatre industry.



Award

BA (Hons)

UCAS code

W312

Duration

3 Years

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade C/4 or above (or international equivalent).
CCC at A Level and MMM at BTEC.

Entry is also subject to successful audition. Candidates who can demonstrate exceptional talent, and can satisfy the panel of their ability to complete the programme may also be considered.
A non-refundable audition fee will be charged.



“

I had the time of my life whilst doing my degree here. My experience was so smooth from start to finish and I didn't want the year to end! The faculty are at the top of their game in terms of teaching, experience, and qualifications. These staff inspired me and pushed me to achieve the very best result I could, and I am thrilled with the outcome. I am looking forward to enrolling on the new distance learning Masters' course! I can't thank GSA enough as, if it weren't for them, I wouldn't be thriving in my career as a teacher.

”

Rosie Parton

BA (Hons) Theatre, Graduate 2017

BA (Hons) Theatre (online learning)

Why GSA?

This unique conversion programme, delivered via online learning, provides experienced professionals and/or graduates from Federation of Drama Schools, CDMT, Conservatoires UK and Trinity College London validated courses the opportunity to gain a degree from a leading conservatoire within a top University.

Our BA Theatre programme offers a range of modules that will integrate your professional experience with theory in a broad set of topics that include contemporary performer training, political theatre, musical theatre and theories of performance, as well as pathways in play writing, theatre design, choreography or musical theatre creation. Students will engage with critical concepts and explore the rich heritage of theatre and performance from an experiential and practical perspective.

Programme overview

This is primarily a one-year course, available for a two-year registration, and is equivalent to Year 3 (FHEQ Level 6) of full-time study.

Teaching and learning materials are delivered via the University's Virtual Learning Environment, supported by three weekend seminars, held during September, February and April. These include module presentations and workshops from members of GSA staff,

as well as sessions on library research, academic writing and referencing. There's no need to buy any textbooks for the course – all your reading materials are provided through our online library.

Study and assessment comprise core modules and a choice of final project for submission, including essays or a choice of creative assignments working on playwriting, choreography, theatre design or a musical theatre scenario.



Award

BA (Hons)

Duration

1-2 Years

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade C/4 or above (or international equivalent).

Prospective candidates are required to have successfully completed a three-year National Diploma at an accredited drama school or have significant industry experience and equivalent qualification.

The course is suitable for Federation of Drama Schools and CDET 3-year graduates or those holding a Trinity College London Level 5 or higher Professional Diploma as well as experienced industry practitioners and professionals.



“

One of the best things about this course is the unique structure, which allows you to explore all aspects of technical theatre before then deciding on which one to major in later. I entered first year with the aim to becoming a Deputy Stage Manager but then got introduced to so many other options to explore. I am now working as a freelance Video Designer and Programmer, a whole sector of technical theatre I did not realise existed before university. All members of staff are so helpful in helping you discover what your true passion is, and then strive to ensure you get the experience and skills you need to achieve it.

”

Libby Ward

BA Theatre Production graduate 2020

BA (Hons) Theatre Production

Why GSA?

This practice-based programme provides professional training in a wide range of production skills and at GSA we pride ourselves on producing graduates that are confident, creative and technically skilled with the ability and stamina to succeed in the contemporary creative industries.

Programme overview

On our Theatre Production programme, you will work in close collaboration with fellow students at Guildford School of Acting to deliver a variety of productions within our modern, large and well-equipped Ivy Arts Centre theatre.

The programme introduces core subjects relating to professional theatre production. Your teaching builds experience in a range of skills including sound, lighting, stage management and construction and scenic arts.

As you progress through the programme, you will be able to select one dedicated area for specialist development, eventually taking a head of department or production-critical role across a range of public performances within the University and at external venues. An industry placement and professional development module will also feature as a core part of your programme and you will have the opportunity to present your work at a final year showcase event.



Award

BA (Hons)

UCAS code

W450

Duration

3 Years

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade C/4 or above (or international equivalent).
CCC at A Level and MMM at BTEC.

Entry is also subject to successful interview. Candidates who can demonstrate exceptional talent, and can satisfy the panel of their ability to complete the programme may also be considered.

Postgraduate



MA Acting

Why GSA?

The MA Acting programme is specifically designed for those seeking a career in the performing arts. The programme places a strong emphasis on practical actor training, delivered via a series of project workshops and rehearsals supported by extensive classes in relevant technical skills.

Programme overview

We place a very strong emphasis on the practical acquisition of technical skills, and provide opportunities to combine these skills into musical theatre rehearsal projects and public performances, together with a dedicated focus on professional development.

The programme is intensive and specifically designed to equip participants in the 'triple-threat' disciplines of acting, singing, dancing.

Seminars in contextual and theoretical studies are taken together with masterclasses led by industry professionals in audition technique and repertoire. Project work integrates the skills including a devised project, a final public production led by a production team of industry professionals and a West End Showcase.

Award

MA

Duration

1 Year

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

Entry by audition. Students must hold a bachelor's degree in a relevant subject (minimum 2.2 or equivalent), as well as previous engagement with drama, theatre and performance. Offers are made subject to a successful audition and interview.

Applicants who can demonstrate exceptional talent, and can satisfy the panel of their ability to successfully complete the course, may also be considered. Variations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

English language requirements

IELTS Academic: 6.5 overall, 6.0 in each component (or equivalent).

We offer intensive English language pre-sessional courses, designed to take you to the level of English ability and skill required for your studies here.



MFA Acting

Why GSA?

Our new and innovative MFA Acting will train future generations of internationally renowned performers and teachers.

Delivered by Guildford School of Acting (GSA), one of the most highly regarded theatre schools in the UK, this programme provides world-class actor training alongside a sterling reputation and excellent industry links.

Programme overview

Our new and innovative MFA Acting builds on the success of GSA's current postgraduate programme by extending the high-quality, intensive training currently offered on our one year MA Acting programme. The MFA Acting programme is highly selective and intensive: students train for four semesters over two years, taking classes in acting, voice, movement and professional development, exploring a wide range of theatre traditions and performance styles in rehearsal projects and public productions.

This unique programme is delivered by expert teachers with extensive first-hand experience in the professional theatre sector in both the UK and the US.

Our beautiful campus boasts strong transport links to London, meaning our students can easily benefit from GSA's proximity to the heart of UK theatre; London's West End. This means our students not only receive world-class training, but are also heavily exposed to London theatre, cultural activities and highly beneficial industry networks.

Award

MFA

Duration

2 years (4 semesters)

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

Entry by audition. Students must hold a bachelor's degree in a relevant subject (minimum 2.2 or equivalent), as well as significant engagement with drama, theatre and performance. Alternatively, entrants may have 5 years of relevant professional experience in the industry. Offers are made subject to a successful audition and interview.

In exceptional cases, where ability and experience clearly show that an applicant is able to complete the course, other qualification profiles may be accepted. Variations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

English language requirements

IELTS Academic: 6.5 overall, 6.0 in each component (or equivalent).

We offer intensive English language pre-sessional courses, designed to take you to the level of English ability and skill required for your studies here.



MA Musical Theatre

Why GSA?

As a musical theatre performer, you must be passionate, creative, and be able to form a deep connection with your story, character and audience.

Guildford School of Acting (GSA) is one of the UK's leading accredited drama schools, providing dedicated conservatoire training within a purpose-built environment. Successful entry on to GSA's MA Musical Theatre means you will be part of a carefully selected and committed ensemble of performers-in-training, equipped with the self-discipline and motivation to master new skills and refine existing capabilities. Building on our international reputation in musical theatre, this course will enhance your skills with opportunities to launch your career.

Programme overview

This intensive course is specifically designed to equip participants in the 'triple-threat' musical theatre disciplines of acting, singing and dancing.

On this course we place a very strong emphasis on the practical acquisition of technical skills (taught within technical skills classes) together with a dedicated focus on professional development. We provide you with opportunities to combine these skills into musical theatre rehearsal projects and public performances. In addition, you will attend seminars in contextual and theoretical studies, alongside masterclasses led by industry professionals in audition technique and repertoire. The skills you learn will be integrated through project work which includes: studies of classic legit and contemporary musical theatre texts, a public production led by a production team of theatre professionals, a presentation of your work to a panel of industry professionals, and an industry showcase.

“

I really loved the fact that no matter what your skill level was, the instructors tried to find the best ways to teach us all individually.

”

Asya Toney

MFA Musical Theatre graduate 2020

Award

MA

Duration

1 Year

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

Entry by audition. Students must hold a bachelor's degree in a relevant subject (minimum 2.2 or equivalent), as well as previous engagement with drama, theatre and performance. Offers are made subject to a successful audition and interview.

Applicants who can demonstrate exceptional talent, and can satisfy the panel of their ability to successfully complete the course, may also be considered. Variations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

English language requirements

IELTS Academic: 6.5 overall, 6.0 in each component (or equivalent).

We offer intensive English language pre-session courses, designed to take you to the level of English ability and skill required for your studies here.



MFA Musical Theatre

Why GSA?

As a musical theatre performer, you must be passionate, creative, and able to form a deep connection with your story, character and audience. Guildford School of Acting (GSA) is one of the most well-regarded musical theatre schools in the world, and our new two-year MFA in Musical Theatre will provide you with the very best conservatoire training within a top UK university environment. Building on our international reputation in Musical Theatre, this two-year course is unique in Europe in the way it combines training to enhance your skills with professional opportunities and chances to launch your career.

Programme overview

On our Musical Theatre MFA course, you will gain a broad range of musical theatre knowledge and skills while performing in a variety of outstanding productions. Supported by first-class teaching your learning will involve a working knowledge of historical, critical and theoretical content, and the creation of performances that will be presented to agents and professionals for maximum industry exposure. A high percentage of GSA alumni appear in the cast lists of West End shows and national tours.

Award

MFA

Duration

2 years

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

Entry by audition. Students must hold a bachelor's degree in a relevant subject (minimum 2.2 or equivalent), as well as significant engagement with drama, theatre and performance. Alternatively, entrants may have 5 years of relevant professional experience in the industry. Offers are made subject to a successful audition and interview.

In exceptional cases, where ability and experience clearly show that an applicant is able to complete the course, other qualification profiles may be accepted. Variations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

English language requirements

IELTS Academic: 6.5 overall, 6.0 in each component (or equivalent).

We offer intensive English language pre-session courses, designed to take you to the level of English ability and skill required for your studies here.



“

The Masters course I was involved in, focuses on both theoretical and practical aspects. During my training at GSA, I have expanded skills and knowledge in prop making and sourcing, costume, as well as stage and production management. Experienced in working on plays, musicals, concerts and live events, I thoroughly enjoy teamwork, and I am always challenging myself within various show roles, production teams and venues in Guildford and London.

”

Rita Tsai

MA Stage and Production Management graduate 2020

MA Stage & Production Management

Why GSA?

Guildford School of Acting (GSA) has been providing highly regarded professional training in stage management for over 40 years and our graduates have gone on to work in all areas of the industry, both in the UK and across the globe.

This course will build on your existing knowledge and skills to increase your competence and confidence in stage and production management. After you graduate, you will be able to successfully launch a career in the theatre and entertainment industry.

Programme overview

On this intensive practice-based masters course, you'll work in close collaboration with fellow GSA undergraduate and postgraduate students. You'll begin the year with intensive seminars and workshops, which will introduce you to the stage management and technical disciplines and begin your professional development planning.

You'll then start working on our wide range of production projects, taking place in both our dedicated campus performance venues and external venues. You will have the opportunity to take on senior production-critical roles as deputy

stage manager, stage manager or production manager on our public productions, all under the guidance of our experienced and industry-connected professional staff. You will also have the opportunity to complete an industry placement.

Your professional development planning will culminate in presenting your work at a showcase event. To complete the year, you will create a portfolio reflecting on your emergence as a professional practitioner as well as an independent research project on a topic of your choice.



Award

MA

Duration

1 Year

Start date

October 2022

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

Bachelor's degree (minimum 2:2 or equivalent) in a relevant field, as well as previous engagement with theatre & performance/wider entertainment industry.

Offers are made in terms of grades and a successful interview. Applicants who can demonstrate exceptional talent, and can satisfy the panel of their ability to complete the programme may also be considered.

English language requirements

IELTS Academic: 6.5 overall, 6.0 in each component (or equivalent).

We offer intensive English language pre-session courses, designed to take you to the level of English ability and skill required for your studies here.



“

Completing my master's degree at GSA has been a great personal and academic journey for me. To have the flexibility of the distance learning course meant that I was able to continue to grow and progress myself whilst maintaining my personal responsibilities. This course really does offer a full spectrum of modules, resulting in a wide knowledge base.

The modules engage your mind into a world of possibilities and allow students to navigate their research and investigations independently to discover interests and expertise within each module. The tutors are supportive, encouraging, and motivational and guide you in progressing your future career path.

