

# YEAR OUT DRAMA



PROSPECTUS  
2024



# CONTENTS

Madness in Valencia  
by Lope de Vega



- 1 Welcome
- 2 The Course
- 4 Acting
- 5 Performance Projects
- 7 Movement
- 8 Voice Work & Singing
- 10 Actor Musicianship
- 11 Alumni
- 13 Life in Stratford-upon-Avon
- 14 Accommodation
- 15 Course Details
- 16 How to Apply

COVER IMAGE:  
**As You Like It**  
by William Shakespeare



# WELCOME

This course has been running in Stratford-upon-Avon for 35 happy and creative years. We have gathered in that time a huge and very supportive Alumni who have gone on to forge careers in the arts and other professions. Actors, directors, writers, stage managers, drama teachers as well as doctors, lawyers and therapists are all there in our extended YOD family. Here in Stratford-upon-Avon we provide a unique environment for those who want time to discover who they are, to gain experience in all aspects of theatre work and to have the opportunity to live independently.

We nurture a company feel among our students and much of our work is ensemble based, with the emphasis on building confidence and cooperation. We encourage our company to be courageous and take risks in their work. We ensure we provide a safety net of support, so individuals feel able to begin to shake off inhibitions and self-doubt and forge ahead making life-affirming breakthroughs and discoveries, investigating their own ability. We keep our numbers small so each student feels they are a really integral part of every project and production and never marginalised.

We are always working toward a practical or performance-based project and have a wide team of respected industry professionals who come to Stratford to direct shows and lead projects or workshops.

We work intensively and make time for fun!

I hope you will like what you see in our prospectus and feel YOD is just what you are looking for as a chance to take a productive and memorable 'year out'.

Deborah Moody  
**Course Director**



# THE COURSE

Year Out Drama is designed for those wanting a year's intensive full-time drama course before choosing their next step whether it is in theatre, higher education or the world of work.

Whilst we are predominantly sought out by students wanting to pursue their ambitions to become actors, the course is not exclusively aimed at those wanting a career in theatre. It is also open to those with little or no previous experience in drama.

Successful applicants will need to demonstrate the necessary potential, enthusiasm and commitment during the audition and interview process.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

To provide an exciting and stimulating full-time programme, encompassing a wide and varied range of theatre-based skills.

These skills will be developed in class, practical workshops, seminars, extended projects and in performance.



**The Visit**  
by Friedrich Dürrenmatt



**Macbeth**  
by William Shakespeare

## THE COMPANY

The group is encouraged to work as a company of like-minded individuals ready to explore the challenges of theatre. Members are required to combine high levels of energy with a positive, open-minded attitude.

The group should be ready to respond to ideas in a creative and disciplined way. It is hoped that every individual will feel the confidence within the group to take risks, therefore enabling them to reap the rewards of stretching themselves physically, intellectually and imaginatively.

***Year Out Drama shines out for its genuine endeavour to develop working as an ensemble. To me, this attitude is the single reliable foundation for quality work, and a durable career.***

Photography by  
Phil Sharp

**LUKE THOMPSON**  
Actor

*Bridgerton* (Netflix)  
*King Lear* (West End)  
*Hamlet* (Almeida Theatre)



## ACTING

Acting classes and workshops in acting technique form an important part of what we do. Many of the company's visiting professionals employ working practices related to a range of recognised and influential theatre practitioners. They often have years of experience applying these various methods in their careers as actors or directors. They bring and share their expertise, offering students a chance to explore a wide range of these techniques both in rehearsal and practical workshops.



**Come and Go**  
by Samuel Beckett

## VISITING PROFESSIONALS

We are very fortunate in the contacts we have in the profession. Each year, the company will work with a variety of visiting professional directors. These projects can range from one-off workshops to large full-scale productions.

We will often invite friends of Year Out Drama and industry professionals to lead informal discussions, workshops, or simply offer career advice. We will introduce the company not only to actors and directors but also to sound and lighting designers, production managers, costume designers, producers, and stage managers.

These sessions have always proved to be invaluable.





