

GSA GAIETY SCHOOL
OF ACTING
The National Theatre School of Ireland

TWO YEAR FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL
ACTOR TRAINING PROGRAMME



WE TRAIN ACTORS

Welcome!

You have just opened this brochure which quite possibly could change your life.

Just as every society needs its writers and painters, poets and playwrights, every society needs its actors to help tell the stories that define who we are as a people. They make us laugh, they make us cry and they hold up the mirror to nature, making us see ourselves and by doing so ask questions as to who we are and what we are all about.

We are searching for the finest talent who are ready to take the extraordinarily rewarding journey with us, through our proven conservatory training programme into an industry that will challenge you beyond words. Your body, your imagination, your voice and your intellect will be tested in an environment that is tough, yet which prides itself on giving excellent individual support.

Our staff are respected working industry professionals and our long term leadership is our guarantee of consistency.

At this school you will be rewarded and challenged, inspired and empowered to make the best possible work you can make. We position you at the end of your time with us as close to the industry as is possible, while giving you the skills to make and create your own original and dynamic work.

The Gaiety School of Acting is rated nationally and internationally. At home our alumni can be seen across every stage and every TV and film studio creating new work. Our international reputation is built on our proven conservatory track record and our graduates are lauded across the globe garnering Tony, Oscar nominations and numerous UK and Irish awards.

Join us and become a unique part of Ireland's premier theatre school.

PATRICK SUTTON
DIRECTOR
GAIETY SCHOOL OF ACTING



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

THE SCHEDULE

This stimulating course is physically, emotionally and intellectually challenging. Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Classes are scheduled from 8:30am to 6:00pm most days and you will often need to complete coursework in your free time also.

FEES AND YOUR EXPENSES

€4,950 per year – EU students. €11,950 per year – non-EU students.

There are mandatory theatre visits scheduled each week, which students must pay for, at a cost of €350 for the year.

PRODUCTIONS

There is a production levy of €500 per student in each of 1st and 2nd year. There is also a fundraising element to cover production costs of the graduation plays which is a part of the career development module of the course.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

There is a limited amount of clothing, books, props and materials required for the course. Students must cover these costs.

"You shouldn't underestimate the importance of creating your own work when you're starting out. I've seen a lot of people I know from the Gaiety put on innovative, small budget stuff which has got them a lot of attention from agents etc. and led to more work."

Ian Toner, Class of 2013
(Rebellion, RTE & Redwater, BBC)





PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Full-time students engage in an intensive regime of physical, emotional and intellectual training with grounding in core courses. Our current faculty consists of top practitioners who have trained at a myriad of prestigious international institutions. In addition to the core teaching staff, we also invite visiting professionals to host specialist workshops over the course of the two year programme.

Your training at the Gaiety School of Acting will take in the following subjects in addition to special projects, many of these modules culminating in the performance of public showcases over the course of the year.

First year consists of **'learning the language'** of acting: inner and outer awareness, performance principles and a full-bodied preparation for physical, intellectual, and emotional growth.

Second year focuses on **'speaking and practicing the language'**: strengthening and tuning the actor's instrument while maintaining a strong emphasis on performance, and beginning to present the work to directors, casting directors and agents.

CORE COURSES

- Acting
- Manifesto – Theatre Making
- Shakespeare
- Contemporary Theatre
- Improvisation
- Voice
- Singing
- Movement and Viewpoints
- Stage Combat (accredited)
- Dance / Tap
- Mime
- Theatre of Clown
- Theatre History
- Text Analysis
- Film & TV Acting
- Cabaret
- Industry & Production
- Casting & Auditioning
- Career Guidance

SHOWCASES

- Contemporary Theatre
- Manifesto
- Theatre of Clown
- Cabaret
- Singing
- Acting & Audio
- Shakespeare
- End of Year Industry Showcase
- Graduation Play



ACTING

The aim of this course is to teach the actor to perform with confidence, conviction and integrity. To encourage the development of performance techniques, both as an individual and part of an ensemble, through the exploration of characterisation and text, utilising the emotions, imagination and physical skills of the student.

