



Graduate and Student Profiles

BA (Hons)

Theatre Studies (Online)

# Graduate Profile

Nigel Tickner

Director and Educator

Resident: Greece



“The Theatre Studies degree course also gave me the insight into how to read plays with an approach that has led to me directing high quality, engaging and meaningful productions in international schools worldwide.”

Since I gained my First Class Honours in Theatre Studies in 2010 after six years of study, I have continued to work in international education. I have also gone on to take a PG Diploma in Shakespeare & Theatre at Masters level with The Shakespeare Institute. In 2016, I applied to East 15 Acting School to train to be a professional theatre director and I was offered a place, although I declined the place at the time as I had just been offered a good job in India. It is something I would still like to do and having the Rose Bruford College degree enables me to consider this career development possibility. While working at an international school in West Africa in 2015, I also hosted none other than Shakespeare's Globe, as eight actors in the ensemble and four stage managers toured *Hamlet* to 205 countries of the world on a two year global touring odyssey. My initial training on the RBC Theatre Studies degree gave me the confidence to host these world class professionals.

The knowledge and expertise I gained from the degree has continued to stand me in good stead as both a highly qualified teacher of International Baccalaureate Diploma Theatre and as an examiner of IB Theatre too.

# Graduate Profile

Megan Hunter

Public Relations Manager

Resident: UK



“My undergraduate studies at Rose Bruford provided me with an excellent grounding in academic work, particularly as I was returning to study after a substantial break, and this gave me the confidence to progress on to postgraduate study.”

Holding a degree from a prestigious college has also helped me to progress in my own career, and has provided me with a better understanding of the academic and practical work that the staff and students I work with daily are undertaking. After graduating in 2012 from the Theatre Studies degree programme, I have continued working at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama - however, I have been through a few promotions since graduating. I have now been, for the past 6 years, the School's Press and Public Relations Manager. In my role, I lead on a number of projects including media relations, course promotion, comms and stakeholder/ industry relations. I work closely with our senior management team and colleagues in our External Affairs department to plan and execute large events and to lead on discreet campaigns to build the School's profile - both nationally and internationally. My major campaigns each year include work surrounding the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and networking and promotion of our Brand in the United States – particularly in New York.

In 2016, I completed my Master's Degree at Birkbeck College (University of London). I now hold an MA in Arts Policy and Management.

I have also been, for the past 6 years, the Honorary Secretary of The Irving Society, which works to foster an appreciation for the work of Sir Henry Irving and, more generally, 19th Century British Theatre.

Photograph by Lydia McCarthy-Keen.



# Graduate Profile

Luciana Bajarunas-Veit

Writer

Resident: USA



“I am certain that today I am a better writer because Theatre Studies has not only taught me how to shape my ideas more efficiently, but it has also showed me ways on how to better develop my ideas in the first place.”

Be it an original play, an adaptation, a play analysis or a review, I feel that I can do it all because Rose Bruford has prepared me to face with confidence whatever it might come in my career path. Theatre Studies at Rose Bruford College worked well for me because it accompanied me wherever I went. Since I started the programme I relocated four times around the globe, from six international relocations altogether. I am Brazilian by birth, but a world citizen by heart and experience. Theatre Studies has opened my eyes to different aspects of theatre watching, theatre making and more specifically for me, theatre writing.

# Graduate Profile

Tracey Anderson

Drama Teacher

Resident: UK



“I found the quality of tuition to be excellent and the tutors to be knowledgeable, encouraging and friendly.”

I am currently working as a Drama teacher at Ellon Academy in Aberdeenshire, Scotland where I teach pupils from ages 12 to 18, including pupils studying towards the Scottish qualifications National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama. Previously I worked as an English teacher. I managed to gain full GTCS registration as a drama teacher after successfully completing modules with Rose Bruford College. I now do a job I genuinely love and I would not have been able to achieve this had I not studied through Rose Bruford. The distance learning course has been ideal for me as it has allowed me to fit studying around my family and work commitments. I also enjoyed being able to 'meet' other students in the virtual tutorials.

# Graduate Profile

Geraldine Gilman

Principal: Ashcroft Academy

Resident: UK



“At the end of this course I had received a fully rounded, professional and practical education in performing arts, but studying at the RBC has enabled me to develop an academic knowledge of theatre practice and heightened my ability to direct with theoretical acumen at senior level.”

