



Birmingham's own Gibsa Bah has been awarded The Stage Scholarship 2017

Gibsa Bah travels to London each week to train and has showed star quality

For the second year, Wac Arts have partnered with world renowned and industry respected [The Stage](#) to provide a scholarship place for one of our Diploma students. This is awarded to a first-year student who has displayed exceptional commitment to and ability on the course within the first term. Last year, the scholarship was awarded to Anais Lone, who first joined Wac Arts as a member of the Junior programme as a child, and has continued to show determination and talent through her training on the full time course.

We are delighted to announce that this year the scholarship was awarded to **Gibsa Bah**. Since joining us in September, Gibsa has impressed Wac Arts time and again with his performing abilities. He has shown true dedication to the course, travelling from his home in Birmingham each week to London to be able to join the full time performing arts course whilst also being a support for his family. After seeing his progress in just a couple of months, the team at Wac Arts and The Stage cannot wait to watch his journey and progress over the next 2.5 years. At only seventeen years old, it is clear he is destined for greatness.

On hearing he would receive The Stage Scholarship, Gibsa said: *"I am please to have been chosen for The Stage Scholarship. I am dedicated to my training, travelling from Birmingham to north London every week to work as hard as I can. I chose Wac Arts because it has an exciting syllabus: aerial skills, African song and dance, puppetry and more, as well as traditional performing arts and musical theatre training. I have loved my first term here and want to work hard to be the best performers I can be by the time I graduate. Thank you to The Stage and the team at Wac Arts that selected me."*

In addition to funding his training for a year, Gibsa was also invited to attend a celebratory photo shoot with scholarship winners from other Performing Arts schools around the country. He has also received an invitation to The Stage awards, getting to meet other industry professionals and begin to build contacts. He will be accompanied by his mother and Wac Arts' Director of Artistic Programmes, Raidene Carter.

Gibsa performed at Wac Arts 4th annual fundraiser, Dare to Dream on Sunday alongside a star cast of Wac Arts Alumni and Patrons. Professional actors and Wac Arts Patrons; Simon Callow (Actor and Director), Owen Teale (Game of Thrones), Danny Sapani (HBO's Penny Dreadful) and Martina Laird (Casualty, Holby City, RSC) celebrated the organisation and its young performers by in scenes based on the theme of aspiration. Gibsa shone on stage with the professional performers. Gibsa is daring to dream and is on the right track to achieving all of them!

For more information on Gibsa receiving the scholarship, visit <https://www.thestage.co.uk/advice/scholarships/2017/wac-arts-winner-2017/>



About Wac Arts:

Wac Arts is an arts and cultural organisation based in the Old Town Hall, Belsize Park, North London. Wac Arts has been driven by the needs of children and young people for nearly 40 years. Working with hundreds of young people aged 5-26 annually. A home for the young people that train, artists who connect, and other arts and cultural organisations. Many West End companies rehearse in the space ensuring all of the young people that attend mix with professionals daily. Wac Arts provides Weekend, Evening and Holiday Programmes as well as a full time Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre.

The programmes are for ALL young people and especially those who face barriers to accessing the Arts. The young people are 78% from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, 19% have special educational needs and 72% come from a background of deprivation. Wac Arts offer an arts programme, responding to young people's interests and requests, working with artist tutors and art forms which reflect the diverse community.

www.wacarts.co.uk

About the Wac Arts Diploma:

The Level 6 Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre accredited by Trinity College and equivalent to a degree qualification. The Diploma offers performing arts training for a modern day industry. The broad syllabus incorporates both contemporary and traditional performance styles, with regular master classes and technique classes from working artists. The programmes have been recognised in the industry for being cutting edge, inclusive and taught by industry professionals who know what young people need to succeed in today's performing arts world.

www.wacarts.co.uk/diploma