

About Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, the application process, and more about the role of Acting Tutor

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School mission

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's mission is to provide the highest quality education and training in drama for exceptionally talented and committed individuals so that they may achieve their full potential as practitioners, leaders and citizens of the world.

To achieve this we will:

- Attract and select individuals of outstanding talent regardless of background whose ambition is to make their career in the performing arts.
- Provide a learning environment that fosters creativity, curiosity and personal development.
- Promote diversity and inclusivity in all its forms.
- Continually enhance our artistic and educational practice within the context of our ever-changing world.
- Foster collaborative partnerships and initiatives within the creative community locally and globally.
- Be a role model for the future of our industry and serve as an initiator of ideas in the performing arts and arts education sectors.
- Continue to build a robust, sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation and business model.

Background to the School

The Theatre School will celebrate its 75th year anniversary in October 2021. The School trains students in acting, design, costume, technical skills, writing and directing. It operates across three sites in Bristol: the main Downside Rd site in Clifton, its centre for Film, TV and Audio production at Christchurch Studios, and its scenic workshops in south Bristol.

Student productions take place across the City: along with those at Bristol Old Vic Theatre, they are also performed in local venues, including the Tobacco Factory Theatres, Circomedia in St Pauls, the Redgrave Theatre in Clifton, and the Wardrobe Theatre in Old Market.

Until the present academic year, the School presented over 200 public performances each year in Bristol and on tour; including to primary schools in Bristol, playing to some 16,000 young people, and the West Country tour performed in 22 venues within a two-hour drive of Bristol.

The School also has a thriving Sunday Youth Theatre group and runs a range of summer short courses in acting; it is a BFI academy regularly running short courses in Film Production training for 16-18 age students.

Some of the above will be less possible during the 2020-21 academic year due to the effect of Covid-19 but the School recognises how important these activities are and will plan accordingly as further Government guidance is issued.

For further information about the School, please visit: oldvic.ac.uk.

Notable alumni

Notable alumni include: Samantha Bond, Olivia Colman, Bob Crowley, Sir Daniel Day-Lewis, Stephen Dillane, Erin Doherty, Gregory Doran, Nicholas Farrell, Tala Gouveia, Naomie Harris, Joan Iyola, Jeremy Irons, Theo James, Alex Jennings, Pearl Mackie, Ryan McKen, Taheen Modak, Josh O'Connor, Pete Postlethwaite, Miranda Richardson, Joanna Riding, Dame Patricia Routledge, Greta Scacchi, Christopher Shutt, Sir Patrick Stewart, Sophie Thompson, and Dan Winch.

For further information, please visit: oldvic.ac.uk/alumni.

Governance at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School

In addition to the Council of Trustees there are sub-committees of the Trustees – the Audit Committee and the Finance committee. Terms of reference can be found at: oldvic.ac.uk/about-us/staff-governors.

Through its membership of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama (cdd.ac.uk), there is a direct reporting line to the CDD Board of Governors in terms of academic standards, internal audit and financial year-end reporting. CDD is the Higher Education Provider registered with the Office for Students that enables BOVTS and the other five CDD member schools to operate within higher education. Information about the CDD strategy can be found at: cdd.ac.uk/about-us/how-we-work/strategic-plan-2019-24.

The School's current higher education courses are validated by the University of the West of England (UWE). The validation relationship with UWE is governed by an academic agreement renewed every five years and subject to regular reporting on academic standards. The School is an associate school of UWE.

In July 2020 the Theatre School's Board resolved that the Theatre School would leave CDD with effect from July 2023. The Board and Principal & CEO have created an Exit Plan for CDD, and are actively working towards finding the right Higher Education Provider which will truly reflect and enhance the Theatre School's mission, values and ethos.

More information about the role

The playful nature of the actor's ensemble runs throughout the 3 Year BA Hons Acting programme. The definition and celebration of the individual and the maintenance of that individuality enables the building, enhancing and honing of performance skills and instincts to create a holistic and flexible actor primed for the modern performance stage. There is a continuity and coherence of approach across all technical disciplines that allows validity, security and trust in what is being taught and an embracing of the shared aims and ethos of the school.

