



**drama uk**

# Guide to Professional Training in Drama & Technical Theatre

[dramauk.co.uk](http://dramauk.co.uk)



# What's different about Drama UK schools?

Drama UK schools offer a comprehensive and professional training, which is focused and vocational. Instead of learning academically through seminars and lectures, the emphasis is on practical application and working in the industry.

## Professional

Students will be trained by staff with professional experience and by visiting industry professionals. Drama UK schools' training responds to the ever-evolving demands of the professional industry.

## Intensive

Courses are full-time and very demanding. Students are expected to push themselves, working long hours and immersing themselves in their work.

## Work-orientated

Students are being trained to do a job. Although courses lead to an academic qualification, including diplomas, degrees and masters degrees, these courses are practical training and preparation for entering the creative industries.



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# Introduction

**Welcome to the Drama UK Guide to Professional Training in Drama & Technical Theatre - a guide we trust takes you on the road towards your chosen career.**

A career, whether performing on stage or screen; working off stage or behind camera; directing or writing is exciting and hugely rewarding. It is an industry that welcomes and values talent, skills, passion and dedication. In this fast moving digital age it is important to understand the skills needed to both meet the demands of an ever-evolving industry and to give you the best possible opportunity to enter the profession and to sustain a career.

This industry in the UK directly contributes £2.2bn to the UK economy each year and is recognised internationally as world class and world leading. It offers a very wide range of varied careers in a sector that government figures show is rapidly increasing. To sustain this successful and developing performing arts sector what is needed is a skilled, trained workforce. Drama UK provides a unique link between the industry and training providers, with Drama UK member schools providing the essential practical and vocational training required.

Where to look and how to obtain advice on training for your chosen career can be daunting. This guide to professional training in the creative industries, together with the advice available on the Drama UK website - [www.dramauk.co.uk](http://www.dramauk.co.uk) - aims to help and support you. An important development is our new technical web pages, opening a window on a variety of creative careers and training opportunities available in this area.

Drama UK schools are committed to widening access and participation. This industry increasingly looks to reflect the Britain we live in and to employ people from every section of our communities. Equal and fair access to training for all - from whatever cultural, BAME or socio-economic group - is essential to ensure diversity in our workforce for the future. Drama UK through its research, advocacy and partnerships with industry, works to support and achieve such diversity.

A vital element of Drama UK's remit is to lobby at the highest levels so as to maintain funding and access to training - funding that is essential to ensure the UK retains its place at the forefront of excellence in training provision for this sector.

Drama UK, both in this guide and on our website, gives clear and impartial advice for your training and future professional career in the performing arts - supporting you on your first steps into this exciting industry.

**Ian Kellgren**  
*Chief Executive*  
**Drama UK**



# Career Paths in the Broadcasting, Theatre and Media Industries:



Design

Production

Lighting

Construction

Sound

Stage management

Performance

## Drama UK champions quality Drama training

The UK is world-renowned for producing exceptionally talented actors, directors, technicians, designers and writers in live performance and recorded media.

These individuals need passion and drive to succeed in famously uncertain careers. They also need access to the professional training that allows them to develop the skills essential for forging a career in an evolving and expanding employment landscape. Drama UK provides a unique link between the industry and training providers and this guide is the ideal starting point for anyone interested in professional drama training.

We trust this guide helps you in finding the course best suited to you and wish you every success with your training and future career. For our latest information and wider course listings, please refer to our website. If you cannot find what you need then do please contact us. We are here to advise and support you on, this, the first step of your professional training.

## Training options

### Why choose a Drama UK school?

Drama UK's member schools represent the highest standards of training within the vocational drama sector and offer a direct route into the profession. Graduates are currently working worldwide on stage, in front of the camera and behind the scenes in theatre, film and radio.

### What courses are available?

Drama UK schools offer diverse levels of training: foundation, undergraduate degree and diploma and postgraduate, with courses running from one to three years.

### Where should I study?

Many contributing factors will count towards the final decision of which school you wish to attend. Pages 14-22 offer a short description of each Drama UK school, courses on offer and qualifications they lead to. Visiting each school you are considering is an

important part of your decision, as it will give you a feel for each place and the style of training on offer.

### Are shorter courses available?

Most schools offer a rich programme of summer courses, short courses, weekend and evening classes for all ages. For further details, please check the 'Course Finder' on Drama UK's website.

### Is performance the only option?

Many member schools also offer vocational training in technical theatre, production and stage management. In addition, a number of students use their performing arts training as a stepping stone to other careers. Although Drama UK advocates that vocational training at a member school offers the best preparation for a career in the industry, there are other routes into the industry and other courses available from alternative training providers.



# Applying to drama school

Competition at Drama UK schools is intense - approximately twenty applications are received for each available place. Early submission is advised. Applicants should check application requirements by referring to each individual school's website, which will detail the process relevant to their institution.

Preliminary auditions/interviews are usually held between November-April each year. Prior to this, prospective students will need to submit an application demonstrating educational achievement, relevant experience, interdisciplinary ability and communication skills. Additionally, applicants will be asked to submit a photo (performance courses only), audition or interview fee, academic/professional reference, and may also be required to complete a medical questionnaire.

### Making a choice

It is important that prospective students research which college to apply to. While they might have a preferred school, it is advisable to apply to more than one. Auditions and open days are an excellent way to observe the environment, speak to current students and make an informed judgement.

Drama UK does not recommend that applicants seek the opinions of students who graduated several years ago. Most schools undergo frequent changes and current students or recent graduates are best placed to convey what a school is like.

