

Bristol Old Vic
Theatre School



**PROSPECTUS
2025**

oldvic.ac.uk



Photo credit: Justin Yodkrey



I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU are considering applying to Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (BOVTS). For almost 80 years, we have led the way in training the next generation of theatre, film and television professionals – in acting, creative and production disciplines.

This prospectus will give you a taste of what our full-time degree courses offer you: in short, high-quality teaching, delivered in a supportive and professional working environment. We are fortunate to be based in one of the UK's most exciting and free-spirited student cities, with a thriving arts scene to match.

I hope you'll be inspired to find out more – by visiting us in person, coming along to a show, or connecting with us online, you can see for yourself what makes the Theatre School such a special place.

Dr. Fiona Francombe
Principal and CEO

Photo credit: Crag Fuller

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VISIT [OLDVIC.AC.UK/COURSE-FINDER](https://oldvic.ac.uk/course-finder) TO SEARCH ALL OF OUR OVATION-WORTHY COURSES

This prospectus contains information for students planning to start their course in September 2025.

We have made every effort to ensure that course details are correct at the time of going to print (September 2024). However, details of teaching and course delivery may vary depending on staffing, production schedules, cohort numbers and other timetabling constraints.

You are advised to check the School's website (oldvic.ac.uk/course-finder) for the latest updates.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL



ALL BOVTS DEGREES ARE VALIDATED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND (UWE BRISTOL). AS A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF DRAMA SCHOOLS, WE UPHOLD THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN CONSERVATOIRE TRAINING.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

FOR ALMOST 80 YEARS, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (BOVTS) has been a leader in training stage and screen professionals. Established in 1946 by Sir Laurence Olivier, BOVTS has cultivated a world-renowned reputation; our nationally and internationally recognised courses set the benchmark for acting, creative and technical arts education

Our vocational, career-focused training emphasises learning through practice. Students will engage in the School's professional-standard theatre, film and audio productions. Training takes place in small groups, workshops, and individual tutorials, with some evening and weekend work during production weeks. Our expert staff includes experienced industry professionals and visiting practitioners, ensuring you receive a broad yet specialised education. The favourable staff-to-student ratio allows for personalised attention, enabling you to flourish in your chosen subject.

BOVTS facilities include rehearsal studios, technical workshops, and design studios at Downside Road, our Victorian villas nestled on the edge of Clifton Downs – which has been our home since 1956. Our recorded media department is currently based at Christchurch Studios in nearby Clifton Village. BOVTS students will also have access to UWE Bristol's facilities and groups, and will sometimes be taught in the city's performance venues as part of productions.



97+
PERFORMANCES
LAST YEAR



6
FILM
SHOOTS



13.6k
ANNUAL
AUDIENCE
ESTIMATE



2
FEATURE-
LENGTH CINEMA
SCREENINGS

Photo credit: Craig Fuller

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UWE BRISTOL



STUDENT LIFE



STUDENT LIFE

CONSERVATOIRE TRAINING REQUIRES A significant amount of commitment and hard work. In turn, BOVTS provides a nurturing and fun environment in which to learn, with support provided by specialist teaching and support staff to ensure you reach your full potential. The School is a close-knit community and outside of learning time there are lots of opportunities to socialise with your peers, enjoying all that Bristol has to offer.

The small size of the School, with just over 240 students in total, ensures we can provide you with a supportive environment. The School's Student Support team can support you in accessing learning and support resources, should you need them, including counsellors and city-wide services. We aim to help you develop a proactive and positive approach to managing your well-being.

"The Student Union is such a cool addition to the BOVTS experience! In the past year they've put on events ranging from bar crawls to c eilidhs, open mics and movie nights."

Neve
FDA COSTUME

Our Student Union representatives coordinate the School's varied social calendar, including film nights, bar crawls, pub quizzes, open mic nights and more. The highlight of the year is the annual Grad Ball; bidding a fond farewell to those completing their training and a well-deserved celebration of everyone's achievements. The Theatre School is home to many other student-led societies and clubs who host their own events, such as the LGBTQ+ Society, a football team which competes in the Drama School League and a newly established Cultural Union who run events by and for our students of colour.

IN THE 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR THE SCHOOL CELEBRATED A NUMBER OF CULTURAL DATES, INCLUDING CHINESE NEW YEAR, HOLI AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH.

Photo credits: David Bath, Nick Ebbage, Ed Felton, Craig Fuller, Sol Goddard, Lasya Purohit



@BOVTSSTUDENTUNION
SEE THE JAM-PACKED SCHEDULE OUR STUDENT UNION OFFERS WEEKLY



THE CITY OF BRISTOL



THE CITY OF BRISTOL

BRISTOL IS ONE OF THE UK'S most exciting student cities; well known as the city of Banksy, balloons and Brunel – but there's so much more to discover. The city boasts a thriving arts culture, buzzing harbourside, lush green spaces and an edgy music scene. It's easy to see why so many students fall in love with the city's free spirit and laid-back attitude.

As the gateway to the South West of England, Bristol plays host to all the shops, attractions and nightlife you'd expect from a vibrant, regional capital. Despite this, Bristol retains a strong community feel and has even been voted as the happiest city in the world (The Institute For Quality Of Life, 2024). The city is easily walkable, from the old-world charm of St Nicholas' markets to the independent high streets of Gloucester Road or Clifton Village, and from the ancient woodland of Leigh Woods to the thriving cultural hub of Stokes Croft.

Bristol is a city for all seasons, with an endless supply of festivals: the International Balloon Fiesta, St Paul's Carnival, the Harbour Festival, Love Saves the Day, Forwards, Europe's largest street art festival... the list goes on! Its citizens come from 187 countries, speak 91 languages and practise at least 45 religions.

"I have really enjoyed living in Bristol, it is so full of love and culture. There are loads of theatres to check out, and amazing experiences to be had."

Frankie
TECHNICAL STUDENT





CREATING SUSTAINABLY

Photo credit: Ed Felton

BRISTOL, OUR HOME CITY, declared a Climate Emergency in November 2018 and aims to be carbon neutral by 2030. In alignment with this goal, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School is committed to integrating sustainability and environmental protection into all aspects of our operations.

While we acknowledge that there is still much to improve, we have already implemented several initiatives to enhance our environmental practices.

Educational Integration:

- Conducting foundational sessions on the Theatre Green Book for designers, directors and costume students
- Empowering the film department to work towards the Albert Carbon Calculator to offset the environmental impact of our short films

Design Department:

- Minimising plastic use and waste over the past three years
- Eliminated use of foam board in both modelmaking and exhibitions
- Use of laser-cut plywood and card for model boxes, increasing durability and reusability

Ongoing Commitment:

- Establishing a Climate Action Group for staff that aims to meet each term

We recognise that achieving our sustainability goals is an ongoing process, and we are dedicated to continually improving our practices. By choosing Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, you'll be part of an institution actively working towards a more sustainable future in the stage and screen industries.



GREENEST CITY IN ENGLAND

(Milletts, 2024)



A CITY OF FILM

Photo credit: David Bath

BRISTOL'S ARTS CULTURE IS RICH AND LIVELY, and the city plays host to a limitless supply of independent music, theatre, film and museums. Film and TV production has also become a major part of Bristol's economy.

By leveraging Bristol's status as a **UNESCO City of Film**, we ensure that our students are well-prepared for the diverse opportunities in both stage and screen industries. Our courses offer various ways to gain experience in the world of film:

- BA Film & TV Production: This comprehensive programme offers education in filmmaking, equipping students with skills needed for the film, high-end television and media industries.
- BA Professional Acting: Students hone their acting to camera skills with our specialist film department, continuing screen and audio work while acquiring studio and on-location etiquette.

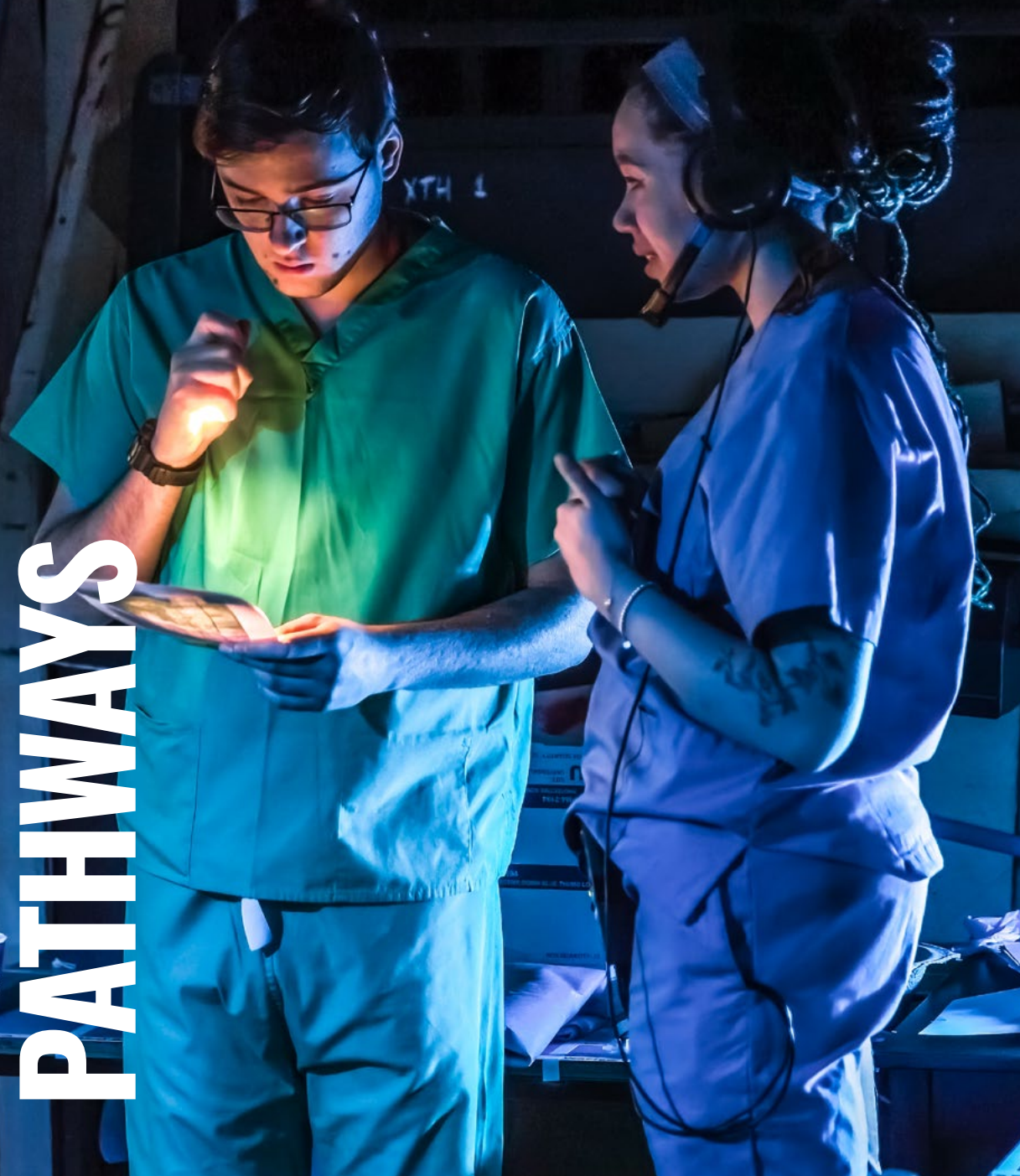
- FdA/BA Costume for Theatre, TV and Film: Students have opportunities to work on-location with the film department, gaining an understanding of screen continuity and various roles within the wardrobe department.
- MA Screen Acting: This specialised course focuses on refining performance techniques for camera and screen.
- MA Drama Writing: Students explore writing for recorded media, including audio and screen. They script a treatment and indicative scene for screen, working collaboratively with MA Drama Directors and MA Screen Actors.

These courses, among others, demonstrate BOVTS commitment to preparing students for the thriving screen industry in Bristol and beyond, taking full advantage of the city's UNESCO City of Film status.

Did you know? Bristol won the City of Film Award at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.

Did you know? BOVTS held two feature length cinema screenings at Watershed in 2024.

CAREER PATHWAYS



CAREER PATHWAYS

AT BRISTOL OLD VIC THEATRE SCHOOL we are committed to helping launch careers in the theatre and film industries. Our vocational, industry-focused training prepares students for the professional world through hands-on experience and collaborations that mirror real-world production environments.

We aim to empower all our graduates to both carve out a traditional portfolio career in their chosen discipline, and to create opportunities for themselves in the entertainment industries.

We foster strong industry connections, offering students opportunities to network with professionals, participate in showcases and attend industry events. Many courses include final-year projects, exhibitions or performances that promote promising onward careers.

“Visiting tutors have been hugely helpful in providing a lot of different perspectives on the industry. They were very willing to give advice on what your next steps should be and resources to help build your career.”

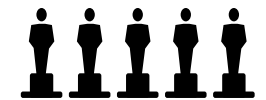
James

MFA PROFESSIONAL VOICE STUDIES

Our graduates consistently secure jobs as part of the cast and crew of HETV and film productions, and with major theatre companies. They work with renowned organisations such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre, BBC and Netflix, often winning acclaimed awards such as BAFTAs and Oliviers.

BOVTS provides comprehensive career support, including self-presentation workshops, mock interviews and guidance on navigating the industry. We assist with agent introductions, Spotlight profiles and showreel development for actors, while also supporting creative and technical students in portfolio building, industry-specific skills and placements.

Our alumni's success across such a rich variety of roles – from acting and directing, to costume design and voice coaching, film production and television scriptwriting – is a testament to the School's reputation and quality of our career preparation.



5 **OSCARS FOR BOVTS-TRAINED ACTORS – OLIVIA COLMAN, JEREMY IRONS AND THREE FOR SIR DANIEL DAY-LEWIS!**

MONEY MATTERS: FEES AND FUNDING

DEGREE-LEVEL STUDY IS ONE of the most significant investments you'll make. We are committed to dismantling the barriers which can prevent talented students from coming to the School, by providing a range of financial support, advice and guidance, to support your application and transition to the School.

Loans from the Government UNDERGRADUATES

Eligible UK students can apply for a loan from the government to cover the full cost of tuition fees, regardless of household income. It is paid directly to the School on your behalf, meaning you won't have to worry about paying your fees upfront. You can also apply for a loan to contribute towards your accommodation and day-to-day living expenses. How much you borrow is normally dependent on your household income. You will not start repaying your loans until you have graduated and are earning over the annual threshold for repayment. For further information, please see gov.uk/student-finance.

POSTGRADUATES

UK students may be eligible to apply for a postgraduate Master's Loan to assist with tuition fees and living costs. The loan is paid directly to you and the amount available to borrow is dependent on where you live. To check your eligibility and find out more, visit gov.uk/masters-loan.

Audition fee waiver scheme

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of free audition places for the BA Professional Acting course via its fee waiver scheme. To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

- You are a current UK resident
- You have no previous degree qualification
- You have an annual household income of less than £25,000 before tax

Fee waivers are processed on a first-come basis, so you are advised to apply at your earliest convenience. The deadline for applications is Fri 24 Jan 2025.

Bursaries and Scholarships

Each year, the School and UWE Bristol administer a range of bursaries and scholarships. If you are called to interview or audition, staff will explain more about funding options available to you. Bursaries are available to students from low income backgrounds, or those who have spent time in care. For further information*, please visit oldvic.ac.uk/about-us/fees-and-financial-support.

Managing your money

Further details about living expenses and the costs that you may incur outside of your tuition fees – for example, equipment or specialist clothing – are available on our website. Many of our students choose to work during the vacations, and both the Theatre School and UWE operate a hardship fund if you find yourself in severe financial need. The School's support team can also offer you guidance around managing your money.

*Fees are subject to review in line with Government policy

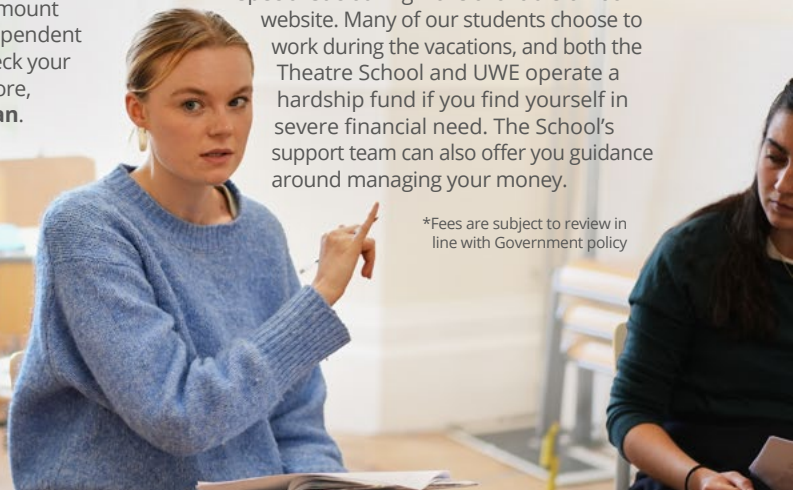


Photo credit: Doty McCormack

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATIONS FOR ALL OF our degree courses are made directly to the School. You will be asked to provide details of your qualifications, including any that you may still be studying. You'll also need to write a personal statement. Further information about application deadlines for different degree programmes can be found at oldvic.ac.uk/course-finder.

We aim to make auditions, recall days and interviews as relaxed and as informative as possible – you can ask questions to our staff and find out more about what makes the School a special and inspiring place to train.

There is a £25 audition fee for our three acting courses (BA Professional Acting, MA Screen Acting and MFA Professional Acting). We operate a fee waiver scheme for the BA Professional Acting course only – see opposite page for more details. Each acting course has a different audition process, for further information, please visit oldvic.ac.uk/course-finder.

For technical and creative courses, we initially review your application to explore your interest in the course, with a subsequent interview to further discuss your experience or portfolio. For some courses, you may be invited to participate in a comprehensive workshop day where we can assess your suitability for training at BOVTS.

We aim to make a decision on your application as soon as possible. Because auditions and interviews are held over several months, we may need to put you on a shortlist to guarantee fairness to all applicants. Our admissions team will let you know when you'll hear back from us.

The School makes unconditional offers, which means you do not have any further conditions to meet in order to accept a place. If your offer is subject to meeting other requirements, then you must send evidence to the admissions team before your place can be confirmed.

OUR COURSES

FOUNDATION DEGREE IN ARTS (FDA)

This is a two-year course at undergraduate level, designed to prepare you for a vocational career. Sometimes, graduates may take an FdA to retrain.

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH HONOURS (BA HONS)

This is a three-year undergraduate degree. This level of study is often required to progress to postgraduate training or by certain employers in order to enter graduate schemes.

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

This is a postgraduate taught degree. At BOVTS, these are taught over one academic year – typically starting in September and finishing in July.

MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

This is also a postgraduate master's degree. It often includes more substantial independent study and provides advanced vocational training.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds. We will ask for optional demographic and individual information on your application form, in order to understand the way in which you have come to apply to the School, and so that we can consider your application within that context. You are encouraged to declare any disabilities you may have, so that the appropriate support can be put in place as soon as possible

Because they are vocational. All of BOVTS degrees are awarded on a pass or fail basis, meaning you won't receive a degree classification. All our degrees are awarded by UWE Bristol, our Higher Education Institution Partner.

BA (HONS) PROFESSIONAL ACTING

THIS INDUSTRY-RENOUNDED COURSE PROVIDES you with advanced-level skills and techniques in acting for all media including theatre, television, film and radio. It is a predominantly vocational course, equipping you for a varied and fulfilling career as a professional actor.

You will be part of a close-knit ensemble, working together on in-house projects before performing in professional-standard productions across Bristol. We aim to equip you with the tools and techniques required to present your natural talent in performance and to realise your own professional ambitions.

Time is dedicated in your final year to preparing for life as a professional actor who works with autonomy and responsibility as part of a team. Training focuses on self-presentation and career management, as well as preparing you for the industry showcase and meetings with agents and casting directors. Our actors have an exceptional track record of graduate employment, and work in theatre, film, TV and radio. In recent years, new graduates have performed with theatre companies across the UK including the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Globe and National Theatre, as well as major tours, and on screen in major television series and critically-acclaimed feature films.

Many of our acting alumni have become household names, recognised through their receipt of Oscars, Golden Globes, BAFTAs and Olivier awards. Professional Acting graduates include Olivia Colman, Sir Patrick Stewart, Sir Daniel Day-Lewis, Naomie Harris, Faye Marsay, Phil Dunster and Pearl Mackie amongst many others.

COURSE LENGTH	3 years, full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	28
SELECTION PROCESS	3 round audition – self tape, online audition and in-person recall for applicants with greatest potential
APPLICATION COSTS	£25 audition fee. Fee waiver scheme available

“My audition was a personal and joyful experience. I was met with lots of laughter, energy and creative spark, allowing space for me to perform to the best of my ability.”

Olivia
BA PROFESSIONAL
ACTING



VISIT [OLDVIC.AC.UK/
COURSE-FINDER](http://OLDVIC.AC.UK/COURSE-FINDER) FOR
MORE DETAILS ON THIS
SCENE-STEALING COURSE

FDA/BA (HONS) COSTUME FOR THEATRE, TV & FILM

THIS PRACTICAL COURSE PREPARES you for a career creating and supervising costumes for theatre, television and film. You'll have opportunities to construct costumes for several of the School's professional-standard theatre productions, and will work off-stage experiencing the multitude of roles within a professional wardrobe department.

You'll craft costumes for a range of contrasting productions, both period and contemporary, with opportunities to explore particular techniques. You will also work on a small BOVTS film shoot familiarising yourself with all of the roles within a costume department, understanding continuity and creating a costume continuity file.