**All's Well That End's Well**  
by William Shakespeare



**Macbeth**  
by William Shakespeare

## PERFORMANCE PROJECTS

The company is always preparing for a performance-based project. These projects will lead through to a showing of the work. Some projects will be presented informally to students within the group. Others, in order to gain performing experience, are shown to an invited 'in house' student audience; others are rehearsed as full-scale productions and presented to the public.

A key objective of the course is to nurture students in the development of their own thoughts and ideas to encourage individuality of expression and foster creative confidence.

There will be chances to write, direct and perform as well as opportunities to develop original theatre work. During the course students will discover new areas of ability that will provide the foundations for future creative endeavours.



**My Summer Fling**  
created by Joseph Atkins & Kath Waters



“

*I have never before or since experienced such a unique environment with so much honesty, generosity and sheer abandon.*

Photography by  
Pip

**MILLY THOMAS**  
Actor and Writer

*Dust* (Soho Theatre / Trafalgar Studios)  
*Sex Education* (Netflix)



## MOVEMENT

Movement classes are lively and much enjoyed. Exuberant game-based warm ups give students a chance to let off steam, along with strictly ad hoc indoor volley-ball and netball games. The relaxed rules, good-humoured atmosphere and sense of fun are a welcome antidote to the obligatory school sports regime. These warm up sessions help to maintain fitness and release energy.

Importance is given to developing expressive and imaginative use of the body, both as an invaluable adjunct to the skills of an actor and as a form of communication in itself.

Emphasis is placed on group work, demanding energy, co-operation, leadership, inventiveness and compromise.

Projects in movement have led to attainment of skills in dance, stage combat, mime, circus work, physical theatre and period movement.