### Offers

Each year many thousands of applicants compete for around 1000 places within Drama UK schools. Some applicants may be offered places on a number of courses. Drama UK operates a policy of not allowing any applicant to accept a place at more than one institution. If a student accepts an offer from a Drama UK school and subsequently receives a preferable offer, the first must be declined and the second one accepted. Applicants can continue to do this until 1 July, after which date schools exchange offer lists.

### Equity

Equity is the trade union for creative professionals and performers working in the UK entertainment industry, focussing on giving its members a voice and supporting them throughout their careers.

Students on a full-time vocational course lasting one year or more are eligible for Equity student membership, costing £18 a year. This provides their Equity name, regular information, discounts and access to useful contacts. If entitled to work in the UK, graduates are eligible to join Equity as full members. For further details contact Equity Student Coordinator, Charlotte Bence: [cbence@equity.org.uk](mailto:cbence@equity.org.uk), 020 7670 0269.

### Drama UK & diversity

All members of Drama UK are committed to a policy of widening access, to reflect the social and cultural diversity of society.

# Auditions & interviews

## Acting & Musical Theatre courses

Drama UK schools will audition most applicants for acting and musical theatre courses, as this is considered the best way to gauge students' potential. Applicants will normally be expected to prepare one or two short speeches and to perform without a script. Each school will outline their requirements but speeches are generally between two to three minutes in length and should be classical and modern pieces that contrast in mood and tone. Applicants may be asked to take part in improvisation and voice sessions. Musical Theatre course applicants will also be expected to sing (usually two contrasting songs) and may attend a dance/movement workshop.

Everyone is nervous at an audition. The audition panel is not looking for a polished performance, more an understanding of character and the ability to connect with the text with intelligence and feeling. The panel may ask applicants to perform the speech again in a different way to evaluate their ability to respond to direction. Audition days can also provide an opportunity for applicants to ask questions and inspect the premises and location.

Some schools have several rounds of auditions so prospective students may be called back. DaDA applicants may have to attend a recall audition if they are to be offered an Award. An interview may also be part of the application process.

## Technical Theatre courses

Most schools select by interview for technical theatre courses. Applicants will be asked to present a work portfolio (e.g. sketches, models, photographs, prompt books, costume, light, sound and set designs). Interviews may last all day and could include discussions/group exercises, being shown around the school and having the opportunity to talk to and see the work of students already on the course.

It is important to be clear about what is required from you for audition and interviews. When making an application for a course the individual school will give you full details of how to apply and what is required and costs involved. If you are unsure then contact the Admissions Office. The more information you have, the more prepared you will be. Please refer to Drama UK's website for further advice regarding auditions and interviews.

# Funding information

Training at drama school is costly. There is no one single way in which training can be funded; it varies depending on the school. Basically there are two sources of government funding: Higher Education funding and Dance and Drama Awards (DaDA). Please note that fees for all forms of Higher and Further Education may change and the information provided here is correct at the time of publication.

## Higher Education (HE) Funding

At the time of writing this Guide, Drama UK Schools supported exclusively by HEFCE funding were still considering fees and charges for 2016-17. Information on the government's plans can be found on the web pages of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills or [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance).

## Dance and Drama Awards (DaDA)

Currently students in receipt of a DaDA are means tested according to national scales and may receive support for their course fees and also apply for income assessed maintenance of up to £5,185 a year to help with living costs. This support is in the form of a grant not a loan, and therefore does not have to be repaid. Each year there are a limited number of Awards which are allocated by schools to those students who have been judged at audition to have the most potential to succeed in the profession and are in most financial need. Further DaDA and eligibility information is available at [www.dadainfo.org.uk](http://www.dadainfo.org.uk) and the Learner Support Helpline: 0800 121 8989.

## Professional and Career Development Loans

You may be eligible to apply for a Professional and Career Development Loan (PCDL). For full details visit [www.gov.uk/career-development-loans](http://www.gov.uk/career-development-loans). Loans are available up to £10,000.

## Full Fee payers

Students who receive neither HEFCE nor DaDA funding can expect to pay fees in the region of £14,000 per year for their training, and additionally will need to fund their own maintenance, although they may still be eligible for Student Loan funding towards the cost of tuition fees and living expenses. The total cost of funding a three-year independent programme, including living costs can be substantial. Info on where to find funding and useful contacts can be found on the Drama UK website, [www.dramauk.co.uk/funding](http://www.dramauk.co.uk/funding).

## Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Students/Non-UK EU Students

For further advice, please visit the following websites:

England  
W: [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

Scotland  
W: [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

Wales  
W: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

Northern Ireland  
W: [www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk)





# Drama UK accredited schools

Drama UK accredited schools represent the highest standards of training within the vocational drama sector. Drama UK schools provide courses that include Acting, Musical Theatre, Writing, Directing, Design, Production, Stage Management and all aspects of Technical Theatre.

All vocational courses run by the accredited schools are professional, intensive and provide a direct route into the profession. Graduates from these courses are currently working on stage, in front of the camera and behind the scenes in the broadcasting, theatre and media industry worldwide.

Drama UK accreditation gives students confidence that these courses are seen by the drama profession as being relevant to the purpose of their employment and offers the profession confidence that the people they employ from these courses have the skills and attributes required for the continuing health of the industry.

Accreditation involves a rigorous assessment by Drama UK, through documentary review, observation of course delivery by a panel of industry experts, assessment of facilities and discussion with course tutors and students.

For full details about accreditation and accredited schools please visit [www.dramauk.co.uk](http://www.dramauk.co.uk)



# Drama UK student spotlight



**Juma Sharkah** graduated from the BA (Hons) Acting course at **Arts Educational Schools**, London in 2015, and made her professional debut in *Liberian Girl* at the Royal Court Theatre, for which she was nominated for a 2015 Olivier Award for 'Outstanding achievement in an affiliate theatre'.

"Being trained at a Drama UK school has helped me immeasurably throughout the audition, rehearsal and performance stages of *Liberian Girl*. The three years I spent at ArtsEd built my confidence as a performer - the course was exactly what I needed and allowed me to fully utilise the skills and voice work that I had been taught. The tutors care about you not only as an actor, but also as a person. They want the best for you and bring out the best in you."



**Kane Oliver Parry** graduated with a BA (Hons) in Performance (Musical Theatre) from **Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts** in 2013. Whilst in his third year of training, he was ensemble/first cover Galileo in *We Will Rock You*. His work since graduating has included *Sweeney Todd* (English National Opera), Llewellyn in *The Light Princess* (National Theatre), and Robbie the Stockfish in *Urinetown* (Apollo Theatre).

"I had an amazing three years at Mountview. Being at a Drama UK college gave me a discipline and breadth of study that was the best possible training for a career I love. From intensive dance sessions to one-to-one singing lessons and the finest acting training, everything was there to support me."



**James Adkins** graduated from the **Guildhall School's** BA (Hons) Technical Theatre Arts degree in 2013, where he studied on the Theatre Technology pathway. He is a Catalyst, D3 and Resolume technician, most recently working on The Pet Shop Boys, The Human League, QUEX, and Sarah Brightman's tours. He also works on bespoke projects and events such as Queens NYE Bash, Creamfields, Elton John Sports Aid Live and Westfield Hidden House.

"Guildhall provided me with great opportunities both inside and outside the course. The course helped me to develop contacts round the globe and with some of the largest companies within my industry; these have been invaluable since leaving. Guildhall also provided a safe, stress-free environment to test and work on ideas; this has helped me to always have a calm presence on site, which has been praised as one of my highest attributes by employers."

# Where to train

This section gives information on the courses offered by Drama UK accredited schools and how to find out more.





# Where should I study?

Drama UK represents the top UK drama schools, offering comprehensive and professional training which is focused and vocational. One of the key aims of Drama UK is to safeguard the highest standards and provide a credible process of quality assurance for drama and drama related courses in further and higher education. The courses are intensive and demanding and require commitment. All courses listed fulfil the criteria for conservatoire training. Accreditation by Drama UK (previously NCDT) has been an industry acknowledged quality mark since 1976.

## ALRA The Academy of Live & Recorded Arts [alra.co.uk](http://alra.co.uk)

ALRA is the first drama school to offer identical training at opposite ends of the country. ALRA's London site is located near Clapham Junction, in a Victorian Gothic mansion on Wandsworth Common. ALRA North is a new, state-of-the-art centre located in Wigan, Lancashire. ALRA has a reputation as a drama school that produces down-to-earth, committed actors, ready to work, and full of character and drive; they're interesting, and interested.

### Courses

- 3 Year Acting
- 15 Month Post Graduate Acting
- 2 year Stage Management and Technical Theatre Course.

ALRA  
The Academy  
of Live & Recorded Arts  
Main Reception Office  
The Royal Victoria Patriotic Building  
John Archer Way  
London  
SW18 3SX  
T: +44 (0) 20 8870 6475  
E: [info@alra.co.uk](mailto:info@alra.co.uk)  
W: [www.alra.co.uk](http://www.alra.co.uk)

## ArtsEd Arts Educational Schools, London [artsed.co.uk](http://artsed.co.uk)

ArtsEd is recognised across the globe as a centre of excellence for training in the performing arts. Our Musical Theatre BA (Hons) offers a triple threat undergraduate training for the profession and our Acting BA (Hons) comprises a comprehensive training for stage, film and television. Our links to the industry are second to none, and our recent graduates have enjoyed success at the RSC, Globe, Manchester Royal Exchange and in Film, Television and the West End.

### Courses

- BA (Hons) Acting
- BA (Hons) Musical Theatre
- MA Acting.

ArtsEd  
Arts Educational Schools London  
Cone Ripman House  
14 Bath Road  
London  
W4 1LY  
T: +44 (0) 20 8987 6666  
E: [receptionist@artsed.co.uk](mailto:receptionist@artsed.co.uk)  
W: [www.artsed.co.uk](http://www.artsed.co.uk)

## BSA Birmingham School of Acting [bcu.ac.uk/bsa](http://bcu.ac.uk/bsa)

Birmingham School of Acting (BSA) is close to the vibrant city centre with its wide range of theatres, art galleries, and nightlife. The Royal Shakespeare Company is also close at hand. BSA provides professional, contemporary training in a friendly, supportive environment that enables talent to develop. Whether you join as an actor, stage manager, applied performance practitioner or voice professional, BSA's committed staff will challenge and guide you to achieve your full potential.

### Courses

- BA (Hons) Acting
- BA (Hons) Applied Performance (Community and Education)
- BA (Hons) Stage Management
- MA Acting
- MFA Acting (The British Tradition)
- MA Professional Voice Practice.