You will be part of tight and united team that celebrates diversity and the unique story that every student has to tell. The permanent core staff communicate and discuss constantly about their disciplines and the application of technique and theory. The high level of recent professional experience held by all permanent members of staff and the exceptional quality of professional

directors employed on the programme further enhances the relevance of the training. Directors such as Sally Cookson, Tom Morris and Nancy Medina are all regular visitors and active supporters of the School.

The appointment to this post reflects the growing student numbers on BA and MA courses and the desire for another full-time member of the Acting staff to support and enhance the provision for these actors.

The new post holder needs to have professional experience as an actor and be able to provide a sensitive and distinct voice within the Acting department. They will need to have first-hand experience of the British theatre, television and film landscape, applied knowledge of a range of acting technique practitioners and a sensitivity and understanding of the complex political and social challenges facing institutions in the light of the Black Lives Matter movement. You will be committed to the necessary structural changes to be effected within drama schools and be a part of enabling that change.

The city of Bristol

The city of Bristol has a reputation as one of the most culturally diverse and vibrant cities in the UK. Named the best place to live in the UK by The Sunday Times in 2017, Bristol is the largest city in the South West with a population of approximately 450,000.

Bristol has a thriving arts scene, being home to the oldest continually-operational theatre in the English-speaking world, the Bristol Old Vic; the contemporary arts space The Arnolfini; the independent cinema and media centre, the Watershed; the innovative theatre spaces The Tobacco Factory Theatres and concert venues Bristol Beacon and St George's, amongst others.

Famous for hot air balloons, Banksy, sustainability and its independent spirit, Bristol has a bustling and eclectic café and bar scene. It is well placed for easy access to some of the most beautiful countryside, beaches and nearby cities in England and Wales. Located just 90 minutes by train from London and Birmingham, the city is well connected by the M4 and M5 motorways and has an international airport. For a fuller flavour of what Bristol has to offer, please visit: visitbristol.co.uk.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The School recognises that its Trustees and staff cohort is not representative of Bristol, and the 91 languages spoken in the city. On the student body, the acting courses have a 30% representation, however, technical and creative courses have as low as 5% representation.

Over the last few years the School has changed a lot of its practices, which include (but isn't limited to) introducing more visiting external tutors and lecturers from diverse backgrounds, discovering more modern and representative writers for the students to study, and providing extensive training to staff on helping under-represented groups express themselves whilst training in a creative environment.

The new Principal is most concerned that all students, but particularly those who are unrepresented in the School, feel that they belong in a City that is facing its own challenges through BLM and its history. They must also know that the School accepts that it has its own journey to take, and that we want and need them to join us on that journey.

An Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Action Group has been established, made up of staff and some of

the Student Representation Group to work towards bringing about genuine, effective and long-standing change.

The application process

We hope you find this pack provides all the information you need in order to consider your application for this post. If, however, you have any further questions please contact Paul Clarkson (Head of Acting Courses) by emailing Paul.Clarkson@oldvic.ac.uk

Applications must be received by **12 noon on Monday 18 January 2021**. If you decide to apply for this post, please download a copy of the Application Form and Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form from oldvic.ac.uk/jobs.

Application forms, with a covering letter no more than one side of A4 describing what attracts you to this role, your experience and how it relates to the opportunities and challenges presented by this post, should be returned by email to Paul.Clarkson@oldvic.ac.uk

or by post to:

Paul Clarkson
Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
1-3 Downside Road,
Clifton,
Bristol
BS8 2XF

Shortlisting and interview process

To ensure the fairness of the selection process, shortlisting will be based upon the information which you provide in your application and assumptions will not be made about your experience or skills. We will look for demonstrable evidence that you meet the criteria set out in the job description; we urge you to make sure your application addressed each of these criteria.

Please also refer to the Equal Opportunities section of the job description, which explains the Theatre School's recognition of the positive value of diversity, promoting equality and challenging unfair discrimination.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the shortlisting process.

It is anticipated that there will be a two-stage interview process. It is anticipated that the first stage will take place over Zoom or at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, 1-3 Downside Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2XF at the end of January or start of February 2021. This timescale is subject to change.

The appointment will be subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks.