

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

alra Academy of Live
& Recorded Arts **PROSPECTUS**



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THE ALRA MISSION

AIM 1: Provide a specialist vocational drama education for students whose primary goal is to work in the entertainment industry.

AIM 2: Expand & develop ALRA's links with the entertainment industry.

AIM 3: Provide excellence in teaching, learning, student achievement and personal development.

ALRA equips actors and theatre technicians with those skills fundamental to a productive and creative life in the performance industries. ALRA is dedicated to helping students of all backgrounds and ages to enter the world of live and recorded arts. ALRA has a distinguished record of producing professionals prepared and ready to work.

At ALRA we train Actors, Stage Managers & Technicians. Training is intensive: 36 hours a week is normal. The environment is supportive: open doors and time to talk

The staff are professionals: actors, designers, directors etc. all working with you to pass on their expertise and knowledge.

We were the first school to:

- Train for camera from week 1 of study
- Open a regional campus
- Provide audition feedback on the day
- Drop the expensive recall audition process

We are the first and only drama school to offer London and regional training, with campuses in both London and Wigan. Our courses in London and Wigan are identical; it is just their location and cost that vary.

WHO TRAINED AT ALRA?



MIRANDA HART

Miranda studied on the Postgraduate course at ALRA and since has become one of the most recognisable names in British comedy. She earned her reputation as a stand-up comedian at The Edinburgh Festival and on the London stand-up circuit. She first came to prominence with her Radio 4 show Miranda Hart's House Party, and the BBC comedy Not Going Out. Miranda's most recent sitcom Miranda, on BBC2, earned her two BAFTA Nominations, three British Comedy Awards and an RTS Award.



JIMMY AKINGBOLA

Jimmy graduated from the Three Year Acting course in 1999. He's currently best known for his roles as registrar Antoine Malick in Holby City, and the washed up Mick in the BBC comedy Rev. He starred alongside Ian McKellen in the world premiere of Mark Ravenhill's play The Cut (Donmar Warehouse and national tour). He went on to take the title role in Frantic Assembly's acclaimed production of Othello. He won a TMA Award for his performance in Joe Penhall's Blue / Orange. He is co-founder of TriForce Promotions, which seeks to develop young talent and hosts legendary networking events for actors, writers and producers. They work frequently with the BBC workshopping new writing. Jimmy is also one of ALRA's Trustees.



SARAH PARISH

Sarah Parish trained on the Three Year Acting course and since then has become well-known for her gutsy female roles, including Dawn Rudge in Peak Practice, Allie Henshall in Cutting It and GP Katie Roden in Mistresses. In 2006, she starred alongside Jude Law and Cameron Diaz in The Holiday. She's also taken lead roles in Doctor Who and the TV film Sex, the City and Me. Most recently Sarah has appeared in BBC One's Atlantis as Pasiphae.



TOM CRAIG

Coronation Street, Soldier Soldier, I.D. & Casualty.

OTHERS INCLUDE:

Vincent Regan: 300, Troy & Bonded by Blood.

Amy Walsh: Emeraldale.

Tanya Franks: Pulling, Eastenders & Skins.

Fiston Barek: Truth and Reconciliation & Bashir in Routes.

Raj Bajaj: Doctors & Much Ado About Nothing [RSC].

Amrita Acharia: Dead Snow 2: Red vs Dead & Game of Thrones.

Chris Ashby: Curious Incident, Tom's Midnight Garden & Marmite Rescue Commercial.

Rob Lonsdale: From Here to Eternity & Silent Witness.

Denise Gough: National Theatre.

Our graduates have also gone on to write, direct and produce their own work.

Rachel Delahey: Royal Court.

CAMPUSES



ALRA NORTH

Our campus in Wigan provides an excellent location for students to travel in and out of Liverpool and Manchester. With the development of Media City and the BBC's move to Manchester, there is a strong national drama output from BBC Radio 4 and Granada TV studios. Increasingly, agents and casting directors are choosing to base themselves in Manchester and the surrounding area. Some of the most exciting theatre in the UK is produced in the North and Wigan is surrounded by

theatres such as the Royal Exchange, the Liverpool Everyman, the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Bolton Octagon and Northern Broadsides. The school is just five minutes from the main high street – Standishgate – with its shops, bars, clubs and the Grand Arcade, a new shopping centre. Wigan Wallgate and Wigan North Western Stations are a 5 minute walk away. The running costs in Wigan are less expensive so we offer reduced fees. The living costs in Wigan are also cheaper.



ALRA SOUTH

Our home in London is based at the Royal Victoria Patriotic building, a magnificent Grade II listed Victorian Gothic building on the edge of Wandsworth Common, South West London. This is where ALRA has been based for the last 30 years. There is excellent access to the city centre for visits to West End theatres, fringe theatres and London nightlife. Trains to Waterloo and Victoria leave every few minutes and take less than 10 minutes to reach their destinations.