### BSA Birmingham School of Acting

Millennium Point  
Curzon Street  
Birmingham  
B4 7XG

T: +44 (0) 121 331 7220  
E: [info@bsa.bcu.ac.uk](mailto:info@bsa.bcu.ac.uk)  
W: [www.bcu.ac.uk/bsa](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/bsa)  
F: +44 (0) 121 331 7221



## Drama Centre London [arts.ac.uk/csm/ drama-centre-london](http://arts.ac.uk/csm/drama-centre-london)

Drama Centre offers an inspirational, passionate environment for those who are resolutely serious about their careers. The school develops individualistic, self-reliant, rounded and accomplished professionals. Its students enter with confidence the world of the classics as well as engaging with new writing and screen work. Graduates include: Tom Hardy, Michael Fassbender, Colin Firth, Emilia Clarke, Gemma Chan, Paul Bettany, Pierce Brosnan, Simon Callow, Frances de la Tour, Anne-Marie Duff, Tara Fitzgerald, Helen McCrory and John Simm.

### Courses

- BA Acting
- MA Directing (4 year Integrated Masters incorporating BA Honours degree and MA)
- MA Acting
- MA Dramatic Writing
- MA Screen Acting
- MA Screen Directing.

### Drama Centre London

Central Saint Martins  
University of the Arts  
London Granary Building  
1 Granary Square  
London  
N1C 4AA

T: +44 (0) 20 7514 8769  
E: [drama.centre.admissions@csm.arts.ac.uk](mailto:drama.centre.admissions@csm.arts.ac.uk)  
W: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/csm/drama-centre-london>



## Drama Studio London [dramastudiolondon.co.uk](http://dramastudiolondon.co.uk)

At Drama Studio London the training is passionate, personalised and challenging. All of the faculty are working professionals who bring individual expertise and experience. We ensure that we help students learn how to be an actor and not just how to act. The training in every department is absolutely relevant; developing and promoting each individual talent. Each student learns their own process and leaves self-reliant and confident.

### Courses

- 1 Year Diploma in Professional Acting
- 2 Year Diploma in Professional Acting.

### Drama Studio London

Grange Court  
1 Grange Road  
Ealing London  
W5 5QN

T: +44 (0) 20 8579 3897  
E: [admissions@dramastudiolondon.co.uk](mailto:admissions@dramastudiolondon.co.uk)  
W: [www.dramastudiolondon.co.uk](http://www.dramastudiolondon.co.uk)



## East 15 Acting School [east15.ac.uk](http://east15.ac.uk)

For over 50 years, East 15 has produced actors, directors, theatre practitioners and technicians. One of the UK's most innovative and international schools, East 15 grew from the work of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop. Today it has over 750 students and offers a range of innovative undergraduate and postgraduate courses. East 15 has two well-equipped campuses, each with their own theatres, in Loughton and Southend-on-Sea and is part of the University of Essex.

### Courses

- BA Acting
- BA Acting (International)
- BA Acting and Community Theatre
- BA Acting and Contemporary Theatre
- BA Acting and Stage Combat
- BA Physical Theatre
- BA Stage and Production Management
- BA World Performance
- MA Acting
- MA/MFA Acting (International)
- MA/MFA Theatre Directing.

### East 15 Acting School

University of Essex  
Loughton Campus  
Hatfields  
Rectory Lane  
Loughton IG10 3RY  
UK

University of Essex  
Southend Campus  
Elmer Approach  
Southend-on-Sea  
SS1 1LW

T: +44 (0) 20 8508 5983  
E: [east15@essex.ac.uk](mailto:east15@essex.ac.uk)  
W: [www.east15.ac.uk](http://www.east15.ac.uk)  
F: +44 (0) 20 8508 7521

## GSA Guildford School of Acting gsauk.org

Part of the University of Surrey, Guildford School of Acting (GSA) is one of the most highly regarded theatre schools in the UK and arguably the foremost musical theatre school in the world. GSA provides conservatoire-style training within a university environment. As a GSA student you will receive all the benefits of being part of one of the top universities in the country while training in our purpose-built studios. We produce versatile, highly skilled performers, stage managers and technicians who sustain long term careers in the performing arts and entertainment industry.

### Courses

- BA (Hons) Acting (Trinity Diploma in Professional Acting)
- BA (Hons) Actor Musician
- BA (Hons) Musical Theatre (Trinity Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre)
- BA (Hons) Production Skills
- MA Acting
- MA Musical Theatre
- MA Creative Practice and Direction.

### GSA Guildford School of Acting

Stag Hill Campus  
University of Surrey  
Guildford  
GU2 7XH

T: +44 (0) 1483 684040  
E: gsaenquiries@gsa.surrey.ac.uk  
W: www.gsauk.org  
F: +44 (0) 1483 684070

## Guildhall School of Music & Drama gsmd.ac.uk

Situated in the City of London, the Guildhall School is a lively, friendly community of actors, theatre technicians and musicians. Based within new state-of-the-art facilities at Milton Court the Acting and Technical Theatre Arts Departments are intimate and supportive. Their programmes are held in high regard by the profession for the passion, quality and rigour of the teaching, the emphasis on the integration of craft training and the strong ensemble ethic shared by staff and students.

### Courses

- BA (Hons) Acting - 3 Year Full-Time Programme
- MA Acting - 3 Year Full-Time Programme
- BA (Hons) Technical Theatre Arts - 3 Year Full-Time Programme
- BA (Hons) Video Design for Live Performance - 3 Year Full-Time Programme
- MA Collaborative Theatre Production & Design - 1 year Full-Time Programme.

### Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Silk Street  
Barbican  
London  
EC2Y 8DT

T: +44 (0) 20 7382 2323  
E: drama@gsmd.ac.uk  
W: www.gsmd.ac.uk

## Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts italiaconti-acting.co.uk

Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts is a world-renowned centre for actor training. Its graduates populate the performance industries and it is this commercial edge that makes the BA (Hons) Acting Programme unique. It is one of the country's leading vocational acting courses with an emphasis on professional development and employability.

