Graduate and Student Profiles

BA (Hons) Theatre Studies (Online)
“The Theatre Studies degree course also gave me the insight into how to read plays with an approach that has led to me directing high quality, engaging and meaningful productions in international schools worldwide.”

Since I gained my First Class Honours in Theatre Studies in 2010 after six years of study, I have continued to work in international education. I have also gone on to take a PG Diploma in Shakespeare & Theatre at Masters level with The Shakespeare Institute. In 2016, I applied to East 15 Acting School to train to be a professional theatre director and I was offered a place, although I declined the place at the time as I had just been offered a good job in India. It is something I would still like to do and having the Rose Bruford College degree enables me to consider this career development possibility. While working at an international school in West Africa in 2015, I also hosted none other than Shakespeare's Globe, as eight actors in the ensemble and four stage managers toured Hamlet to 205 countries of the world on a two year global touring odyssey. My initial training on the RBC Theatre Studies degree gave me the confidence to host these world class professionals. The knowledge and expertise I gained from the degree has continued to stand me in good stead as both a highly qualified teacher of International Baccalaureate Diploma Theatre and as an examiner of IB Theatre too.
Graduate Profile

Megan Hunter
Public Relations Manager
Resident: UK

Holding a degree from a prestigious college has also helped me to progress in my own career, and has provided me with a better understanding of the academic and practical work that the staff and students I work with daily are undertaking. After graduating in 2012 from the Theatre Studies degree programme, I have continued working at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama - however, I have been through a few promotions since graduating. I have now been, for the past 6 years, the School’s Press and Public Relations Manager. In my role, I lead on a number of projects including media relations, course promotion, comms and stakeholder/industry relations. I work closely with our senior management team and colleagues in our External Affairs department to plan and execute large events and to lead on discreet campaigns to build the School’s profile - both nationally and internationally. My major campaigns each year include work surrounding the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and networking and promotion of our Brand in the United States – particularly in New York.

In 2016, I completed my Master's Degree at Birkbeck College (University of London). I now hold an MA in Arts Policy and Management.

I have also been, for the past 6 years, the Honorary Secretary of The Irving Society, which works to foster an appreciation for the work of Sir Henry Irving and, more generally, 19th Century British Theatre.

“My undergraduate studies at Rose Bruford provided me with an excellent grounding in academic work, particularly as I was returning to study after a substantial break, and this gave me the confidence to progress on to postgraduate study.”

Photograph by Lydia McCarthy-Keen.
“I am certain that today I am a better writer because Theatre Studies has not only taught me how to shape my ideas more efficiently, but it has also showed me ways on how to better develop my ideas in the first place.”

Be it an original play, an adaptation, a play analysis or a review, I feel that I can do it all because Rose Bruford has prepared me to face with confidence whatever it might come in my career path. Theatre Studies at Rose Bruford College worked well for me because it accompanied me wherever I went. Since I started the programme I relocated four times around the globe, from six international relocations altogether. I am Brazilian by birth, but a world citizen by heart and experience. Theatre Studies has opened my eyes to different aspects of theatre watching, theatre making and more specifically for me, theatre writing.
Graduate Profile

Tracey Anderson
Drama Teacher
Resident: UK

“I found the quality of tuition to be excellent and the tutors to be knowledgeable, encouraging and friendly.”

I am currently working as a Drama teacher at Ellon Academy in Aberdeenshire, Scotland where I teach pupils from ages 12 to 18, including pupils studying towards the Scottish qualifications National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama. Previously I worked as an English teacher. I managed to gain full GTCS registration as a drama teacher after successfully completing modules with Rose Bruford College. I now do a job I genuinely love and I would not have been able to achieve this had I not studied through Rose Bruford. The distance learning course has been ideal for me as it has allowed me to fit studying around my family and work commitments. I also enjoyed being able to 'meet' other students in the virtual tutorials.
Graduate Profile
Geraldine Gilman
Principal: Ashcroft Academy
Resident: UK

I am the principal of The Ashcroft Academy of Theatre Arts, a part-time theatre school for children in South East London. I am also a fully qualified LAMDA teacher and enter children and young people for vocational acting examinations. I am also one of the resident Drama and LAMDA teachers at an independent school in Wimbledon. When I left school, I successfully auditioned for a 3-year course in dance and drama at the Italia Conti School. At RBC, I have had the pleasure of working with tutors who are not only inspirational, but experts in their field. Their support during online tutorials was invaluable. Similarly, the opportunity to meet and exchange creative and academic ideas with other students online broadened and enriched the learning process. However, it was the expert tuition and ongoing study support from first rate tutors that made it possible for me to graduate with a First Class Honours degree in Theatre Studies.

“At the end of this course I had received a fully rounded, professional and practical education in performing arts, but studying at the RBC has enabled me to develop an academic knowledge of theatre practice and heightened my ability to direct with theoretical acumen at senior level.”
“The programme not only equipped me with a broad knowledge of theatre but it, most significantly, gave me the skills to effectively and confidently demonstrate this knowledge and apply it practically in a range of different ways.”

Since graduating, I volunteered in a drama department at an independent girls' secondary school. I had started applying to one-year PGCE training programmes which ask for graduates with a 2:1 or above. I was delighted that my 1:1 allowed me to do this. Things took an unexpected turn when the head teacher where I was volunteering invited me to apply for the position of drama teacher. I knew the current teacher was leaving but it never occurred that they would even consider me as her replacement owing to my lack of experience and PGCE. After being observed teaching a lesson which I'd planned myself, delivering a presentation and a rigorous interview, I was offered the job. They were most impressed with my degree and the positive feedback I received can almost entirely be attributed to what I learned on the programme.”
Graduate Profile
Debbie Bird
Actor
Resident: UK

“My Rose Bruford degree enabled me to have the confidence to apply to drama school at the age of 48. It opened my eyes to my potential and that age is just number. If I can cope with an online degree, work full-time and have a family and still achieve a 1:1 then I can do anything.”

It also widened my narrow perspective of theatre and showed me a range of pays and theatre practices that I would not have discovered. At drama school, I knew many of the styles, playwrights and practitioners. This gave me the confidence to approach the work required as I was less daunted by it all. ALRA made me an actor but Rose Bruford made me what I am today and I will be forever grateful. Since graduating, I have completed my MA at The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts and have since been working as a professional actor. In my first year I have become particularly experienced in immersive, site specific theatre: playing a recovered alcoholic in Meeting at 33 at Edinburgh Festival, Mother Christmas at Lapland UK and A Victorian ghost of a battle-axe with ImmerCity in The Silhouette in the Smoke at The Water and Steam Museum in Brentford. All 3 of these roles have been or are to be reprised this year. I have been in two Shakespearean productions, my favourite playing a 1960s version of Duchess of York.
Graduate Profile

Mick Purdy
Actor
Resident: UK

Although in the throes of completing my degree, having retired from teaching, I signed with an agent. Subsequently I have played Doorman in a ‘Pound in the Glass’ strip club (music video) Herod in Jesus Christ Superstar at the Towngate theatre, Charles in What It's Worth? with Spare Tyre, and worked on The Mother with Leo Leigh.