Training at the School is vocational and career-orientated, and our professional-standard productions are the result of collaborations across various departments, which reflect the working environment of a professional producing company, providing you with excellent preparation for your future career. At the end of the FdA or BA course, you'll display your work at a graduate exhibition which will be attended by industry professionals, where you can build up a network of contacts for future employment.

The costume department has enjoyed an outstanding employment record; potential graduate employers often interview students in their final year of training. Recent graduate employment includes: freelance contracts with Pinewood, Longcross and Elstree Studios; the costume workrooms and dye and breakdown departments of major Netflix dramas; making and supervising for productions at Bristol Old Vic, Tobacco Factory Theatres and Scottish Opera; and full-time positions at the likes of Angels Costumiers and Cosprop, two of the UK's major costume houses; and trainee positions on many high end TV dramas shot all over the UK.

BA (HONS) TOP-UP YEAR

The BA (Hons) in Costume for Theatre, Television and Film is a top-up option available to students who have successfully completed the FdA programme at BOVTS. You will be given a body of work to complete, which is discussed during your application process. You'll also complete another industry placement (potentially up to five weeks), complete a make for one of the School's public productions and work on a short film shoot with the film department.

COURSE LENGTH	2 years (FdA) and optional 1 year (BA top-up), full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	8
SELECTION PROCESS	Interview and portfolio of work. Subsequent entry to the top-up is not guaranteed
APPLICATION COSTS	Free

VISIT [OLDVIC.AC.UK/](http://oldvic.ac.uk/)
COURSE-FINDER
FOR MORE INFO ON
THIS TAILORED-TO-
PERFECTION COURSE



"Collaboration across the courses is a really important part of training at BOVTS. For me, the best part of working on productions is all the fun we have backstage – especially with the stage managers, as we eagerly await our next cues"

Neve
FDA COSTUME

BA (HONS) STAGE MANAGEMENT & FILM & TV PRODUCTION

NEW COURSE

THIS INNOVATIVE NEW PROGRAMME combines stage management for theatre and live events with film and television production, offering comprehensive practical training across multiple entertainment sectors.

Students select either the 'Stage Management' or 'Film & TV Production' pathway at application.

This three-year programme is designed for aspiring professionals seeking robust training in both the creative and technical craft of Stage Management and Film & TV production, supported by extensive hands-on experience and a chance to build industry connections.

In the first year, all students get to experience the fundamentals such as lighting, sound, props, the art department and what it's like to be part of a full cast and crew team. Years two and three focus on tailored modules in either Stage Management or Film & TV Production. Throughout the programme, you'll work on professional-standard projects, collaborating across departments.

Please note - this is a new course, still in-development and subject to academic validation by UWE. For the most up-to-date course details, including a year-by-year breakdown of modules for each pathway, please visit: oldvic.ac.uk/course-finder

STAGE MANAGEMENT PATHWAY

You will explore:

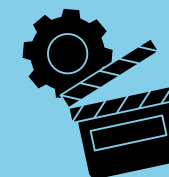
- Collaborative projects (year 2)
- Industry preparation (year 2)
- Production portfolio (year 2)
- Professional development (year 3)
- Production portfolio (year 3)

FILM & TV PRODUCTION PATHWAY

You will explore:

- Advanced Film & TV production techniques (year 2)
- Assistant roles (year 2)
- Head of Department roles (year 3)
- Career kick-off (year 3)
- All while developing professional portfolios to take out into the industry

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
OLDVIC.AC.UK/COURSE-FINDER FOR MORE
INFO ON THIS SHOW-STOPPING COURSE





PROFESSIONAL ACTING MFA

This intensive and unique actor training programme is available to students who are seeking graduate-level study at a leading UK conservatoire. The programme provides a bespoke approach to meet the individual needs of each actor; you'll perform in a professional-standard theatre production, and hone your acting to camera and voiceover skills, before preparing for your industry launch.

COURSE LENGTH	3 terms, full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	12
SELECTION PROCEDURE	Online audition
APPLICATION COSTS	£25



PROFESSIONAL VOICE STUDIES MFA

This is an exciting and uniquely designed course providing the opportunity to undertake specialised voice training within an internationally-acclaimed drama school setting. The course is eclectic in its approach, drawing on a range of approaches and practitioners. You will have the opportunity to coach acting students on the School's professional-standard productions as part of your training.

COURSE LENGTH	3 terms, full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	8
SELECTION PROCEDURE	Interview and assessment
APPLICATION COSTS	Free



SCREEN ACTING MA

This is a highly specialised course for actors with previous acting training and/or experience who wish to further explore techniques relating to camera and screen. This vocational course provides advanced training in screen work. It focuses on refining performance techniques, understanding the nuances of camera work, and mastering the art of storytelling.