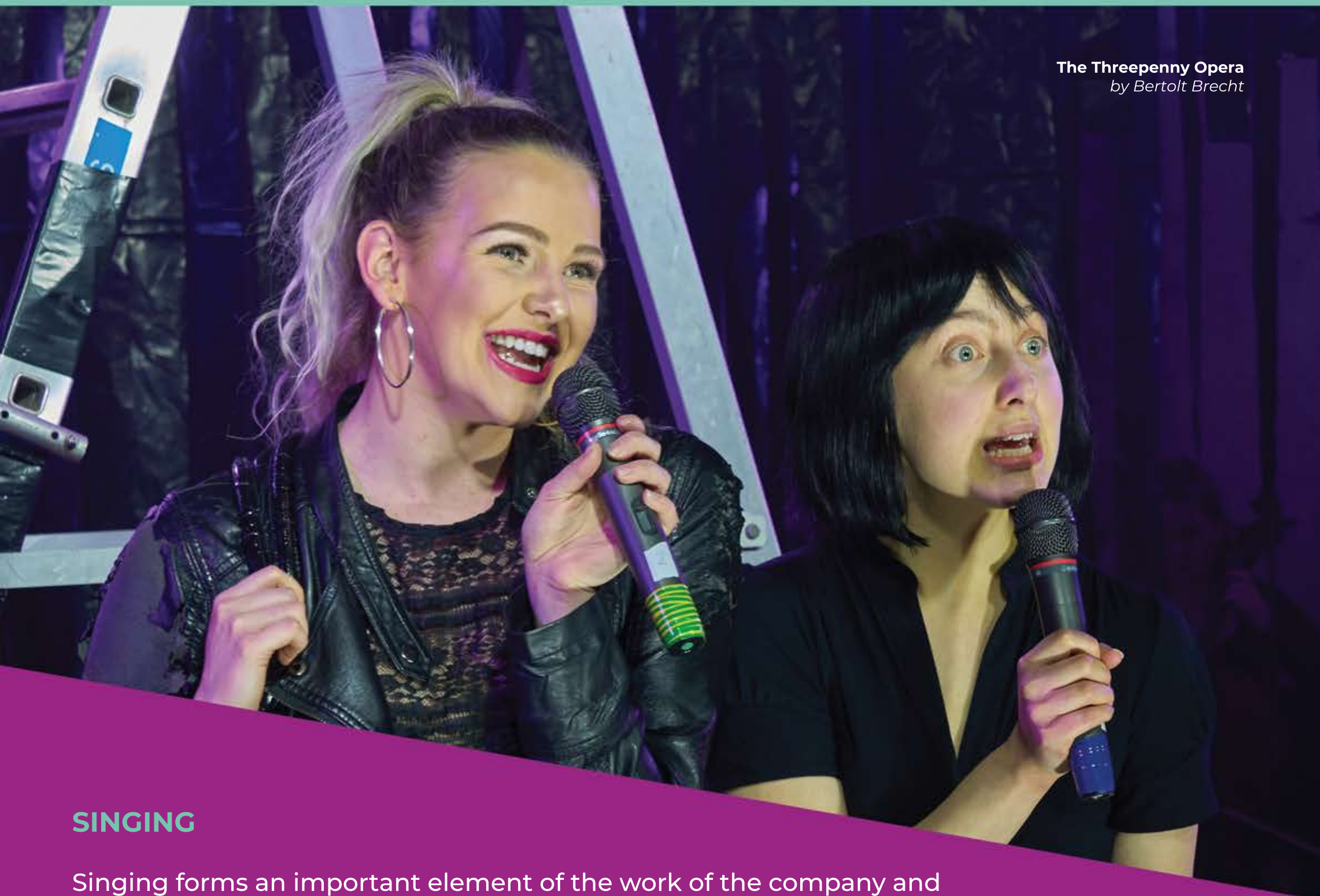
## VOICE WORK

Use of the voice is developed in a number of ways, from basic breathing and breath control exercises to imaginative vocal games aimed at increasing the expressive range of the voice.

Students will become aware of the importance of articulation, inflection, pitch, tone, resonance, breath control and projection. Vocal warm ups precede any major work on the voice.

Voice work will include singing, some verse speaking and the practise of technique through the use of text and speeches.

For these sessions students would normally be divided into small groups so that individual attention can be given, whilst retaining the invaluable chance to learn from others.



**The Threepenny Opera**  
by Bertolt Brecht

## SINGING

Singing forms an important element of the work of the company and is an integral part of the course.

The regular classes and extended workshops generate enormous enthusiasm.

Singing as part of an ensemble develops the listening skills that enable students to work toward precise vocal harmony.

Building confidence is paramount and though the group tackles a diverse and challenging repertoire, the life-affirming thrill of performing a big, show-stopping number cannot be underestimated.



# TOBIAS MENZIES

Actor

Photography by  
MJ Kim

*The Crown (Netflix)*  
*This Way Up (Netflix)*  
*Game of Thrones (HBO)*



***I feel I learnt more during my time with  
Year Out Drama than I did in three years  
at drama school.***





**The Visit**  
by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

## ACTOR MUSICIANSHIP

In addition to singing classes, we are also very keen on nurturing the musical talent of individuals. Upon accepting your place on Year Out Drama, we will always encourage students to bring their instrument to Stratford - if you have one - however rusty!

These instruments are often incorporated into devised projects as well as large-scale performances.

We have had great success with our students gaining actor musician places at top drama schools such as Rose Bruford College, Guildford School of Acting and Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.



**And Now For The Weather**  
created by Deborah Moody

**The Threepenny Opera**  
by Bertolt Brecht





# ALUMNI

The Year Out Drama Alumni family, built up over 35 years, is vast and we celebrate the achievements of all our past students. It's enormously gratifying to see so many go on to establish careers in a wide and varied range of fields. Here is just a small snapshot of what some of our Alumni are doing now... the list goes on!



**Luke Thompson**  
Actor

*Bridgerton* (Netflix)  
*King Lear* (West End)  
*Hamlet* (Almeida Theatre)



**Hannah Maguire**  
Presenter / Podcaster

Co-Host and CEO of  
RedHanded Podcast



**Tobias Menzies**  
Actor

*The Crown* (Netflix)  
*This Way Up* (Netflix)  
*Game of Thrones* (HBO)



**Lisa Spirling**  
Director

Artistic Director and Chief  
Executive of Theatre 503



**Sophie Willis**  
Wedding Veil Designer

Owner of Unveiled by Sophie -  
designing bespoke wedding  
veils



**Greg Tannahill**  
Actor / Fight Director

*The Play That Goes Wrong*  
(Mischief Theatre)



**Dr. Dot Bowry**  
Doctor

Doctor at The Western  
General, Edinburgh



**Justin Edwards**  
Actor / Writer / Comedian

*The Thick Of It* (BBC)  
*In & Out of the Kitchen* (BBC)  
*The Ferryman* (West End)



**Krishnendu Majumdar**  
Television Producer

Chair of BAFTA



**Alice Smith**  
Theatrical Agent

Agent with Conway Van  
Gelder Grant



**Dr. Joshua Bluteau**  
Assistant Professor / Writer

Lecturer in Global Healthcare  
at Coventry University



**Adam Hirschovits**  
Lawyer

Lawyer for Roald Dahl's literary  
estate



A portrait of Krishnendu Majumdar, a man with dark hair and a slight smile, wearing a blue button-down shirt under a dark jacket. The background is a blurred green and brown foliage.

# KRISHNENDU MAJUMDAR

Film & Television Producer

Chair of BAFTA 2020-23

Photography by  
Harry Richards

***I learnt a lot and laughed a lot.  
Year Out Drama formed the foundation for  
my whole career.***



## THEATRE TRIPS

We are incredibly lucky to share the town with the Royal Shakespeare Company and we are often invited to attend press night performances.

Theatre trips are a large part of the course and we regularly visit nearby venues such as Warwick Arts Centre, Belgrade Theatre Coventry and the Birmingham REP.

Throughout the year, we will also organise trips to London to see performances in both large and small-scale venues.

# LIFE IN STRATFORD



***I have loved living in Stratford. It is such a lovely town. We are incredibly lucky to share it with one of the most famous theatre companies in the world.***

Year Out Drama Student

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON** is the birthplace of William Shakespeare and is steeped in culture and history. Set in the beautiful rural Warwickshire countryside, on the banks of the river Avon, it is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the UK.



# ACCOMMODATION



Upon accepting your place at Year Out Drama, we will offer you a room in one of our private houses. These houses were once successful Bed and Breakfast properties and so all rooms are en-suite and have been tastefully decorated.

All properties are within walking distance from our headquarters and you will be sharing with fellow company members of Year Out Drama.

Prices range from £550 to £650 per month, depending on room size. This is inclusive of all bills.



***The house is so homely and in a great location. We love living together, it's like a little family!***



Year Out Drama Student





# COURSE DETAILS

## COURSE FEE

The course fee for 2024/25 is **£8,000**.

A non-refundable deposit of **£800** is requested upon accepting your place on Year Out Drama, in order to cover administration.

The remaining balance of **£7200** is due in TWO instalments, half at the start of Autumn Term and half at the start of Winter Term.

### The fee includes:

- All tuition, workshops and production costs for performance work.
- Transport and tickets for the many theatre trips the group enjoys.
- Performance venues and rehearsal space throughout the year.
- Professional directors, technicians, producers and publicity.

### The fee does not include:

- Accommodation.
- Expenses incurred whilst living in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Students are encouraged to apply for suitable part-time jobs. These are abundant in Stratford in the many restaurants, bars and hotels. Company members need to understand that these jobs have to work around the demands of the course which may require some negotiation with their employers.

For more information, please email [info@yearoutdrama.co.uk](mailto:info@yearoutdrama.co.uk)

## TERM DATES 2024/25

### AUTUMN TERM

Monday 16th September - Sunday 15th December 2024

### WINTER TERM

Monday 6th January - Sunday 6th April 2025

### SPRING TERM

Monday 28th April - Sunday 6th July 2025

*Please be aware that these dates are provisional and may be subject to change depending on visiting director or venue availability.*

*We often have to make last minute minor changes.*



# HOW TO APPLY



Log on to our website:  
[www.yearoutdrama.co.uk](http://www.yearoutdrama.co.uk)



Request the online  
Application Form.



We will read your  
application, then send you  
an audition date.



Visit Stratford-upon-Avon\*  
for your one-on-one  
audition.

We do not charge an audition fee and will aim to let you know  
the results of your audition within one week.

\*If you are unable to get to Stratford for whatever reason, we can  
offer you a remote video call audition.







Production photography by  
**Stewart Hemley**

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# WWW.YEAROUTDRAMA.CO.UK



@yearoutdrama



**A Midsummer Night's Dream**  
*by William Shakespeare*

**YEAR OUT DRAMA**

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Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9NU

For all enquiries, please email  
**info@yearoutdrama.co.uk**