I am the principal of The Ashcroft Academy of Theatre Arts, a part-time theatre school for children in South East London. I am also a fully qualified LAMDA teacher and enter children and young people for vocational acting examinations. I am also one of the resident Drama and LAMDA teachers at an independent school in Wimbledon. When I left school, I successfully auditioned for a 3-year course in dance and drama at the Italia Conti School. At RBC, I have had the pleasure of working with tutors who are not only inspirational, but experts in their field. Their support during online tutorials was invaluable. Similarly, the opportunity to meet and exchange creative and academic ideas with other students online broadened and enriched the learning process. However, it was the expert tuition and ongoing study support from first rate tutors that made it possible for me to graduate with a First Class Honours degree in Theatre Studies.

# Graduate Profile

Jenny Wooster

Drama Teacher

Resident: UK



“The programme not only equipped me with a broad knowledge of theatre but it, most significantly, gave me the skills to effectively and confidently demonstrate this knowledge and apply it practically in a range of different ways.”

Since graduating, I volunteered in a drama department at an independent girls' secondary school. I had started applying to one-year PGCE training programmes which ask for graduates with a 2:1 or above. I was delighted that my 1:1 allowed me to do this. Things took an unexpected turn when the head teacher where I was volunteering invited me to apply for the position of drama teacher. I knew the current teacher was leaving but it never occurred that they would even consider me as her replacement owing to my lack of experience and PGCE. After being observed teaching a lesson which I'd planned myself, delivering a presentation and a rigorous interview, I was offered the job. They were most impressed with my degree and the positive feedback I received can almost entirely be attributed to what I learned on the programme

I.”

# Graduate Profile

Debbie Bird

Actor

Resident: UK



“My Rose Bruford degree enabled me to have the confidence to apply to drama school at the age of 48. It opened my eyes to my potential and that age is just number. If I can cope with an online degree, work full-time and have a family and still achieve a 1:1 then I can do anything.”

It also widened my narrow perspective of theatre and showed me a range of pays and theatre practices that I would not have discovered. At drama school, I knew many of the styles, playwrights and practitioners. This gave me the confidence to approach the work required as I was less daunted by it all.

ALRA made me an actor but Rose Bruford made me what I am today and I will be forever grateful. Since graduating, I have completed my MA at The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts and have since been working as a professional actor. In my first year I have become particularly experienced in immersive, site specific theatre: playing a recovered alcoholic in *Meeting at 33* at Edinburgh Festival,

Mother Christmas at Lapland UK and A Victorian ghost of a battle-axe with ImmerCity in *The Silhouette in the Smoke* at The Water and Steam Museum in Brentford. All 3 of these roles have been or are to be reprised this year. I have been in two Shakespearean productions, my favourite playing a 1960s version of Duchess of York.

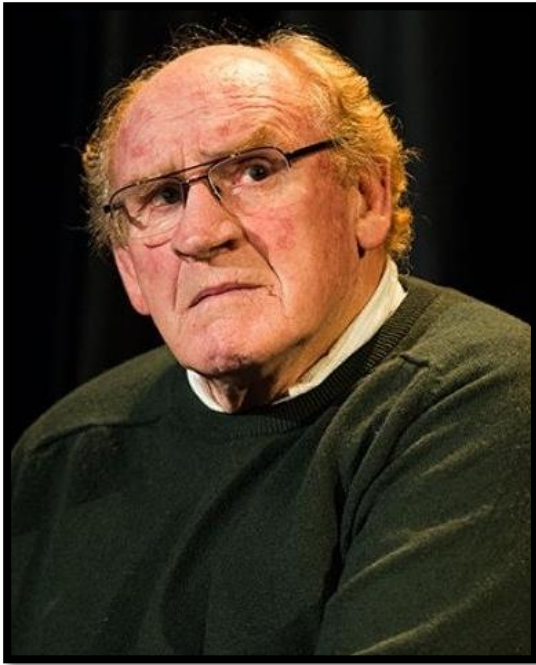


# Graduate Profile

Mick Purdy

Actor

Resident: UK



“I would never have undertaken a second career without the confidence and knowledge gained from my studies and workshops with Rose Bruford.”

Whilst in the throes of completing my degree, having retired from teaching, I signed with an agent. Subsequently I have played Doorman in a ‘Pound in the Glass’ strip club (music video) Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Towngate theatre, *Charles in What It's Worth?* with Spare Tyre, and worked on *The Mother* with Leo Leigh.