“I would never have undertaken a second career without the confidence and knowledge gained from my studies and workshops with Rose Bruford.”
Graduate Profile
Calum Campbell
Audio Theatre Director
Resident: UK

At present I am working for two entertainment companies and running one with a business partner. We initially set up an internet radio company and provide live commentary for a professional Scottish football club and branched out to creating and running events, video and event presentation, advertising packages and video creation. We have just launched an extension (Aum Productions) and are continuing with all our previous exploits but have added to the video production and creation element (e.g. for bands, dance companies, theatre performances). The two external companies are Theatre Presto (Glasgow): a small touring theatre company targeted at care homes and community site although we performed at the Edinburgh Fringe last year. I have what I think is the over inflated title of ‘Music, sound creation, director’. I create backing tracks and effects and assist with the script writing. I also work for Purestar Productions Ltd (Bournemouth): a dance and production focused company. I am helping to organise and work ‘backstage’ on its national ‘Stars of the Future’ showcase and six other regional events this year. I am also writing sports reports for a local paper and acting as a reporter for the DAB sports channel Rocksport Radio. I have also just completed writing my second educational book for Hodder Education.

“The programme opened up my mind to so many different areas and styles of theatre art: to say that Rose Bruford's Theatre Studies changed my life would be an understatement. I will never be able to thank all of those involved enough.”
Graduate Profile
Heather Leech
Teacher & Community Theatre Practitioner
Resident: UK

During my long time on the course the changes seemed slow however, being on the course helped me to gain a promotion and directly helped me be a better teacher. It gave me so much confidence in my teaching and personally. Ironically, the reason why went on the course- i.e. to improve and update my drama knowledge and teaching is the part that has withered. Arts teaching in schools, in fact, teaching itself has been spoiled over the recent years so that I left teaching at the same time as completing the online course.

Since completing I have written and performed my own play Guy Fawkes’ Mother and have set about starting my own business. I have also widened my community street procession work.

“I would recommend the course absolutely.”
... in brief

Rene Baker: Director and Artist: Puppet and Object Theatre
Tonnia Boykins: Education Department, Centre Stage Theatre, Baltimore USA
David Chadderton: Editor of British Theatre Guide, Head of Education Manchester. Mainstream; Tutor and Writer Rose Bruford College
Martin Christie: Co-Artistic Director of Alloway Academy
Jacquie Davy: Head of Drama, Hartesmere School
Georgia Docherty: Further study: MA Shakespeare on Stage, Birmingham University
Atlanta Duffy: Theatre Designer: The Brokenville Project, Royal National Theatre
Joseph Fisher: Comedian and Television Presenter
Sharon Frese: Actor and Practitioner.
Brenda Gogan-Harringinton: Director, Drogheda School of Performing Arts
Martin Payne: Actor and Director
Pat Riley: Researcher and Writer
Craig Sanders: Young Company Director: Lichfield Garrick Theatre Lecturer South Staffordshire College and Staffordshire
John Severn: Post-doctoral Research Fellow Macquarie University, Sydney

And many, many more....
Additional student profiles

BA (Hons) Theatre Studies (Online)
Who is this course for?

Since the programme’s inauguration some two decades ago, our specialist team of Theatre Studies scholars, practitioners and writers have planned and researched ways to ensure that learning materials and activities are current, purposeful and allow you to achieve the fullest benefit from your study time.

To suit the contrasting circumstances and needs of our global cohort we have designed learning around a wide range of tasks and activities. This not only ensures that you can learn in practical, creative ways and apply your discoveries to your own contexts, but also to share your research with other students – regardless of where you are in the world. You can study full-time or part-time to fit your studies around your work and/or family commitments and you can speed up or slow down to meet your changing circumstances. Whether you are looking to study for a certificate, begin your first degree, develop your existing knowledge, change career, or follow a dream, Theatre Studies Online will evolve to meet your academic needs and interests.
My name is Courtney Long and I started my online Theatre Studies degree at Rose Bruford last year. I started the course only months after completing my A Levels because I thought it was such an efficient way to work at the same time as studying. I'm currently employed as part of the entertainment team on a cruise ship and therefore I get the practicality of performing from my employment and the theoretical aspect through my degree. Although I’m still adapting to the method of studying [at a distance], I feel as though all of my doubts have been cleared because staff members go over and above to help.