### Courses

- Three-year BA (Hons) Acting.

### Italia Conti Academy

Avondale  
72 Landor Rd  
Clapham  
London  
SW9 9PH

T: +44 (0) 20 7733 3210  
E: acting@italiaconti.co.uk  
W: www.italiaconti-acting.co.uk  
F: +44 (0) 20 7737 2728

## LIPA The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts lipa.ac.uk

Founded in 1995, we are a small, specialist, creative higher education institution for performers and those who make performance possible. Our purpose is to prepare students for sustained work. Collaboration between disciplines is central to the student experience here for our designers, managers, technicians, actors, dancers, musicians and applied theatre and community drama practitioners. Sir Paul McCartney, who is our lead patron, has concluded we are one of the best performing arts schools in the world.

### Courses

- BA (Hons) Acting
- BA (Hons) Theatre and Performance Design
- BA (Hons) Sound Technology
- BA (Hons) Applied Theatre and Community Drama
- BA (Hons) Theatre and Performance Technology.

### LIPA The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

Mount Street  
Liverpool  
L1 9HF

T: +44 (0) 151 330 3000  
E: reception@lipa.ac.uk  
W: www.lipa.ac.uk  
F: +44 (0) 151 330 3131



## Manchester School of Theatre

Manchester  
Metropolitan University  
[theatre.mmu.ac.uk](http://theatre.mmu.ac.uk)

Manchester School of Theatre at the Manchester Metropolitan University has a long standing international reputation for preparing students for careers as professional actors. Integrating the demands of a disciplined and highly vocational skill based training with the collaborative nature of an ensemble ethos, the School prides itself in delivering uniquely challenging and enabling training programmes for those wishing to pursue careers in professional theatre, film and TV.

### Courses

- Three-year BA (Hons) Acting.

### Manchester School of Theatre

T: +44 (0) 161 247 6969  
E: [courses@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:courses@mmu.ac.uk)  
W: [www.theatre.mmu.ac.uk](http://www.theatre.mmu.ac.uk)

## MOUNTVIEW

ACADEMY OF THEATRE ARTS

## Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts

[mountview.org.uk](http://mountview.org.uk)

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts is one of the UK's leading drama schools, with a long-standing, international reputation for providing the highest quality training to actors, actor musicians, musical theatre performers, theatre directors, musical directors and theatre technicians. Based in North London, Mountview has 400 students studying on foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate courses and also runs a thriving series of Saturday and summer schools for young people, amateur actors and directors.

### Courses

- BA (Hons) Performance (Acting)
- BA (Hons) Performance (Musical Theatre)
- BA (Hons) Performance (Actor Musician)
- BA (Hons)/FdA in Theatre Production Arts
- Trinity Diploma in Professional Acting
- Trinity Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre
- MA/PG Dip Performance (Acting)
- MA/PG Dip Performance (Musical Theatre)
- MA/PG Dip Theatre Directing
- MA/PG Dip in Musical Direction
- MA/PG Dip in Writing Musicals
- MA/PG Dip in Creative Producing

### Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts

Kingfisher Place  
Clarendon Road  
London  
N22 6XF

T: +44 (0) 20 8881 2201  
E: [admissions@mountview.org.uk](mailto:admissions@mountview.org.uk)  
W: [www.mountview.org.uk](http://www.mountview.org.uk)



## Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance

[bruford.ac.uk](http://bruford.ac.uk)

Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance, top-rated for student satisfaction in the 2014 National Student Survey, offers 16 university-level vocational and professional BA and MA degree courses (taught and online) in performance, design and technical theatre. RBC pioneered the first UK BA degrees in Acting in 1976 and Lighting Design in 1994. Our parkland campus includes 4 modern theatres, rehearsal studios and specialist technical workshops. The College has recently opened a 168 en-suite room accommodation block 5 minutes from the campus.

### Courses

- BA (Hons) Acting
- BA (Hons) Actor Musician
- BA (Hons) American Theatre Arts
- BA (Hons) Costume Production
- BA (Hons) Creative Lighting Control
- BA (Hons) European Theatre Arts
- BA (Hons) Lighting Design
- BA (Hons) Performance Sound
- BA (Hons) Scenic Arts
- BA (Hons) Stage Management
- BA (Hons) Theatre Design
- MA Ensemble
- MA Theatre for Young Audiences.

### Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance

Lamorby Park Campus  
Burnt Oak Lane  
Sidcup  
Kent  
DA15 9DF

T: +44 (0) 20 8308 2600  
E: [enquiries@bruford.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bruford.ac.uk)  
W: [www.bruford.ac.uk](http://www.bruford.ac.uk)  
F: +44 (0) 20 8308 0542

## ROYAL CENTRAL

SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

University of London  
[cssd.ac.uk](http://cssd.ac.uk)

The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama is a specialist college of drama, performance and the theatre arts offering a diverse portfolio of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees, with facilities among the UK's most extensive and best. Central welcomes and actively encourages a diverse and international student and staff body.

### Courses

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- BA (Hons) Acting (Collaborative & Devised Theatre)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Costume Construction)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Design for the Stage)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Performance Arts)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Production Lighting)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Prop Making)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Puppetry, Design and Performance)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Scenic Art)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Scenic Construction)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Stage Management)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Technical and Production Management)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Theatre Lighting Design)
- BA (Hons) Theatre Practice (Theatre Sound)
- MA Acting - Classical
- MA Acting - Contemporary
- MA Acting for Screen
- MA Music Theatre.