”

Hannah Calvert-Reeve

MA Theatre (part-time online course) graduate 2020

MA Theatre

(Part-time distanced learning)

Why GSA?

Uncover more about who you are – discover who you could become.

Ideal for those in full-time employment, our MA Theatre course from the Guildford School of Acting (GSA) provides a gateway to an exciting future without the need for regular attendance on campus.

Our course allows you to study at your own pace through online learning, so you can pursue your passion for theatre and develop industry connections around your existing commitments. GSA is accredited by the Federation of Drama Schools (FDS). You'll have unlimited access to our virtual learning environment and will be supported by industry-leading professionals and passionate academics.

Programme overview

Explore the fascinating and rich heritage of theatre from a critical and theoretical perspective. You'll gain an understanding of theatrical practices and develop your ability to evaluate significant historical, political, social and ethical developments in theatre.

Our exciting range of modules incorporates topics such as the Greeks, Shakespeare, Naturalism and the Actor, Modern Theatre, Global Theatres, and

Music and Dance in Theatre; in addition, you will explore the Background to Theatre through history, philosophy, psychology, politics and cultural theory. There's no need to buy any textbooks for the course – all your reading materials are provided through our online library. You will have the opportunity to enhance your professional development and you'll complete an independent research project that will allow you to specialise in an area of particular interest to you.



Award

MA

Duration

2 Years

Start date

October 2022

Entry requirements for 2022 entry

Students must hold a bachelor's degree in a relevant subject (minimum 2.2 or equivalent), as well as previous engagement with drama, theatre and performance. Offers are made subject to a successful application.

English language requirements

IELTS Academic: 6.5 overall, 6.0 in each component (or equivalent).

We offer intensive English language pre-session courses, designed to take you to the level of English ability and skill required for your studies here.

Student focus



Darragh Cowley

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre graduate 2018

I most recently played *Melchior Gabor* in *Spring Awakening* at the Hope Mill Theatre.

I was fortunate enough to be in the position to choose between a few schools that had offered me a place. Not only did I realise that GSA offered world class training, but out of the schools I had to choose from I felt most comfortable there. From the minor details such as campus living, to the more important things like the atmosphere of the school and its students. My favourite thing about training at GSA was the amount

of things to do outside the classroom.

In my second year I had a ball singing here there and everywhere with the GSA Singers. My personal favourite however was going to Sweden with the European Musical Theatre Network. A select group of students from four schools from over Europe would come together twice a year and take part in workshoping a show. I worked with them both in Guildford and in Göthenburg and I couldn't have asked for a more eye opening experience of how theatre is done over the continent.



Marta Miranda

BA (Hons) Actor Musician Graduate 2020

Being an international student can be nerve-racking and stressful, however at GSA I felt completely supported and comfortable since the audition day. As well as receiving amazing training from highly experienced tutors, GSA has a unique family feel and non-competitive atmosphere, helping you achieve the best possible outcome from your years at drama school.

I believe good communication between staff and students is extremely important during training in order to create a safe space for young actors to explore and develop their skills, and at GSA this is taken into account passionately. I have always felt supported by the staff and comfortable to approach them if I ever needed help, resulting in meaningful relationships with the tutors that I will carry into the profession.

As a 2020 grad, stepping into a paused industry is tough, but I am so grateful to GSA for the immense support given to the recent grads and the amazing industry opportunities the school offers, making our entry to the professional world much easier.

I was extremely excited when I got offered a place to train at GSA and I am so grateful I took the chance. The school has shaped me as an actress and an individual, given me incredible friends, and has provided me with amazing opportunities I might not have experienced elsewhere.



Jason Nolan

BA Theatre Graduate 2020

Having graduated from GSA, over 20 years ago, returning to education was a little daunting. However, I had nothing to fear as the course is clear, structured and manageable around work and family. The Programme leader and all the tutors facilitate the weekend seminars, giving an invaluable chance to receive one to one support and exchange ideas with your fellow cohort. Once working from home, the module materials

are delivered via easily accessed, well designed documents which guide and support your learning. I was thrilled to graduate with first class honours which certainly helped me to gain a place studying for a PGDE in Drama at the University of Aberdeen. I would highly recommend the BA (Hons) conversion course at GSA for anyone considering a career in education!