# Graduate Profile

Calum Campbell

Audio Theatre Director

Resident: UK



“The programme opened up my mind to so many different areas and styles of theatre art: to say that Rose Bruford's Theatre Studies changed my life would be an understatement. I will never be able to thank all of those involved enough.”

At present I am working for two entertainment companies and running one with a business partner. We initially set up an internet radio company and provide live commentary for a professional Scottish football club and branched out to creating and running events, video and event presentation, advertising packages and video creation. We have just launched an extension (Aum Productions) and are continuing with all our previous exploits but have added to the video production and creation element (e.g. for bands, dance companies, theatre performances). The two external companies are Theatre Presto (Glasgow): a small touring theatre company targeted at care homes and community site although we performed at the Edinburgh Fringe last year. I have what I think is the over inflated title of ‘Music, sound creation, director’. I create backing tracks and effects and assist with the script writing. I also work for Purestar Productions Ltd (Bournemouth): a dance and production focused company. I am helping to organise and work ‘backstage’ on its national ‘Stars of the Future’ showcase and six other regional events this year. I am also writing sports reports for a local paper and acting as a reporter for the DAB sports channel Rocksport Radio. I have also just completed writing my second educational book for Hodder Education.

# Graduate Profile

Heather Leech

Teacher & Community Theatre Practitioner

Resident: UK



During my long time on the course the changes seemed slow however, being on the course helped me to gain a promotion and directly helped me be a better teacher. It gave me so much confidence in my teaching and personally. Ironically, the reason why went on the course- i.e. to improve and update my drama knowledge and teaching is the part that has withered. Arts teaching in schools, in fact, teaching itself has been spoiled over the recent years so that I left teaching at the same time as completing the online course.

Since completing I have written and performed my own play *Guy Fawkes' Mother* and have set about starting my own business. I have also widened my community street procession work.

"I would recommend the course absolutely."

# ... in brief

Rene Baker:	Director and Artist: Puppet and Object Theatre
David Chadderton:	Editor of British Theatre Guide, Head of Education Manchester. Mainstream; Tutor and Writer Rose Bruford College
Martin Christie:	Co-Artistic Director of Alloway Academy
Jacquie Davy:	Head of Drama, Hartesmere School
Georgia Docherty:	Further study: MA Shakespeare on Stage, Birmingham University
Atlanta Duffy:	Theatre Designer: The Brokenville Project, Royal National Theatre
Joseph Fisher:	Comedian and Television Presenter
Sharon Frese:	Actor and Practitioner.
Brenda Gogan-Harrington:	Director, Drogheda School of Performing Arts
Martin Payne:	Actor and Director
Pat Riley	Researcher and Writer
Craig Sanders:	Young Company Director: Lichfield Garrick Theatre Lecturer South Staffordshire College and Staffordshire
John Severn:	Post-doctoral Research Fellow Macquarie University, Sydney

And many, many more....





Additional student profiles

BA (Hons)

Theatre Studies (Online)





# Student Profile

Courtney Long

Performer

Resident: Dubai

Level 4

“It’s such a fantastic way for me to continue with my studies as well as being able to work all over the world.”

My name is Courtney Long and I started my online Theatre Studies degree at Rose Bruford last year. I started the course only months after completing my A Levels because I thought it was such an efficient way to work at the same time as studying. I'm currently employed as part of the entertainment team on a cruise ship and therefore I get the practicality of performing from my employment and the theoretical aspect through my degree.

Although I’m still adapting to the method of studying [at a distance], I feel as though all of my doubts have been cleared because staff members go over and above to help.

# Student Profile

Matthew Salisbury

Actor, Director Teacher

Resident: UK

Level 4



“So far I have learned more that I ever expected and I'm very much enjoying the work!”

Hello, my name is Matt Salisbury, I have worked in the theatre industry for over 10 years as an actor and director. During this time I set up a touring theatre company with my wife, (Pretending People Theatre [www.pretendingpeople.co.uk](http://www.pretendingpeople.co.uk)).