### The Royal Central School of Speech & Drama

University of London  
Eton Avenue  
London  
NW3 3HY

T: +44 (0) 20 7722 8183  
E: [enquiries@cssd.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@cssd.ac.uk)  
W: [www.cssd.ac.uk](http://www.cssd.ac.uk)



## Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

[rcs.ac.uk](http://rcs.ac.uk)

RCS and RWSMD were founding members of Drama UK but face increasingly very different funding circumstances in their nations. It is appropriate for them to be linked to Drama UK but in a new relationship of national partner institutions. They had been fully accredited members schools and so had satisfied the contingent quality assurance bench marks, which now pass to the individual national requirements. They value being part of a united voice for drama training in the UK with strong industry connections. This UK perspective will be demonstrated by their inclusion on the Drama UK website and in this guide. They welcome this mutually advantageous collegiate approach.

For full details of courses please go to the RCS website: [www.rcs.ac.uk](http://www.rcs.ac.uk)

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100 Renfrew Street  
Glasgow  
G2 3DB

T: +44 (0) 141 332 4101  
E: [registry@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:registry@rcs.ac.uk)  
W: [www.rcs.ac.uk](http://www.rcs.ac.uk)  
F: +44 (0) 141 332 8901



## RWCMD Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama

[rwcmd.ac.uk](http://rwcmd.ac.uk)

RCS and RWSMD were founding members of Drama UK but face increasingly very different funding circumstances in their nations. It is appropriate for them to be linked to Drama UK but in a new relationship of national partner institutions. They had been fully accredited members schools and so had satisfied the contingent quality assurance bench marks, which now pass to the individual national requirements. They value being part of a united voice for drama training in the UK with strong industry connections. This UK perspective will be demonstrated by their inclusion on the Drama UK website and in this guide. They welcome this mutually advantageous collegiate approach.

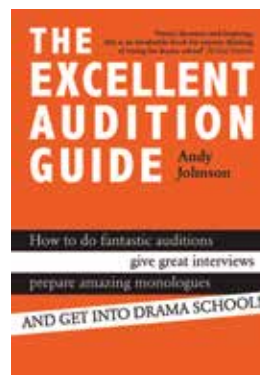
For full details of courses please go to the RWCMD website: [www.rwcmd.ac.uk](http://www.rwcmd.ac.uk)

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Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama  
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Cardiff  
CF10 3ER

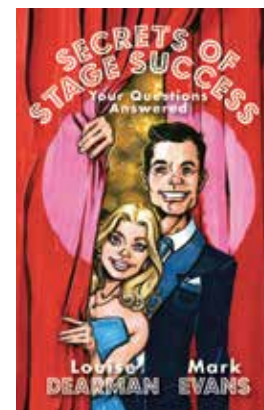
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# Showcases and performance opportunities

Studying at a Drama UK accredited school offers students the chance to take part in a number of different opportunities including the following.

## Drama UK Showcases

Drama UK member schools promote their students to the industry which employs them. Agents, casting directors and other industry professionals are invited to final year productions. Graduating students are also promoted at West End Showcases where they perform to an invited professional audience. Details of all these can be found on the individual school's website or on the Spotlight calendar [www.spotlight.com/calendar](http://www.spotlight.com/calendar). In addition those schools offering technical, design and stage management courses host exhibitions of graduates work - again inviting professional theatre makers and employers.

## American Showcases

In addition to West End showcases produced by individual member schools, Drama UK provides the opportunity for their American graduates to be showcased in New York and Los Angeles. An integral part of the rehearsals and preparation for these showcases are the numerous workshops, feedback and business advisory sessions, providing participants with the opportunity to meet with casting professionals and advisors. These showcases take place in the autumn each year. New York in September; Los Angeles in October.

*"I had felt intimidated at the prospect of going back to the US after being away so long. The showcase and workshops were a wonderful stepping stone to bridge that gap and gave me the platform to begin my career there."*

**Lauren Pisano**  
MFA in Acting, East 15

*"The awesome thing about these showcases is that you get to be part of a cohort of amazing actors from across the UK schools - all in the same situation - straddling two countries and trying to find which way to go. It is really empowering and enabling being part of that group."*

**Garrett Turner**  
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

## Irish Showcase

Each autumn, The Abbey Theatre Dublin hosts a showcase for Irish students graduating from Drama UK member schools. The response to this showcase grows year on year and is now an annual date on the calendar of industry professionals from all over Ireland. This showcase is open to Irish graduates from member schools. Workshops with Abbey professionals are an integral part of the Irish Showcase experience. There is also the possibility of reproducing this showcase in London.

*"Apart from the showcase itself, the session with The Abbey's casting director Kelly Phelan was honest and informative, offering advice on auditions and what she looks for when auditioning."*

**Eleanor McLoughlin**  
Drama Centre



## BBC Radio Carleton Hobbs Bursary

The Carleton Hobbs Bursary is run by the BBC Radio Drama Department for graduate students from Drama UK member schools. This bursary offers a unique opportunity to new acting talent and complements the work with the BBC invests across the board in new writing and directing talent. Winners are offered a contract with the BBC Radio Drama Company. This offers the opportunity for the successful graduates to extend learning and training in a unique acting environment - one where they work with the best actors and writers in the country on a wide range of contemporary and classic plays. Past winners have included Richard Griffiths and Stephen Tompkinson.