“It’s such a fantastic way for me to continue with my studies as well as being able to work all over the world.”
Hello, my name is Matt Salisbury, I have worked in the theatre industry for over 10 years as an actor and director. During this time I set up a touring theatre company with my wife, (Pretending People Theatre [www.pretendingpeople.co.uk](http://www.pretendingpeople.co.uk)). We specialise in taking high standard productions to community venues such as care homes and village halls. We have toured various original plays which all feature actor musicians playing live acoustic music to singalong to or underscore the action! Since the arrival of our son, I decided to take a step into a steadier income. Whilst running the theatre company I have taken a leap into teaching so my reason for taking this course is to finally gain a qualification in the area that I have worked in for so long. With that I will then be able to qualify as a teacher which I am hoping will open up many more doors to me in the future. I had the opportunity to take a course in education to gain my qualified teacher status, however I wanted to take the theatre studies course to further my knowledge in my field and enjoy my studies at the same time.

“So far I have learned more that I ever expected and I'm very much enjoying the work!”
Student Profile

Kate Aiken
Educator & Dyslexia Specialist
Resident: UK
Level 5

"I am studying at Rose Bruford College to increase my depth of knowledge of the theatre, practitioners and performance and to get that long awaited degree!"

I am a speech, drama and musical theatre educator, working in school and privately, at home. I specialise, and am qualified in, working with students with dyslexia and other associated challenges. I aim to use the performing arts to develop self-confidence and awareness and to prepare students for life in all its forms. I am a member of the Society of Speech and Drama Teachers and in the Directory of LAMDA teachers. I re-trained in speech and drama after I had left my first career in the Women’s Royal Naval Service, and had my family. I finally achieved my LAMDA Diploma in Speech and Drama Education after a long time balancing work and my studies.

I am studying at Rose Bruford College to increase my depth of knowledge of the theatre, practitioners and performance and to get that long awaited degree!"
Hi, my name is Rachel Martin and I have just started studying online for my degree in Theatre Studies with Rose Bruford.

I currently work in three large Theatres and also take on acting work, so my time needs to be well managed as it can be limited.

As well as feeding my interest I am hoping that this course will strengthen the weaker areas of my Theatre knowledge and allow me to look at things from new and different perspectives.

“Studying online is perfect for me as I can plan my studies around the productions I am working on, whilst still experiencing theatre first-hand from backstage and front of house!”
Student Profile

Phyllis N’Gandu-Platts
Teacher
Resident: Zambia
Level: 4

I live in Zambia, one of the countries in Southern Africa. I appreciate the opportunity to learn about the theatre with Rose Bruford College. I feel that I am on the right track to acquire background knowledge and all the relevant skills about the whole subject. The online programme is ideal for me as it not entirely interfering with my other responsibilities.

I am a Reception Class Teacher. I have had great experiences in drama activities during which I have discovered my capabilities relate to the Theatre and I wish to develop my skills further. These include script writing, preparing costumes, acting and directing presentations.

“It is my pleasure to embark on the Theatre Studies course. I am optimistic that Rose Bruford College will enable me to realise my full potential.”
Student Profile

Ricardo Madrigal: Theatre Director
Resident: UK
Level 4

I arrived to London a year ago. I came all the way from Spain attracted by its renowned Drama schools and I was lucky enough to start my training in one. Training as an actor is a demanding adventure, but if you also need to juggle this with your ‘day time job’, the adventure becomes a jigsaw puzzle of schedules and commitments. How then was I supposed to acquire the theoretical knowledge on theatre that I thought essential to combine with my training? Theatre Studies BA Online helped me realise my personal development plan. I am now being able to combine Drama School with a BA on Theatre Studies and my day time job.

The tutors are amazingly helpful and truly endeavour to make sure we are making the most of the course, and my understanding of Theatre and the role I want to have in it is being challenged every day. It has been an excellent decision.

“I appreciate the TS programme for teaching me theoretical backgrounds and further knowledge as a very useful and helpful supplement to my practical work, which pays off in better results for our whole team in the end.”