MANIFESTO – THEATRE MAKING

The programme aims to produce theatre makers who are aware of their identity and place in the world. They will have the freedom to explore and express themselves, while at the same time producing work of a high standard and quality.

SHAKESPEARE

The aim is to build an appreciation and understanding of heightened language and to increase the student's ability to perform classical text. This module has 3 aspects; the context in which Shakespeare was writing; the technical structure of text; the connection between structure, meaning and emotion.

CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Through this work, the actor explores texts by contemporary playwrights and becomes capable of working not merely interpretatively, but also creatively on any given role. The student is provided with concrete means or techniques with which to accomplish such work. Skills are acquired in areas of concentration, spatial relations, movement, imagination, composition, character development and ensemble work.

IMPROVISATION

This module teaches the actor how to improvise confidently so that performance is spontaneous, alive and dynamic. The module encourages an understanding of the rich potential of the imagination to create dramatic work.

VOICE

The school employs a number of methodologies to ensure the actor has a rounded vocal education with emphasis on the individual's development. The module gives the actor an appreciation of wide definitions of voice

and voice work, and of the interconnection between communicative forms, from verbal to non-verbal, sung to spoken, actor/player to writer/theatre maker.

SINGING

The aim of this module is to improve the student's core acting skills, through the medium of song, to continue to develop individual singing and general vocal technique, and to further develop the student's singing skill and confidence, both solo and ensemble.

MOVEMENT

To introduce core training in physical movement skills, which enable the student to gain stretch, strength and co-ordination. To introduce the student to movement improvisation, based on the principles of contemporary dance, where movement options are explored and analysed, in solo, partner and group forms.

STAGE COMBAT (ACCREDITED)

The aim of this module is the safe quality training of actors in stage combat. The course aims to develop acute concentration skills, an awareness of balance, agility, mobility, distance and timing within the student. The student will develop an understanding of staging and playing angles through the safe practice and performance of physical conflict. Training culminates in an accredited examination

DANCE / TAP

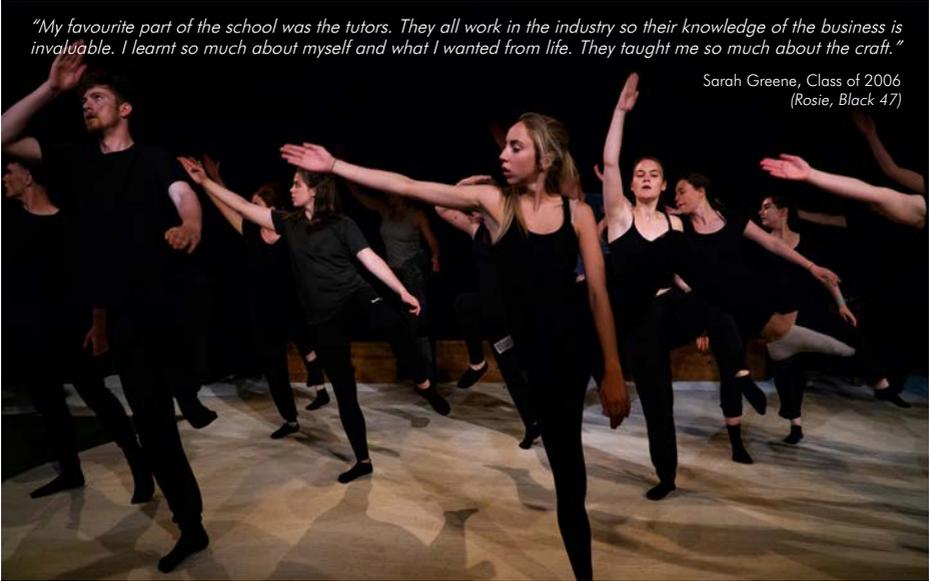
During this course students will learn to focus on whole body awareness and breath, and begin to understand and work with the body as a whole integrated system. Dance styles studied include Musical Theatre, Waltz, Polka, Tango, Swing, Jive and Charleston.

