

# Prospectus

GSA

GAIETY SCHOOL  
OF ACTING

Full-time Professional Training



# We Train Actors

**Patrick Sutton**  
**Director Gaiety School**  
**of Acting**  
**The National Theatre**  
**School of Ireland**



## 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 premiere theatre school.



Here at GSA, we are navigating the unknown through, as the great Peter Brook once said...

“... a mysterious alchemy of the imagination.”

## Why study at GSA?

### For a career

We have engineered our training to prepare our actors for the real world. Through a combination of classically taught skills and industry knowledge we have created a full-time course that provides our graduates with more than just professional actor-training; we arm them with a savvy understanding of the commitment it takes to pursue this profession seriously and successfully. We teach the tools that lead to a career.

### For the industry exposure

After nearly four decades of training some of Ireland's most awarded Actors, our place in the industry is firm and respected. Our students' end-of-year showcases are attended by Talent Agents, Casting Agents, Directors and Producers. We are committed to positioning our graduates in line with as much opportunity as possible.

### For access to creative and academic pathways

Our school also provides an MA in Theatre Practice programme that many of our students choose to do after their training. Our Manifesto programme leads many graduates to becoming playwrights, and our production modules give them the tools to work in the business side of theatre.

### For a uniquely Irish experience

If you have never lived in Dublin before, or indeed do but have never studied here, you're in for a treat. Not many cities can boast the wealth of literary greats that ours can. There is a certain magic to studying the Irish playwrights whilst walking through the streets upon which they were inspired. This city is a buzzing hub of culture and the arts, with a historical Theatre in every quarter.



# What You Need To Know



## The Schedule

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



## Fees & Your Expenses

**EU students: €5,500 per year**

**Non-EU students: €15,000 per year**

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 & Materials

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



## Requirements To Apply

**You are over 18**

**Fluent in English**

Entry to the school is not based on the Leaving Certificate or any equivalent exam, it is based on a measurement of talent and commitment.



## Audition Process Breakdown

Every year, hundreds of applicants go through the audition process for our full-time programme. After applying you will be assigned an audition date, here is a comprehensive breakdown of the process:

### Audition Round 1:

The audition consists of your presentation of two contrasting monologues of your own choosing, each of no more than 3 minutes in length. You will then be interviewed by the panel to get a sense of who you are as a person and whether your abilities are suited to the school

### Audition Round 2:

Should you be successful with your first round audition, you will be requested to attend a Callback Workshop to audition in person. The callback places the applicant in the dynamic of an ensemble and examines, among many things, the applicant's ability to work in a group, take direction, improvise etc. If you are accepted, you will begin your training that coming October.



# 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
- Radio Play
- Shakespeare
- Graduation Play

# Module Break-down

## — 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

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.

## — European Classics

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. With a particular focus on the teachings of Patsy Rodenburg, 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. This module uses the Feldenkrais method 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.

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## Stage Combat

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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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'.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Casting & Auditioning

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

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## Career Guidance

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



# Outcome & 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 week-long run at Smock Alley Theatre 1662. You will also perform in a Manifesto showcase, an opportunity to exhibit your own personally devised original material to 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 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.

## Our Patrons



Brenda Fricker



Rosaleen Linehan

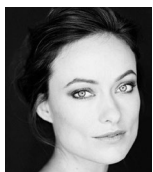


Liam Neeson

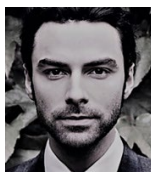


Aidan Turner

## Our Alumni



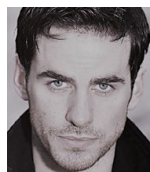
Olivia Wilde  
ITSP



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



Sarah Greene  
2006



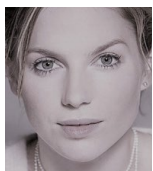
Charlie Murphy  
2008



Rory Nolan  
2003



Phelim Drew  
1988



Eva Birthistle  
1995



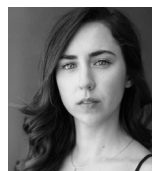
Moe Dunford  
2009



Lorna Quinn  
2007



Kate Gilmore  
2013



Aisling Kearns  
2019



Thomas Kane  
Byrne 2017



Caoimhe O'Malley  
2011



Des Eastwood  
2016



Rex Ryan  
2013



Rebecca Grimes  
2008



Tony Tormey  
1986



# GAIETY SCHOOL OF ACTING

Full-time Professional Training



#LOVEGSA



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