Asya Toney

MFA Musical Theatre graduate 2020

Musical theatre performance has been my passion since before I could walk. I have always felt that the stage is where I truly belonged. I also knew that I wanted to study abroad and Surrey's Guildford School of Acting offered the best programme for my needs. I am passionate about musical theatre because it allows one to create, discover, entertain, and educate all at the same time. It can give a voice to the voiceless and help to connect different communities of people.

What I enjoyed the most were the integrated classes where we were able to combine the skills that we were being trained in. I felt that this was the best application of our training as it's what would be expected of us in the industry. I also really loved the fact that no matter what your skill level was, the instructors tried to find the best ways to teach us all individually. We were not being mass produced to look, sound, and move the same, each of our unique traits were used to enhance our performance aesthetic. The staff were amazing. Each of my instructors were actively working in industry and could therefore offer real-life experience. They are all extremely knowledgeable on many aspects of the industry and were more

than willing to share any advice they had, or to gather information that we were curious about. The facilities were also great - having our own building allowed us to have more space to work in a creative environment. When they turned one of the tutorial rooms into a quiet space, it really showed just how much the faculty cared about our mental wellbeing.

I am most proud of making a positive name for myself at GSA as well as receiving agency interest at the end of my studies. But perhaps my greatest achievements came when I was moved up in my ballet set and made significant improvement in tap. Both areas of dance were my weakest when I arrived, but I now feel fully confident in them. This is largely due to the amount of support my classmates and instructors gave me. I was never made to feel bad about my abilities or mistakes and was praised for even the smallest of improvements. This helped me gain the confidence I needed to push myself even further and it reminded me that I was not in competition with my peers, but rather with myself. I have gained valuable knowledge and honed my skills so much so that I am now fully confident in my abilities.

“

It has been great to find in Surrey not only a rich and diverse research culture but also such a friendly, supportive and motivating environment.

”

Yaron Shyldkrot
PhD Theatre

Traditional and practice-based research

Our research, which encompasses traditional and practice-based forms, addresses performance in history and contemporary culture. It ranges from Shakespeare to performance philosophy and includes work in:

- dramaturgy
- theatre history
- performance and the nonhuman
- actor training
- musical theatre
- performance and cognitive science
- mental health and disability arts.

Our current research projects include Performance Philosophy & Animals: Towards a Radical Equality, an ongoing collaboration with the Labanarium, and Blackout, a collaboration between GSA and the School of Psychology at the University of Surrey. As a university conservatoire, we benefit from a close relationship between scholarship, performer training and the theatre industry.

Guildford School of Acting is home to two research centres: the Surrey Shakespeare Centre and the Centre for Performance Philosophy. GSA's PhD programme supports innovative research in a wide range of areas, fosters a spirit of independent enquiry, and encourages researchers to challenge received wisdom and extend the boundaries of the discipline.

At school and Faculty level, we host regular research events as well as bespoke training sessions on academic skills and informal research development opportunities. The aim is to offer postgraduate researchers a thought-provoking and supportive research environment in which to complete their PhD studies.



Short Courses at GSA



Pre-audition courses

Are you hoping to gain entry into a drama school?

These pre-audition intensive weekend courses offer you invaluable experience and advice.

There are two pathways:

- The Musical Theatre course focuses on audition technique combined with the integrated skills of acting, singing and dance.
- The Acting course focuses on audition technique placing emphasis on acting technique, voice and movement.

Please note that this course is an ideal preparation for all drama school auditions and not solely for GSA.

Is it for me?

If you are determined to pursue a career in the performing arts industry and want an insight into how drama school auditions work, then this is the course for you.

Guidance will be given on your audition material, how to present yourself and any areas you may need to develop further in order to give you the best possible chance of success.

You will have the opportunity to perform your material and get valuable feedback. You will experience mock auditions, intensive technical workshops and receive clear information on how to prepare for auditions.

You must be aged 17+ to do this course.

Find out more about entry requirements, fees and course dates on the GSA website: gsauk.org

Saturday School

GSA Saturday School provides professional training to students from the age of 5 to 17.

We aim to develop confident, happy students through our high quality and disciplined conservatoire training. We offer a range of performing arts classes as well as one-to-one tutorials both online and at our purpose-built studio facilities.

Sessions take place between 9.30 and 5.30 every Saturday during the three ten-week terms.

There are opportunities to take exams in LAMDA acting, LCM Singing examinations and ISTD tap and ballet.