We specialise in taking high standard productions to community venues such as care homes and village halls. We have toured various original plays which all feature actor musicians playing live acoustic music to singalong to or underscore the action! Since the arrival of our son, I decided to take a step into a steadier income. Whilst running the theatre company I have taken a leap into teaching so my reason for taking this course is to finally gain a qualification in the area that I have worked in for so long. With that I will then be able to qualify as a teacher which I am hoping will open up many more doors to me in the future. I had the opportunity to take a course in education to gain my qualified teacher status, however I wanted to take the theatre studies course to further my knowledge in my field and enjoy my studies at the same time

# Student Profile

Kate Aiken

Educator & Dyslexia Specialist

Resident: UK

Level 5



“I am studying at Rose Bruford College to increase my depth of knowledge of the theatre, practitioners and performance and to get that long awaited degree!”

I am a speech, drama and musical theatre educator, working in school and privately, at home. I specialise, and am qualified in, working with students with dyslexia and other associated challenges. I aim to use the performing arts to develop self-confidence and awareness and to prepare students for life in all its forms. I am a member of the Society of Speech and Drama Teachers and in the Directory of LAMDA teachers. I re-trained in speech and drama after I had left my first career in the Women’s Royal Naval Service, and had my family. I finally achieved my LAMDA Diploma in Speech and Drama Education after a long time balancing work and my studies.

I am studying at Rose Bruford College to increase my depth of knowledge of the theatre, practitioners and performance and to get that long awaited degree!





# Student Profile

## Mike Lees

Engineer  
Resident: UK  
Level 6

Mike is currently  
Chairman of the  
Theatre Studies Student  
Representatives  
Committee.

I am an engineer by profession, working in the field of power station design and development. I am heavily involved in amateur theatre and am currently chair of council of Radius (The Religious Drama Society of Great Britain) and Chair of the Harpenden High Street Players. I am interested in many aspects of theatre and have been involved in playwriting, directing, acting and set design. The Theatre Studies course has given me an excellent opportunity to broaden my knowledge of theatre. The course material is invariably stimulating, and I enjoy the opportunity to share ideas with tutors and fellow students through the webinars.

# Student Profile Karen Ball

Educator

Resident: Switzerland

Level 5



I am an educator currently teaching primary and secondary performing arts at Geneva English School. I have worked in amateur theatre for many years as a performer, choreographer and more recently as a director. I am following the Theatre Studies online course in order to deepen my subject knowledge, to enhance my school teaching and to broaden my directorial skills. Many inspirational directors have motivated my love of theatre in the past and my aim through this course is to share these experiences with my students/casts.

# Student Profile



Gary Funck

Theatre Director

Resident: Germany

Level 5

Beside my employment I work with a experimental off-theatre group as part of the ensemble were I can try out new ways and methods in all different theatre elements ranging from directing to acting and dancing and I also have a weekly show in our local radio station.” “As a trained theatre educator I am employed by a cultural association in the Danish-German border region. I am leading the “Et Nordfriisk Teooter” (North Frisian Theatre) as art director, a multi lingual theatre group working with experienced players as well as with professionals and showing German or Danish supertitles in all shows. My job includes activities like directing or writing plays. I’m also working as art director of the European Minority Film Festival in Husum/Hüsem, a small festival focussing on feature films made in lesser used languages like e.g. Frisian, Gaelic or Basque. The festival is strongly connected to other similar festivals in Europe and in the moment we and others are engaged in building up a European network for performance artists dealing with minority or indigenous cultures.

# Student Profile

Emily Redfarn

Performing Arts Teacher

Resident: UK

Level 5



“The modules are interesting and challenging and I am thoroughly enjoying the course.”

I am a performing arts and communication skills teacher working with students across the East of England teaching exam work and audition preparation.

I decided to undertake the Theatre Studies online course as I wanted to gain a qualification using the knowledge I have gained while teaching. I love the flexibility that online learning offers as I would never be able to undertake a traditional degree that required me to attend University on a weekly basis.



# Student Profile

Amy Celino

Performing Arts Teacher

Resident: UK

Level 5



“I have loved studying the course so far, I have found it to be much more than an online course as it is much more interactive than I expected, and I feel really valued as a student. I thought I wouldn't ever enjoy studying !”

I am studying Theatre Studies (Online) from the UK. I chose Theatre Studies because I come from a Performing Arts background and wanted to learn more about behind the scenes, and from different perspectives such as creatives and directors.

My favourite type of theatre is Naturalism and am looking forward to my next module very much, as well as Musical Theatre which I will be looking at later on this year.

Due to the flexibility of online learning, it means I can carry on teaching young children Performing Arts alongside my studies and gain valuable knowledge to take into my chosen career.