COURSE LENGTH	3 terms, full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	20
SELECTION PROCEDURE	Multiple-round audition with self-tape
APPLICATION COSTS	£25



DRAMA DIRECTING MA

This course covers the artistic, creative and collaborative skills needed to become a confident and effective drama director, capable of leading your own projects and developing work with producing organisations. By working on realised productions staged in professional theatre venues, you will develop a sophisticated understanding of the protocols and processes involved in drama production.

COURSE LENGTH	3 terms, full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	8
SELECTION PROCEDURE	Interview and project proposal
APPLICATION COSTS	Free



PERFORMANCE DESIGN MA

This specialist course provides vocational training to prepare you for a career in designing for performance. You'll develop a broad range of practical, creative and technical skills by engaging in skills-based classes as well as a combination of project and production work. You'll also have opportunities to foster collaborations with students from your course, as well as other creatives across the School.

COURSE LENGTH	3 terms, full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	8
SELECTION PROCEDURE	Interview and portfolio
APPLICATION COSTS	Free



DRAMA WRITING MA

This vocational course nurtures your unique creative approach towards writing original drama for stage, radio and screen, alongside developing a systematic understanding of dramatic writing as art, craft and business. You'll graduate as an adaptable and imaginative writer with a broad portfolio of industry-ready work, offering professional skills for creating scripts in a variety of producing contexts.

COURSE LENGTH	3 terms, full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	8
SELECTION PROCEDURE	Interview and submission of 25-minute script for stage
APPLICATION COSTS	Free



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT [OLDVIC.AC.UK](http://oldvic.ac.uk)/SHORT-COURSES TO BOOK ONTO OUR STAND-OUT SHORT COURSES

SHORT COURSES

Photo credit: Ed Felton

IF YOU'RE STILL EXPLORING future career paths or not sure if full-time training is for you, we offer a wide portfolio of short courses in the acting, creative, and technical fields. Our short courses are run by experienced industry professionals who can help you navigate the next steps of your career or hobby. Please note that new courses may launch throughout the year. Stay updated by following us on social media or visiting our website: oldvic.ac.uk/short-courses.

ACTING SUMMER FOUNDATION COURSE (18+)

The ten-week foundation course is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who is interested in beginning a career in acting, improving their skills or learning from industry professionals. This is a non-credit bearing course which immerses you in a conservatoire training environment. You will be taught through a mixture of practical performance projects and masterclasses. You will have a range of classes in acting, movement, voice, dialect, singing, improvisation, stage combat and scene study techniques.

COURSE LENGTH	10 weeks, full-time
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	24
SELECTION PROCEDURE	Online interview, including monologue
APPLICATION COSTS	Free

YOUNG CONSERVATOIRE (16-18)

Young Conservatoire is a comprehensive and immersive programme designed for aspiring actors aged 16 to 18 who wish to embark on a professional acting career. Our weekly evening classes will build a rigorous foundation in acting techniques, voice work and movement studies adopting the practices taught to students at the UK's leading drama schools, whilst providing industry insights and networking opportunities. By joining Young Conservatoire, you'll deepen your knowledge and begin acquiring the key vocational skills of the professional actor, preparing you for the next steps of your career.

COURSE LENGTH	Weekly two-hour evening classes, 3 terms per year
TYPICAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	20
SELECTION PROCEDURE	Audition, including monologue
FEES	£185 per term

ACTOR'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (18+)

Perfect for individuals wanting to develop their acting skills and deepen their understanding of the theatrical arts. The course includes immersive workshops and practical sessions covering character development, text analysis, improvisation, and devising original performances. The programme is split into two levels: Level 1 (Beginner) and Level 2 (Intermediate).

COURSE LENGTH	One year, part-time
FEES	£150 per term

SUNDAY YOUNG ARTISTS – STAGE RIGHT (16-18)

Our Sunday course runs weekly during term time and focuses on performance and production skills. Taught by industry professionals and BOVTS students, each term revolves around a specific theme, covering performance skills, costume, and set design, as well as various roles in theatre production. Students showcase their skills in termly performances.

COURSE LENGTH	One year, part-time
FEES	£140 per term

ACTOR'S LAB (18+)

Suitable for both experienced and emerging performers, our weekly two-hour course is for performers seeking to maintain vocal and physical stamina. Led by a BOVTS tutor, attendees will enhance their skills for auditions and professional opportunities while providing valuable connections with local practitioners.

