

WVA

Professional Training in the Performing Arts



Wac Arts

85% of our
graduates currently
have professional
representation



If you want first-class training that leads you into employment but you want something different, from the students you learn with, the tutors who teach you and the techniques you study, then Wac Arts is what you want.

We celebrate the mix of students we train, they come from different backgrounds, upbringings and countries and everybody benefits from the mix of stories they bring. We produce complex, individual artists with their own portfolio of skills, not carbon-copies who all look and sound the same.

We care about diversity because we care about training our students for the widest possible range of employment. The modern industry wants performers with an array of skills and that's exactly what we give our students. Our syllabus is unique, our tutors are experts and our ethos is to produce young people with the skills to make a success of their careers and of their lives.

So if you want training that you can't get anywhere else – you've come to the right place.

“Thank you so much for your hard work and constant support this past year and every year, I have some beautiful memories.”



Curriculum

At Wac Arts we understand that to succeed in the modern industry, performers need more than the traditional 'triple-threat' of Singing, Drama & Dance.

Alongside the rigorous technique training you will receive in these core areas, we offer students a whole host of other skills including aerial technique, physical theatre, devising, acting for screen and film, pilates and contemporary dance styles from street to Horton.

We also offer a unique balance of western and non-western performance techniques including African and Afro-Cuban dance, Capoeira, Khattak, singing from around the world and drama skills in Puppetry, Buffont and Mask.

Our students emerge as individual artists with the diverse skills needed for employment in the today's global industry across stage, TV and film.

The course is a three year, full time course accredited by Trinity College London. Students receive over 30 hours of training a week, with rehearsals modelled on the professional work-environment and extra professional practise classes to ensure our graduates are prepared for the world of performing arts.

To complement this, we run regular master classes with industry professionals offering advice and insider training on how the industry really works.

In recent years we've had workshops on audition training from performers in the West-End's Lion King and Billy Elliot, visits from directors to explain the techniques at work in the trade and dance instruction from performers in the internationally renowned Zoo Nation.



The training we offer equips students with a degree level performing arts qualification in a variety of styles. It is accredited by Trinity College London as the Level 6 Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre.

Year One

In their first year, students learn technique and repertoire with a regular team of experts to ensure a consistent method and approach. This assesses and enhances the performance abilities of the students and teaches the practical applications of techniques.

This method sets up an innovative understanding of the connection between styles and forms for the students and ensures a solid training for the stage.

Students' competencies in technique and performance are closely monitored in the first year to make sure that we work on developing the right skills for each individual. Class work involves learning exciting new media forms in a truly integrated sense (for instance the merging of film with song or writing with dance).

Year Two

Second year students learn technique and repertoire with an increasingly varied tutor team. This exposes students to a wide variety of styles and technique and ensures they grow comfortable in each.

The core techniques students have learnt begin to serve them in various styles they practise, and their work becomes gradually more performance led. For example, voice training begins to put the syllabic sounds and facial movements students have learned to use in specific accents and core dance techniques begins to serve individual styles.

Year Three

The third year is designed to introduce the students to the rigours and demands of the industry at an intensive level. They will work in repertoire continuously, often overlapping the rehearsal and performance processes. They will revisit previously acquired skills in professional settings.

Students are always well supported to develop a learning plan that will concentrate on strengthening their weaker performance areas and honing their strengths. Where it is clear that a student will not seek employment in a particular art form, time is given to more realistic pursuits. The student develops a high level of confidence in their strengths.

Voice and physical assessments take place to see how each student has development and progressed, with personal tuition and targets set. Students are encouraged to present to their strengths regardless of personal preference.

The Diplomas are an APL route onto some MA programmes, including the MA Professional Practice at Middlesex University. However, students may first wish to acquire a more academically oriented qualification at the same level.

Graduates wishing to convert their Professional Performing Arts Diploma to a degree can now apply to Middlesex University to study for the BA(Hons) Professional Practice. This degree has been created especially for graduates with a Professional Performing Arts Diploma. The course gives participants the opportunity to extend their diploma to a BA(Hons) while carrying on their professional activities.

Further information about this course can be found on their website <http://mdx.ac.uk/bapp>

Tutors

All of the tutors and artists involved in training our diploma students have rich professional histories as performers and educators.

Artists from around the globe train students in the non-western art forms and each year we assign a number of associate artists-in-residence to work closely with the students on our diploma programme. Currently involved are Uchenna Dance, Upswing and Unclassified Arts.

Key members of the diploma team are:

Karen Napier	Principal and Chief Exec
Cathryn Robson	Head of Singing
Steve Medlin	Head of Drama
Martha Stylianou	Head of Dance

Some recent visiting artists include:

Dawn Walton	Eclipse Theatre
Vik Sivalingam	RSC
Che Walker	The Globe
Carrie Ann Ingrouill	Zonation
Vicki Igbokwe	Uchenna Dance, Olympics 2012
Janet Kay	Queen of Lovers Rock
Randolph Matthews	Plan B, Grace Jones, Shlomo
Kate Millner-Evans	Cameron Mackintosh Ltd
Kevin Leo	Singer/Songwriter/Producer

“Wac Arts is a place of integrity - they’re supportive and take care of you as a person.”

Zoe Rahman
2012 MOBO award winner





Facilities

Our state-of-the art facilities are based in our Grade II listed building in Hampstead North London.

We boast a fully functioning theatre, two large dance studios, aerials equipment, a gym with cardio and Pilates equipment, four sound proof music studios with full band back-line and PA systems, a dedicated Music Technology suite with 15 work stations, digital art suites with professional editing stations and cameras, a fully fitted recording studio run by experienced sound engineers, a library, space for quiet study and our own in house cafe.

We are situated in the leafy surroundings of Hampstead Heath, just up the road from the creative hub of Camden Town. From our excellent transport links mean you can be in the West-End in 10 minutes and can access student accommodation across the capital.

If you have any questions about the course or how to apply, contact the diploma office:

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“We were encouraged to try everything and to create. I don't think you get that type of training anywhere else.”

Marianne Jean-Baptiste
Oscar nominee &
Wac Arts alumna



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