There are also direct trains to Shepherd's Bush and Westfield Shopping Centre. Students often choose to live together in shared houses of three or four people.

COURSES

B.A. (HONS) ACTING COURSE & THREE YEAR ACTING DIPLOMA LEVEL 6

(DaDA students can achieve both qualifications)





This 36+ hours a week course is suitable for those determined to become professional actors working in today's Theatre, Screen and Audio industries. Mainly practical actor training with some theoretical study and research methodologies, this vocational equips you to operate effectively in a highly competitive artistic industry.

QUALIFICATIONS

Upon successfully completing the Three Year Acting Programme you will be awarded – BA (Hons) Acting (validated by St Mary's University College) & the TCL Diploma if you are in receipt of a DaDA. You will be entitled to Full Equity Membership through our Drama UK accreditation and join Spotlight at the start of your final year.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Selection is made by audition.

In addition you must:

- be 18 years old at the start of the course, although we positively welcome older students
- have 200 UCAS tariff points (NB – exceptional ability and/or considerable life/work experience could be taken into consideration; we would expect you to take an intensive preliminary course
- Fluent in English – if English is not your first language (B2 CEFR or 7.5 TEEP)

CONTENT

Building Performance: Devised work and Scene Study; you will work on a variety of texts including: Shakespeare, Greek, C19th Realism, American Classic, Tragedy, TV Comedy, Contemporary writers Acting Studies: Classes in: Acting Technique, Acting for Camera, Acting for Radio, Improvisation, Voice Studies

B.A. (HONS) ACTING COURSE & THREE YEAR ACTING DIPLOMA LEVEL 6

CLASSES IN

Voicing Text, Technical Voice, Articulation and RP, Choral Movement Studies

Creative Movement, Movement Anatomy, Movement Studies, Period Movement and Dance, Combat & Contextual Studies.

Text Analysis & Preparation, Voice Physiology, Physical Theatre Practices, Musicianship, Critiquing, Professional Practice and Industry Opportunities.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The first year focuses on discovery and exploration – understanding the equipment you have and how to use and develop it. The second year encourages you to apply your emerging techniques in the acting space, on screen and to the microphone using increasingly complex texts.

In the final year your skills and abilities are tested in the public arena in Live Performance (Theatre), Recorded Performance (TV Drama and Radio), Professional Preparation (Showcase and practice auditions) and Contextual Studies – an in depth preparation for character and performance.

- Contact time is 36 timetabled hours a week throughout the first two years.
- Professional hours are worked throughout the final year.
- ALRA tutors are both trained teachers and professional practitioners.
- Third year directors are visiting professional theatre or television directors.
- Presentations take place twice every term, with studio presentations in Voice and Movement at the end of every term. Extra-curricular workshops take place in weeks 5 and 11 of each term.
- Extra-curricular performances take place at the end of each term.

PUBLIC PRODUCTIONS

At the end of the second year you will take a Shakespeare presentation into local schools.

IN THE FINAL YEAR YOU WILL

- Perform in at least three plays in the ALRA Theatre, taking one of the plays on a short tour
- Record film material which will be shown on the ALRA website in conjunction with your showcase
- Make a TV presenting showreel
- Make an audio reel
- Perform in a Showcase in London and Manchester to industry professionals



COURSES

M.A. IN PROFESSIONAL ACTING & DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL ACTING LEVEL 5

(DaDA students can achieve both qualifications)





This 15 month, full time programme has three taught terms followed by two performance terms; including 2 theatre productions (one in collaboration with a professional theatre company), recording film material and showcases in London and Manchester.

The brevity and intensesness of this programme demands a strong professional focus, a good level of stamina and an excellent level of commitment, and whilst we welcome all applicants, typical students are those with some performance experience or those seeking to change career.

QUALIFICATIONS

Upon successfully completing the Course you will be awarded an MA Professional Acting (validated by St Mary's University College) and the TCL Level 5 Diploma if you are in receipt of a DaDA. You will be entitled to Full Equity Membership through our Drama UK accreditation.

CONTENT

Acting and Performance Studies: Classes in Acting Technique, Acting for Camera, Acting for Radio, Improvisation. Scene Study includes – Shakespeare, Chekov, Ibsen, Greek Tragedy, and Contemporary writers. Voice Studies: Classes in Voicing Text, Technical Voice, Articulation and RP, Choral. Movement Studies: Core and Alignment, Creative Movement Stage Craft and Characterisation, Period dance and movement, Combat.