MIME

The aim of this module is to impart the Mime techniques of Marcel Marceau and Etienne Decroux, thus giving the student a physical vocabulary they can draw on and develop with experience. Mime will open the student's mind to the world of physical theatre and develop their potential as physical performers.

"My favourite part of the school was the tutors. They all work in the industry so their knowledge of the business is invaluable. I learnt so much about myself and what I wanted from life. They taught me so much about the craft."

Sarah Greene, Class of 2006
(Rosie, Black 47)



THEATRE OF CLOWN

This is an introduction to Theatre of Clown through traditional clowning archetypes such as The Mask of Four Temperaments, the Mask of Red Nose and the traditional clown pairing of 'Joey and Auguste'.

TEXT ANALYSIS & THEATRE HISTORY

The aim is to present a series of lectures on Theatre History in a roughly chronological fashion from early Irish Theatre to the present. Each topic is covered in terms of playwrights, plays and characters, genre, themes, influences, innovations, costuming, architecture, actors and theatre practitioners of the period. This course will foster the ability to envision a play as a live performance and to make the students conversant in the vocabulary of theatre.

FILM & TV ACTING

The students work with a professional film director and crew to produce one or more pieces of original film. The films are created through discussion between the director and the school, with emphasis on creating work that features the ensemble and which puts demands on the actors in the creation of character.

CABARET

This module aims to introduce the students to the vibrant theatrical form of cabaret. The course will be based upon the founding premises of cabaret, or more specifically 'cabaret artistique', as a middle form of entertainment and theatre-making.

INDUSTRY & PRODUCTION

This module is intended to equip students with the practical requirements of working as an actor in Ireland. The course will cover fundraising, the writing of funding and grant applications, budget creation and general industry knowledge.

CASTING & AUDITIONING

During this course the actors will receive advice on audition pieces, self-tapes, audition etiquette and working with casting directors.

CAREER GUIDANCE

Delivered by a series of external and inhouse industry experts, this module will prepare the actors in training for the practicalities of the industry, from acquiring an agent to selecting a headshot.

OUTCOME AND YOUR FUTURE

The course culminates in a second year which is heavily performance-based; you will be involved with the production of several specially-commissioned productions for modules in Radio and Film & TV as well as the Graduation Play which is performed for a weeklong run at Smock Alley Theatre 1662. You will also perform in a Manifesto Showcase and in a scene study graduation showcase open only to an invited audience of industry professionals such as representatives from casting agencies, actors agencies, film companies, theatre companies, writers, friends and family.

Graduates of our course are instilled with a strong work ethic and a drive to succeed. Our graduates are constantly represented on the key stages around the city, country and internationally. They have also gone on to form their own theatre companies and to create their own work in film, television, radio, writing and training. We take great pride in each and every one of our graduates and remain available to them for advice, support and guidance.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Each year The Gaiety Theatre (run by MCD) kindly sponsors the Gaiety Theatre Bursary. The bursaries are divided among the selected successful students and make up a total of €5,000. The bursary is on offer to students entering their 2nd year of the full-time course.

All information is correct at time of going to print.

SOME OF OUR ALUMNI



Aidan Turner
2004



Mark O'Halloran
1992



Colin O'Donoghue
2001



Aisling O'Sullivan
1991



Deirdre O'Kane
1986



Don Wycherley
1991



Colin Farrell
1998



Jane McGrath
2009



Sarah Greene
2006



Charlie Murphy
2008



Rory Nolan
2003



Phelim Drew
1988



Eva Birthistle
1995



Moe Dunford
2009



Lorna Quinn
2007



Kate Gilmore
2013

"The two years at the Gaiety were some of the best years of my life."

Caoimhe O'Malley
Class of 2011

GSA

GAIETY SCHOOL
OF ACTING

The National Theatre School of Ireland

FIND US

Gaiety School of Acting
Essex Street West, Temple Bar, Dublin 8

GAIETYSCHOOL.COM

+353 (1) 679 9277 | info@gaietyschool.com