“The programme could not be better designed and more relevant for an actor who wants a wider and different look at Theatre.”
Student Profile

Nicola Parker: Skills and Development Coach for Engineering Apprentices
Resident: UK
Level 5

I’m an engineer by trade, but have recently moved into the training sector, supporting the learning and development of engineering apprentices. I love to go to the theatre, and particularly enjoy watching musicals and improvised theatre. I am currently one of the facilitators and improvisers in a Lancaster based improvisation group called Improv Xpress, and I also co-run The Jester’s Jigsaw – a Lancaster based performance duo.

The modular structure of the course promotes independent, learner-led, learning, which allows me to focus on topics and areas that fascinate me, and ensures I am always motivated to put in the required work!

Finally, this course has helped me develop many transferrable skills such as time management, communicating with others, and researching effectively, which I use daily in my work.

“For me, the Online Theatre Programme fits around my lifestyle and allows me to balance my array of interests.”
Athanasios Zagotis: Dentist
Resident: Crete
Level 6

My name is Athanasios Zagotis and I work as a dentist in my private practice in Sitia Crete in Greece. I studied dentistry in the University of Athens and I have a PhD in oral pathology from the University of Gottingen in Germany. I have always been a theatre and opera enthusiast. I am very much engaged in various amateur or semi amateur Theatre Companies in Crete as a writer and director. The companies I work with have become particularly extrovert so we are able to show our work almost everywhere in Greece and in fact we are planning a tour abroad for our current production.

“I found the opportunity of studying in Rose Bruford College distance learning program as something that I shouldn't miss. I am able to broaden my understanding as an audience member and to acquire invaluable knowledge as a semi-professional writer and director.”
Student Profile

Sammy-Jo Costi:
Special Educational Needs Teacher
Resident: UK
Level 5

It is such an amazing opportunity to work and study at such a high quality level; the tutors on the theatre studies course make your time and effort so worthwhile, and the course varied and interesting.

At the moment I work in a primary school teaching children with additional SEN needs from Reception to Year 6. Once I’ve completed this course I would ideally like to enrol on a master’s course with the Shakespeare Institute and teach Drama at a college level, which is only possible because of the Theatre Studies course.

What I was most surprised at is how the modules and other students I have engaged with have positively affected my own practice - I run drama clubs for KS2 children, and a separate Shakespeare for Autism drama group. Our last productions were outdoor performances of Hamlet and A Midsummer Nights Dream and it was such an incredible inspiration. You can't help but take what you've learnt with Rose Bruford and apply it your own practice, and it's exciting to see the results! I'm so looking forward to the rest of my time here and couldn't recommend enough.

“This course is unique in offering full-time distance learning and so appreciated by those who study it.”
Student Profile

Wolf Christian:
Actor, Fight Director,
& Stage Combat Teacher.
Resident: UK
Level 6

I have enjoyed a career as an actor, fight director and stage combat teacher and now live in semi-retirement in Dorset. I wanted to do something which would both challenge me and give me a deeper and wider knowledge of theatre practice. I have found that this course has excelled in both areas and has given me a perverse delight in discovering how little I know about a subject which was my livelihood! I am in the middle of nowhere and so I needed access to an online learning structure which gives me support and resources to complete my assignments. The course has exceeded my expectations in terms of challenges and enlightenment, its flexibility allows me to fit it in to my schedule very easily.

“Each unit brings a great sense of achievement upon completion.”
I live in Beijing and work for an education company called Leading Education. My job involves project management and interpreting for teacher training courses. I have also interpreted and done stage management for a Scottish Opera project. Also, there are periods when I am very busy, so part time study is also most suitable.

In the future, I would like to set up a service company, acting as an agent for any Chinese theatre or opera groups who would like to go abroad or foreign groups who want to come to China from abroad. If I learn all the professional knowledge about theatre and stage management and gain enough working experience, I believe I will have a considerable advantage.

“I think the Online Theatre Studies course at Rose Bruford College will be an important step in realising my ambitions.”
Student Profile

Katy Burke
Professional Fundraiser
Resident: UK
Level 4

I completed my Performing Arts B-Tec into a career in post protection of TV and Film for 10 years. I am now a professional fundraiser working for my local air ambulance charity promoting the need for gifts in wills and also looking after supporters that fundraise in memory of loved ones.

I always remained and continue to visit the theatre - mostly musicals and now take great pleasure in taking my children to see new productions.

I love going to watch all performances but my heart will always lie with musicals. the way you get transported to another world and the music can touch your soul.

As mentioned I work with a local stage school and also support the West End Summer School that they run with West End stars coming along to give master classes.

“I have finally gone back to what I love and teaching my children to never give up and do what you love it ever so important and priceless.”
Mike is currently Chairman of the Theatre Studies Student Representatives Committee.

I am an engineer by profession, working in the field of power station design and development. I am heavily involved in amateur theatre and am currently chair of council of Radius (The Religious Drama Society of Great Britain) and Chair of the Harpenden High Street Players. I am interested in many aspects of theatre and have been involved in playwriting, directing, acting and set design. The Theatre Studies course has given me an excellent opportunity to broaden my knowledge of theatre. The course material is invariably stimulating, and I enjoy the opportunity to share ideas with tutors and fellow students through the webinars.
I am an educator currently teaching primary and secondary performing arts at Geneva English School. I have worked in amateur theatre for many years as a performer, choreographer and more recently as a director. I am following the Theatre Studies online course in order to deepen my subject knowledge, to enhance my school teaching and to broaden my directorial skills. Many inspirational directors have motivated my love of theatre in the past and my aim through this course is to share these experiences with my students/casts.
Student Profile

Gary Funck
Theatre Director
Resident: Germany
Level 5

Beside my employment I work with a experimental off-theatre group as part of the ensemble were I can try out new ways and methods in all different theatre elements ranging from directing to acting and dancing and I also have a weekly show in our local radio station.” “As a trained theatre educator I am employed by a cultural association in the Danish-German border region. I am leading the “Et Nordfriisk Teooter” (North Frisian Theatre) as art director, a multi lingual theatre group working with experienced players as well as with professionals and showing German or Danish supertitles in all shows. My job includes activities like directing or writing plays. I’m also working as art director of the European Minority Film Festival in Husum/Hüsem, a small festival focussing on feature films made in lesser used languages like e.g. Frisian, Gaelic or Basque. The festival is strongly connected to other similar festivals in Europe and in the moment we and others are engaged in building up a European network for performance artists dealing with minority or indigenous cultures.
Student Profile

Emily Redfarn
Performing Arts Teacher
Resident: UK
Level 5

I am a performing arts and communication skills teacher working with students across the East of England teaching exam work and audition preparation.

I decided to undertake the Theatre Studies online course as I wanted to gain a qualification using the knowledge I have gained while teaching. I love the flexibility that online learning offers as I would never be able to undertake a traditional degree that required me to attend University on a weekly basis.

“The modules are interesting and challenging and I am thoroughly enjoying the course.”
Student Profile

Amy Celino
Performing Arts Teacher
Resident: UK
Level 5

I am studying Theatre Studies (Online) from the UK. I chose Theatre Studies because I come from a Performing Arts background and wanted to learn more about behind the scenes, and from different perspectives such as creatives and directors.

My favourite type of theatre is Naturalism and am looking forward to my next module very much, as well as Musical Theatre which I will be looking at later on this year.

Due to the flexibility of online learning, it means I can carry on teaching young children Performing Arts alongside my studies and gain valuable knowledge to take into my chosen career.

“I have loved studying the course so far, I have found it to be much more than an online course as it is much more interactive than I expected, and I feel really valued as a student. I thought I wouldn't ever enjoy studying!”