M.A. IN PROFESSIONAL ACTING & DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL ACTING LEVEL 5

CONTEXTUAL STUDIES

Approach to text, Character Research, Research Methodologies Musicianship, Professional Practice, Practical Research Project.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The first three taught terms consists of practical skills classes in acting, voice and movement together with scene study rehearsals. This practical work is supported by theory in contextual studies. The programme is designed so that you build your skills base and knowledge in a methodical way so that you are able to apply them with autonomy in the two performance terms.

Contact time is 36 timetabled hours a week through the first three terms. Contact time in the performance terms, whilst dependent on each project, is considered to be professional hours.

ALRA tutors are both trained teachers and professional practitioners. Term 4 and 5 directors are current professional theatre or television directors.

Classes are practical involving group, pair or solo exercises; you will be asked to research, reflect and share your discoveries in occasional presentations. Rehearsals can be workshops, script analysis and traditional rehearsals. Scene Study presentations take place twice a term. Extra curricula workshops take place at the end of every term.

PUBLIC PRODUCTIONS

In terms 4 and 5 you will:

- Record a 10 minute film which will be streamed on the ALRA website
- Perform in a play which will tour the local community in collaboration with a professional theatre company
- Perform in a play in the ALRA Theatre
- Perform in a Showcase in both London and Manchester to industry professionals
- Create a 20-25 minute live or recorded performance

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Selection is made by audition.

If English is not your first language you must be fluent in English (B2 CEFR or 7.5 TEEP).



COURSES

ALRA FOUNDATION ACTING COURSES





ALRA Foundation students have gained places at ALRA, Arts Ed, Birmingham School of Acting, Central School of Speech and Drama, Drama Centre, Drama Studio, East 15 Italia Conti, Oxford School of Acting, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, PPA and the Musical Theatre Academy.

Focusing on the basics of acting, voice and movement the aim is to prepare you vocally, physically and mentally for entry into full time accredited training programmes.



NATASHA COTTRILL-ALRA FOUNDATION GRADUATE 2011

After completing the ALRA Foundation course, Natasha successfully auditioned for the Mountview Musical Theatre course graduating in 2014. Natasha has appeared in Grantchester for ITV, Hairspray (Gordon Craig Theatre), Dancing in the Streets (UK tour). And has just recently performed in Matthew Warchus's first show of the season, Future Conditional (the Old Vic). Next she will appear in Into the Woods at The Royal Exchange Theatre.



FULL-TIME FOUNDATION ACTING 24 HOURS PER WEEK

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Acting: Introduction to Acting, Acting Technique, Audition Preparation, Devising

Voice: Introduction to Vocal Awareness, Technical Foundation, Technical Foundation and its Application

Movement: Introduction to Movement, Movement Fundamentals, Movement Analysis, Movement Expression

Qualifications: ALRA Foundation Acting Certificate.



PART-TIME FOUNDATION ACTING 8 HOURS PER WEEK

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Acting: Basic acting approaches,
Audition preparation

Voice: Introduction to vocal techniques

Movement: Introduction to movement
techniques

Qualifications: ALRA Foundation
Acting Certificate

COURSES

FOUNDATION DEGREE IN STAGE MANAGEMENT & TECHNICAL THEATRE



The SMTT course offers a thorough vocational training for those who wish to work in theatre stage management and technical theatre production.

The course includes practical and theoretical instruction in stage management, production management, lighting, sound engineering and design, set construction, prop and set design, costume design and lighting design. Students gain professional knowledge of the industry and will be prepared for a variety of employment opportunities from small-scale theatres to large multi-media events. In addition, they undertake a professional work placement in the second year.

Studying at ALRA on the Stage Management & Technical Theatre course equips you with the necessary skills, experience, vision and determination to gain employment within the theatre industry. The course is deliberately challenging and endeavours to emulate the procedures of the industry.

The course encourages you to develop a strategy for survival in the profession. Production work takes place in ALRA's flexible theatre space, working with professional directors and designers. ALRA also tours to external venues providing you with valuable experience of organising and managing a touring production.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

- Stage Management: Hands on experience of ASM and DSM roles.
- Lighting and Sound: Working alongside industry professionals to design, rig and operate both lighting and sound.
- Production Management: Budgeting, Prop Sourcing & Scheduling on all ALRA public productions.
- Set Design: Scale Drawing, Carpentry and Scenic Art
- Work Placement: Four weeks industry work experience in the Second Year.

QUALIFICATION

Stage Management & Technical Theatre
Foundation Degree Levels 4 & 5

WHAT HELP WILL I GET?



- Study skills support for students who need extra help; a high proportion of our students are dyslexic or dyspraxic
- Counselling assessment as required. Sessions are free and confidential
- A Hardship fund for students in urgent financial need
- Accommodation days at both centres to put you in touch with agents, landlords and vacant student accommodation.
- Induction week at the start of First Year to help you settle in
- Enrichment activities including workshops with external practitioners
- Extra Curricular events like the Music Hall and Stand-up night
- Combined North and South Workshops in Movement, Voice and Film
- Easter & Summer Ball
- 5 Minute Play and Film Festivals
- Observation and Taster Days – come and see if our drama training is right for you before accepting your place

For Fees and Funding please see the latest information on the ALRA website www.ALRA.co.uk

Dance and Drama Awards (DaDAs) are scholarships funded by the Young People's Learning Agency and awarded by schools to the students who display the most potential to succeed in the profession. Applicants are considered for awards as part of their audition, and notified if they have been successful at a later date. Please note, Dance and Drama Awards and Student Loans have eligibility criteria which must be met in order to receive funding.

Please visit the respective websites for full details.



There is no funding support available for students on the Foundation Acting course. ALRA is a private school, working with partners in Further and Higher Education.

Depending on personal circumstances and the course undertaken, students can access funding from a variety of sources. The Three Year Acting course and the Postgraduate Acting course are part-funded by Dance and Drama Awards. Students on the Three Year Acting course who are not offered Dance and Drama Awards are entitled to apply for a Student Loan to assist them with the cost of tuition.

The amounts vary at ALRA North and ALRA South. All students who are eligible to receive Student Loan funding, whether on the Three Year Acting course or Stage Management & Technical Theatre Foundation Degree, are eligible to apply for a Maintenance Loan to help with living expenses.

HOW DO I GET A PLACE AT ALRA?



ACTING

- Apply online
- Learn two speeches
- Come and audition

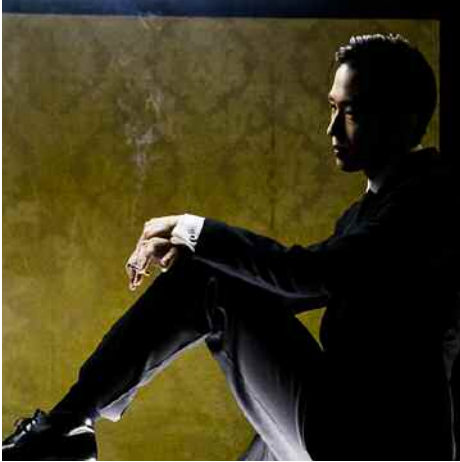
• We guarantee to see every applicant
We like to be different at ALRA – we like you to be different at ALRA We won't make a decision about your work in five minutes; we will see you for two to three hours before we make a decision. We'll see you work individually and as part of a team.

First, make sure you read the Audition Guidelines and related information on our website.



TECHNICAL

Stage Management & Technical Theatre students should check the latest details about applying at: www.alra.co.uk/apply
Bring yourself, bring some examples and photos of your work and be ready to talk. This is your opportunity; show us how you communicate.



SHORT COURSES

ALRA runs a variety of short courses for students, teachers & professionals. Up to date information is available on the website www.alra.co.uk



PARTNERSHIP COURSES

Yellow Academy
Course Leader: Kumiko Mendl
Yellow Academy is a summer school run jointly by ALRA and Yellow Earth Theatre for British East Asians interested in acting. British East Asians from across the UK audition for a place on the course, and gather for a week of drama school training in late July.

For more details visit: www.alra.co.uk
For more information please contact: 020 8870 6475
info@alra.co.uk
www.alra.co.uk

THE ALRA OUTREACH PROGRAMME



Our popular outreach scheme sees us attend more schools every year. Going in to schools we hold a two-hour workshop consisting of vocal warm-ups, movement games, work with text and a talk from either our Co-Director or Student Advisor, giving you a first-hand insight into life at ALRA.

Outreach auditions can also be booked alongside the workshop at your school or college.

As part of ALRA's commitment to widening participation and access for all we run an extensive outreach programme which covers schools, colleges and universities.



ALRA SOUTH

Studio 24 The Royal Victoria Patriotic Building, John Archer Way London SW18 3SX

Train Stations: Clapham Junction and Wandsworth Common Buses: 77 & 219 By Train Clapham Junction is a 20 minute walk away. Access Please call us on 020 8870 6475 to discuss your needs before setting off on your journey.



ALRA NORTH

The Annexe, Trencherfield Mill, Wigan WN3 4EF.

Train Stations: Wigan Wallgate and Wigan North Western Buses: 320, 362, 620, 352, 360, 375, 385. By Train Wigan Wallgate and Wigan North Western are a 5 minute walk away. Access ALRA North has excellent access for people with disabilities, and we welcome applications from those with access needs.

For more detailed travel and access information visit: www.alra.co.uk
For more information please contact: 020 8870 6475
info@alra.co.uk
www.alra.co.uk

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