Our Saturday School classes include:

- Introduction to Musical Theatre (5-7 years only)
- Acting
- Ballet
- Group singing
- Jazz
- Tap
- Musical theatre styles
- Street dance
- Private singing & acting tutorials
- Adult classes in acting, singing, jazz, ballet and tap



Junior Conservatoire

The GSA Junior Conservatoire offers associate training for young students who show talent and potential for either Musical Theatre (age 11+) or Acting (age 14+).

This specialist and focused programme, taught by our professional GSA Conservatoire tutors, provides pre-vocational training for students who would like to consider higher education or a career in the performing arts.

This intensive programme has two pathways, Musical Theatre and Acting, both split by age group and ability, providing the package of skills needed to pursue further training and offer a taste of conservatoire life.

Entry is by audition only. Places are limited and designed for the young student of exceptional talent who has some experience and a high level of commitment and passion for the performing arts.

The course runs from September to July and students are able to reapply each year.



Summer Conservatoire

GSA has been successfully running summer schools for over 20 years and has built an international reputation for delivering world-class training. Our Acting, Musical Theatre and Technical Theatre Summer Conservatoire programmes are designed for students that are interested in a career in the arts and provide an insight into conservatoire life.

Our courses are taught by GSA conservatoire tutors and cover acting, singing, dance and movement. We offer accommodation to students joining us from the UK or abroad aged 17+.

Stage Combat

This 5 day stage combat course, for full time GSA students, delivers the Actors Combat Theatrical Training Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Unarmed Syllabus Course.

Is it for me?

These courses are for students in training who have no stage combat experience or for those who are looking to gain more qualifications or simply to refresh or refine their skills.

- **Basic:** for those who have not done any stage combat or do not hold any stage qualifications
- **Intermediate:** for those who hold a Basic qualification or higher (you have a choice of either the Basic or Intermediate course depending on how you wish to approach the subject and what you are looking for)
- **Advanced:** for those who hold Intermediate or higher

Please note that Stage Combat is an additional, paid for course, on top of your regular programme.

Voice in Business



Guildford School of Acting, a leading conservatoire within the University of Surrey, delivers world-class training and has a vibrant community of performers, performance makers, creative practitioners and technicians. With a heritage of over 80 years, our corporate training is delivered by those same industry-leading professionals.

GSA offers three-hour workshops with GSA's top vocal coaches for groups of 10 to 20 people and bespoke sessions for groups on request. Find out how to become an inspiring communicator in a media conscious business environment. Build confidence and presentation skills by learning the vocal and communication skills that win bids and influence people on camera and in the room.

Find out more about entry requirements, fees and course dates on the GSA website: gsauk.org

Evening Dance Classes

We run a selection of evening dance classes for students across the University of Surrey in ballet, jazz, commercial jazz, pilates, and contemporary. Run by industry-leading professionals, as a GSA student, you could be part of a vibrant community of performers outside of your regular programme.

The evening dance classes will help you to develop a secure and consistent technique in dance and physical skills and will help to expand your existing knowledge and ability.

The classes run during the regular teaching terms, and you will be able to sign-up at the start of each term.

Please note that Evening Dance Classes are an additional, paid for course, on top of your regular programme.





“

I can't recommend GSA highly enough. Not only does the school have the finest teaching skills in all aspects of the performing arts, both technical and creative, they also teach an excellent work ethic promoting camaraderie, conscientiousness, confidence and generosity. Any student would benefit from this education to prepare them for whatever job they seek, in whatever field. I benefited enormously from attending GSA in the mid 70s. They transformed me from a little pipsqueak into an employable professional actress.

The teaching standard was great then but it is now far superior. The ensuing years have seen GSA go from strength to strength, culminating in their fabulous new state of the art premises on the campus of the University of Surrey. The standard of education is superb.

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Brenda Blethyn OBE

Disclaimer

The information in this prospectus is intended as an indicative guide to the educational and other services provided by the University of Surrey and GSA. The University of Surrey and GSA endeavour to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press (Nov 2021).

However, it may be necessary for the University to make changes to some of the information presented in it. To make an informed decision about whether you wish to study at GSA we advise you to consult the GSA website for up-to-date information.

The University is a charitable and not-for-profit organisation and the work we do is of public good. Research is taking place at Surrey right now which addresses the most pressing issues faced by our society. We are also training and educating young people, changing students' lives and supporting and developing the local and wider economy (HMRC reference number X3967).



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