



GSA

GAIETY SCHOOL
OF ACTING

Full-time Professional Training

TWO-YEAR FULL-TIME

PROFESSIONAL ACTOR TRAINING

COURSE PROSPECTUS

WELCOME TO GSA

WE TRAIN ACTORS

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Welcome! You want to be an actor? Good. Our world needs actors to bring the complexities of human experience to life. We tell stories that change the way we see ourselves and others. We reveal truths that are often kept hidden, offering a way for society to see itself more clearly. In a world that can feel disconnected, we tell stories that bring us together, allowing people to share laughter, feel emotions and experience perspectives beyond their own. It's not for the faint-hearted.

We are looking for the finest new talents. They must be ready to take an extraordinarily rewarding journey with us through our proven full-time conservatory training into an industry that is challenging beyond words. Our course is a deep dive into the heart of what it means to be an actor. You will be supported to push yourself beyond your comfort zone, and engage with your craft in a way that demands full commitment of your imagination, voice, body and intellect, testing your range while refining your skills. Gaiety School of Acting is an actor-led training, our staff are respected working professionals and we are rated nationally and internationally.

At home our alumni can be seen and heard across every stage, and every TV and film studio creating new work. Our international reputation is built on our proven track record, spanning nearly four decades, and our graduates

are lauded across the globe, garnering Tony and Oscar nominations and countless Irish and UK awards.

This course requires dedication, patience, humour, and a willingness to bring your whole self to the work. Does that sound like you? Then join us. If you're ready to go off-script, this is where it starts.

Will Wollen
Director, Gaiety School of Acting
The National Theatre School of Ireland



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 Directors, 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 heritage that ours can. This city is a buzzing hub of culture and arts, with theatres in every quarter, and there has never been a more exciting time to be in Ireland with a successful and exciting film industry right on our doorstep.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Full-time students engage in an intensive regime of training in their core courses, which require their full physical, emotional and intellectual commitment. 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
- Acting for Screen
- Manifesto – Theatre Making
- Shakespeare
- Contemporary Theatre
- Improvisation
- Voice
- Singing
- Movement & Viewpoints
- Stage Combat (accredited)
- Dance / Tap
- Mime
- Theatre of Clown
- International Project
- History & Contexts
- Text Analysis
- Industry & Production
- Casting & Auditioning
- Career Guidance

SHOWCASES

- Contemporary Theatre
- Manifesto
- Theatre of Clown
- European Classics
- Period Project
- Singing
- Audio Project
- Shakespeare
- Graduation Film
- Graduation Play
- Industry Showcase Dublin
- Industry Showcase London*

*optional post-training

MODULE BREAKDOWN

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. We draw on the work of key practitioners who include, Stanislavski, Meisner, Morris and Littlewood

ACTING FOR SCREEN

From their very first term students learn technique for acting on screen. In the first year they will undertake a small film project, and in the second year they will work with a professional film director and crew to produce one or more pieces of original film to be entered into industry film festivals.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 in solo, partner and group forms. the principles

of contemporary dance, where movement options are explored and analysed, in solo, partner and group forms.

TRANSFORMATION

This unit involves the actor in detailed, specific observation of animals and birds in order to incorporate them as completely as possible, to develop new human characters. The work, descending from Copeau via Saint Denis and the Blatchleys, demands a practice of detailed and specific attention to the creation of an entirely imagined world, invaluable on stage and screen.

MASK

This unit introduces the student to work in mask. The character mask allows the student a physical freedom while removing the ability to talk. In the absence of text, we learn to connect mind and body truthfully, and 'earn the right to speak'.

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.

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.

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'.

HISTORY & CONTEXTS

The aim is to present a series of lectures on Theatre History in a roughly chronological fashion from early western theatre to the present, as well as exploring a number of non-western theatre traditions. 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.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

This unit is intended to equip students with the practical requirements of working as an actor in Ireland. We will cover fundraising, the writing of funding and bid applications, budget creation and industry knowledge. Students will also receive advice on the audition and casting process, self-taping, audition pieces and working with agents and casting directors. In-house and visiting experts will prepare the actors for the industry, from acquiring an agent and selecting a headshot to the practicalities of tax, accountancy, self-care and well-being.