## Shakespeare's Globe

Each year two acting students from each of the Drama UK member schools participate in the Sam Wanamaker Festival, presenting scenes by Shakespeare and his contemporaries to a packed Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Two stage management students join the company to assist with the festival. All the students participate in a weekend of workshops led by Globe practitioners culminating in the performance and a mighty jig.

## Royal Shakespeare Company

The RSC in conjunction with Drama UK, run Classic Text workshops for third year students from Drama UK member schools. The workshops in Stratford upon Avon are run over two

days and students spend time working with RSC practitioners and meeting members of the RSC creative and casting departments. In addition there are annual workshops for directing students from member schools.

## Edinburgh Fringe Drama UK And The Scottish Daily Mail Drama Award

This is an annual award for final year and new graduates to take a new and student led work to the Edinburgh Fringe. The award is for £10,000. Recent successful recipients have played to sell out houses in Edinburgh and have had London transfers for their work. The award was established to support and promote young talent at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This is available to student actors, directors, writers, technicians.

## Spotlight Prize

Every summer, graduating Drama UK acting students nominated by their schools are invited to perform at the prestigious Spotlight Showcase in front of a VIP audience of agents, casting professionals and other industry figures. They compete to win two awards - Best Actor (£2,000) and Highly Commended Actor (£1,500) - judged by a panel of industry experts. The event gives unrivalled industry exposure to the nominated students.

For full details of all overseas showcase opportunities please contact [j.tisdall@dramauk.co.uk](mailto:j.tisdall@dramauk.co.uk).



# Other Drama UK quality marks

## Drama UK Recognition

Launched in 2012, Recognition is a quality mark which is awarded to undergraduate and postgraduate performing and technical theatre arts courses across both Higher and Further Education. These are high quality performance courses which provide a pipeline of talent into the creative industries but that are outside the conservatoire level of vocational training provided by the Drama UK accredited schools.

## Recognition involves three broad tests:

1. Are the aims and objectives of the course clearly stated and is there evidence that these aims and objectives are satisfactorily delivered?
2. Do the aims and objectives of the course provide students with relevant skills, knowledge and abilities for a career across a breadth of vocations relevant to the Creative Industries?
3. Are the outputs of the course consistent with the aims and objectives of the course and credible when viewed objectively?

As with Accreditation, the Recognition process involves a rigorous assessment by Drama UK, including observation of course delivery by a panel of industry experts.

## Drama UK Recognised courses:

- Access to Higher Education Diploma - Drama City Lit: Drama School at City Lit  
W: [www.citylit.ac.uk](http://www.citylit.ac.uk)
- Foundation in Drama 1-Year Course, City Lit: Drama School at City Lit  
W: [www.citylit.ac.uk](http://www.citylit.ac.uk)
- Three-year BA (Hons) Acting, Arts University Bournemouth W: [www.aucb.ac.uk](http://www.aucb.ac.uk)
- Three-year BA (Hons) Drama, Liverpool John Moores University W: [www.ljmu.ac.uk](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk)
- Two-year BA (Hons) Musical Theatre (3rd year entry), University of the West of Scotland  
W: [www.uws.ac.uk](http://www.uws.ac.uk)
- Two-year BA (Hons) Performance (3rd year entry), University of the West of Scotland  
W: [www.uws.ac.uk](http://www.uws.ac.uk)
- Two-year BA (Hons) Contemporary Screen Acting (3rd year entry), University of the West of Scotland  
W: [www.uws.ac.uk](http://www.uws.ac.uk)
- BTEC diploma Acting, Salford City College  
W: [www.salfordcc.ac.uk](http://www.salfordcc.ac.uk)
- BTEC diploma Musical Theatre, Salford City College  
W: [www.salfordcc.ac.uk](http://www.salfordcc.ac.uk)
- BTEC diploma Production Arts, Salford City College  
W: [www.salfordcc.ac.uk](http://www.salfordcc.ac.uk)
- BA (Hons) Acting, University of Central Lancashire  
W: [www.uclan.ac.uk](http://www.uclan.ac.uk)
- BA (Hons) Acting and Theatre Arts Staffordshire University  
W: [www.staffs.ac.uk/course/acting-and-theatre-arts](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/course/acting-and-theatre-arts)

Drama UK will be assessing courses throughout the year so please visit the Drama UK website for the most up to date list of Recognised courses.



Visit [dramauk.co.uk](http://dramauk.co.uk) for:

Course listings - Regularly updated info & advice - Articles from industry experts

## Credits

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### Inside Cover

- Arts Educational Schools, © ArtsEd Films.

### Page 1

- Rose Bruford, BA (Hons) *European Theatre Arts dissertation piece*, © Michael O'Reilly.