COURSE LENGTH	One year, part-time
FEES	£150.00 per 10 weeks or £17.50 per drop in session

STAGE & SCREEN COMBAT (16-18)

Learn safe and effective techniques for both armed and unarmed combat. Explore choreography, character work, and performance, with a chance to take an optional exam for an industry-recognised qualification.

COURSE LENGTH	Mon 14th Apr – Thu 17th Apr, 10:00–16:00
FEES	£185

MASTERCLASS: PUPPET MAKING WITH MERIEL PYM (18+)

This practical course offers a unique introduction to puppet making skills. Under the guidance of expert Meriel Pym, you'll craft your own puppet and learn about puppetry, materials, construction, and movement techniques.

COURSE LENGTH	Sunday 1st June, 10:00–16:00
FEES	£85

MASTERING SHAKESPEARE (18+)

This course is for intermediate performers and focuses on Shakespearean text, language, vocal techniques, character psychology, and movement. Participants will work on scenes, present monologues, and ensemble scenes, and end with a final showcase.

COURSE LENGTH	Mon 21st Jul – Fri 25th Jul, 09:30–17:00
FEES	£570

INTERMEDIATE STAGE ACTING (18+)

Ideal for those familiar with contemporary texts, this course provides hands-on exploration of script analysis, vocal techniques, and physicality. Focused on character development and emotional realism, attendees will showcase their work and enhance their connection with contemporary audiences.

COURSE LENGTH	Mon 28th Jul – Fri 1st Aug, 09:30–17:00
FEES	£570

INTERMEDIATE SCREEN ACTING (18+)

Perfect for actors wanting to improve their screen acting using Sanford Meisner techniques. This course expands on foundational concepts, focusing on living truthfully on camera and modern audition practices. You'll receive hands-on practice and personalised feedback to refine your abilities.

COURSE LENGTH	Mon 4th Aug – Fri 8th Aug, 09:30–17:00
FEES	£570



Photo credit: Ed Felton

SUMMER FILM CAMP (17-18)

Get hands-on experience in all aspects of filmmaking, from acting and directing to cinematography and sound. Work with industry professionals and BOVTS students to create a film project showcased at a premiere event.

COURSE LENGTH	Mon 18th Aug – Fri 22nd Aug, 10:00–15:00
FEES	£255

ONLINE MASTERCLASSES (18+)

Dive deep into a specific skill with our online masterclasses. These affordable and flexible courses are suitable for all skill levels and offer an intensive overview of practical exercises and technical preparation. See our website for specific information on the individual courses.

- Masterclass: Self Tape
- Masterclass: Character Development
- Masterclass: RP
- Masterclass: Voice for Stage

COURSE LENGTH	Three hours, 14:00–17:00
FEES	£40 each

DESIGN A PLAY IN 5 DAYS (18+)

Explore the fundamentals of set and costume design for theatre in a hands-on program suitable for all skill levels. Receive guidance from industry experts, develop design concepts, and create a model box to enhance your portfolio and confidence in performance design.

COURSE LENGTH	Mon 1st Sep – Fri 5th Sep, 09:30–17:00
FEES	£570

INTRO SERIES (18+)

Get started with a new skill with one of our introduction courses. Suitable for all skill levels, each course offers an intensive overview of essential skills, guided by expert tutors selected for their expertise in each discipline. Course lengths and fees vary per course, please visit our website for detailed information.

- Introduction to General American
- Introduction to Suzuki
- Introduction to Screen Acting
- Introduction to Playwriting
- Introduction to Prop Making

COURSE FEES & LENGTH	Varies per course
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FIND OUT MORE



Photo credit: Doty McCormack

VISIT OR FOLLOW US!

WE HOPE THIS PROSPECTUS has given you a feel for the School, our city and our training. You can find full details of all of our degree courses by visiting oldvic.ac.uk/course-finder.

There are lots of ways that you can find out more about Bristol Old Vic Theatre School:


- Meet us in person by coming along to our open events, or meeting staff at various careers events that we attend across the country
 - Come and see one of our many productions! Find out what's on by visiting oldvic.ac.uk/events-shows
 - Sign up for our prospective student mailing list at oldvic.ac.uk/mailling-list, or follow us on Instagram, Facebook, X, TikTok or Youtube.
- student-recruitment@oldvic.ac.uk**


WORLD-CLASS TRAINING MADE IN BRISTOL


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