WHERE DO I START?

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: €6,065 per year*

Non-EU students: €16,500 per year*

There are frequent mandatory theatre visits scheduled, which students must pay for, at a cost of €450 for the year. There is also a production levy of €600 per student in each of 1st and 2nd year. The course includes a fundraising element to cover production costs of the graduation plays which is part of the professional development element of the course. *Fees stated are 2025/26 academic year and are subject to change

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 and 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.

Audition Round 1:

Most Round 1 auditions take place in Dublin, but we also have some regional audition dates in Belfast, Cork and Athlone. You will present two contrasting monologues (max 3 mins each) of your own choosing. The panel will then interview you to get a sense of who you are as a person and whether you are suited to the course.

Audition Round 2:

If your first round audition is successful you will be requested to attend a Callback Workshop at our premises in Dublin. The callback places you in the dynamic of an ensemble and looks at your ability to work in a group, take direction, improvise etc. Crucially, it also gives you a taste of the teaching at the school. If you are offered a place you will start training in the coming September/October.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are on a mission to realise dreams, eliminate barriers and champion new voices. To this end we offer a limited number of substantial scholarships of up to full tuition fees for incoming first-year students. These include the Philip Lee Scholarship and the Empowering New Voices Scholarship. In addition, the Gaiety Theatre kindly sponsors the Gaiety Theatre Bursary which is divided between successful students entering the second year of their course.

LAUNCHING YOU INTO THE INDUSTRY

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 Screen and Audio 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. Agents and casting directors will be invited to key showcases and screenings. After you finish the course you will have digital assets for your showreel and voicereel. If you are eligible to work in

the UK there will be opportunities after graduation to attend events to support your career in the UK. 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.

OUR PATRONS



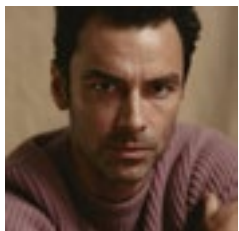
Brenda Fricker



Rosaleen Linehan

**THE SCHOOL
HOLDS A SPECIAL
PLACE IN OUR
CULTURAL
LANDSCAPE,
NURTURING
NOT JUST TALENT,
BUT DISCIPLINE,
COURAGE AND
CREATIVITY**

- Liam Neeson, Patron



Aidan Turner



Liam Neeson

OUR ALUMNI



Olivia Wilde ITSP



Aidan Turner 2004



Mark O'Halloran 1992



Colin O'Donoghue 2001



Aisling O'Sullivan 1991



Don Wycherley 1991



Colin Farrell 1998



Sarah Greene 2006



Charlie Murphy 2008



Rory Nolan 2003



Eva Birthistle 1995



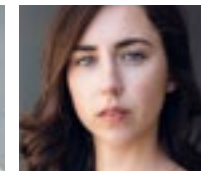
Moe Dunford 2009



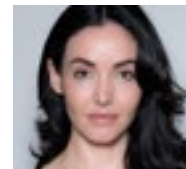
Lorna Quinn 2007



Kate Gilmore 2013



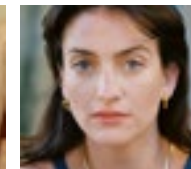
Aisling Kearns 2019



Caoimhe O'Malley 2011



Des Eastwood 2016



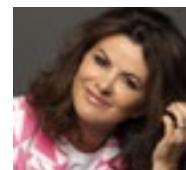
India Mullen 2014



Rebecca Grimes 2008



Brendan Quinn 2015



Deirdre O'Kane 1986



Phelim Drew 1988



Thomas Kane Byrne 2017



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🖥️ gaietyschool.com

☎️ +353 1 679 9277

✉️ info@gaietyschool.com

📍 Essex Street West, Temple Bar, Dublin 8



#LOVEGSA