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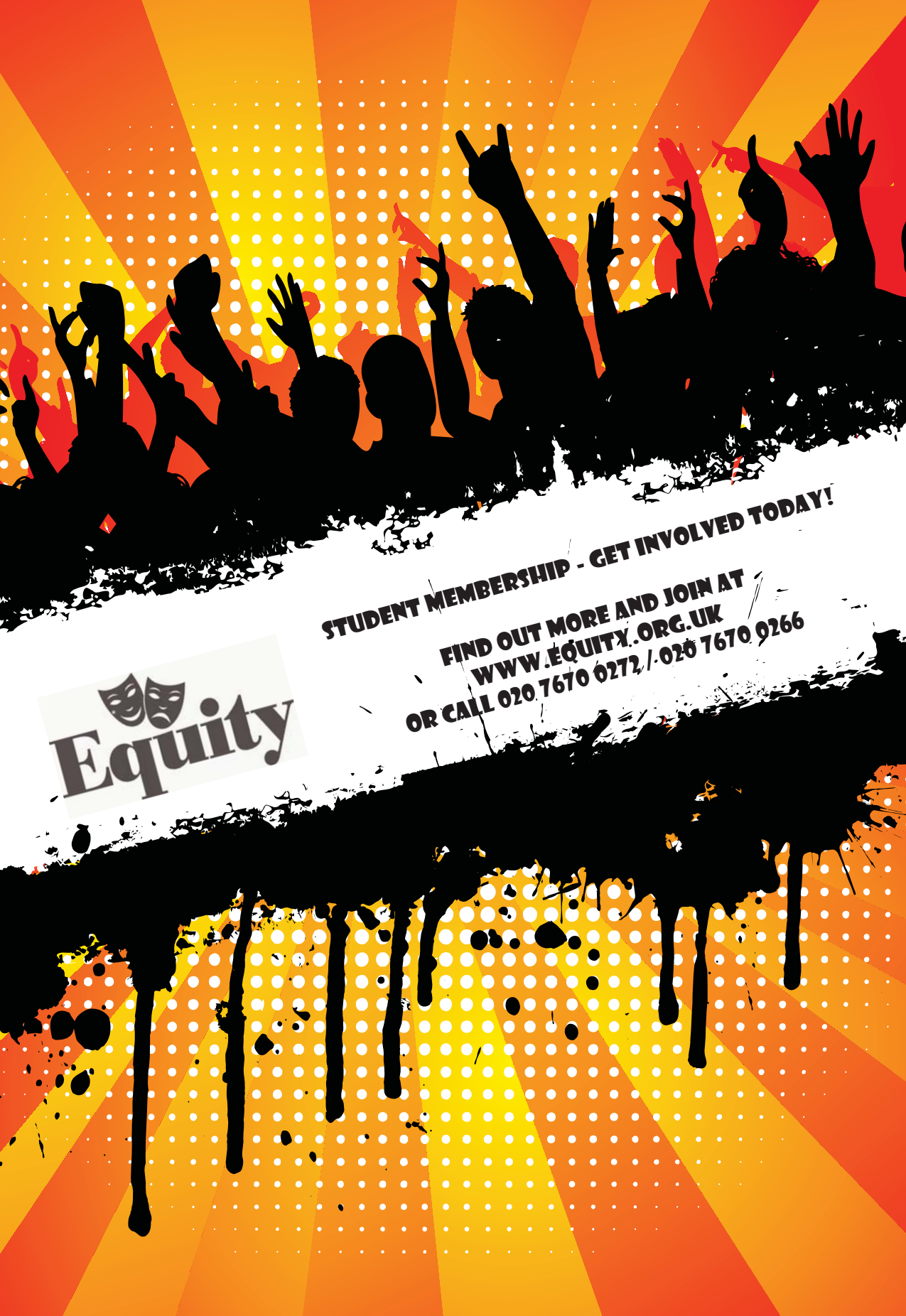
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The graphic features a background of diagonal stripes in shades of orange and yellow, overlaid with a white grid of small dots. At the top, a row of black silhouettes shows people with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. Below this, a white banner with a black, ink-like border contains the Equity logo (two masks) and the word "Equity" in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, the text "STUDENT MEMBERSHIP - GET INVOLVED TODAY!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "FIND OUT MORE AND JOIN AT" is followed by the website "WWW.EQUITY.ORG.UK" and the phone number "OR CALL 020 7670 0272 / 020 7670 0266". The bottom of the graphic features a black, ink-like splash that drips down into the striped background.

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# Spotlight

## About Spotlight

Founded in 1927, Spotlight is the home of casting for over 60,000 professional performers. At the heart of the industry, Spotlight is used by thousands of casting directors, production companies, broadcasters and ad agencies to cast hundreds of roles across Stage, TV, Film, Radio and Commercials. Take any UK film, TV show or theatre production and the chances are that Spotlight was used to find the cast.

Spotlight also publishes Contacts, the essential handbook for the entertainment industry, which lists vital contact information for agents, casting professionals, photographers, rehearsal studios and hundreds of other services tailored to the professional actor.

## Spotlight and Drama UK

Spotlight is passionate about the importance of professional training for actors and has supported the work of Drama UK for many years, most recently with the appointment of Spotlight's Head of Casting, Pippa Harrison to the Drama UK Board.

Final-year students at Drama UK accredited schools are invited to join the unique 'Spotlight Graduates' directory, which is used regularly by casting professionals all over the world as the first port of call for discovering the fresh, new talent the UK has to offer.

Spotlight's homepage features a calendar of all Drama UK schools' performances and showcases, making sure that industry professionals know when and where they can see Drama UK talent in action.

Spotlight also runs a Graduate Programme exclusively for Drama UK students in their final year, where key industry figures are invited to lead sessions ranging from workshops with vocal coaches, to Q&As with casting directors and agents.

Each year, nominated students from every Drama UK school compete in the Spotlight Prize, performing a three-minute monologue in front of a star-studded panel and an exclusively invited audience of agents, casting directors, and producers. The panel then select the winner of Best Actor and Highly Commended Actor, who take home £2,000 and £1,500 prize money respectively.

Drama UK also hosts Showcases in LA, New York and Dublin, all supported by Spotlight.

[www.spotlight.com](http://www.spotlight.com)

Spotlight is the UK's leading casting database with over 60,000 actors, presenters and dancers. Spotlight is the best way to market yourself as a performer for professional film, television, stage and commercial work.



# CONTACTS 2016

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