

Welcome to Rose Bruford College!

We're delighted to welcome you to the American Theatre Arts programme. As you begin this dynamic and collaborative journey, we want to ensure you feel prepared, comfortable, and supported in your training and creative exploration.

The following information outlines what you'll need in terms of clothing, equipment, reading material, and additional support. Our learning environment is inclusive and respectful—your individuality, comfort, and consent are always central to how we work together.

Clothing and Equipment

You'll take part in a wide range of classes and workshops involving physical activity, ensemble work, movement, and performance. Please ensure you have access to the following practical items, which support both personal comfort and group work.

All clothing should be plain black and allow for freedom of movement. You may be invited to work barefoot in certain classes—this will always be optional. Introductory sessions will include clear guidance around boundaries, consent, and inclusivity.

Quantity	Item	Notes	Where to Buy
1–2	Plain sweatshirts (any single colour)	Comfortable and warm for studio work	Any clothing store
1–2	Plain jogging bottoms or leggings	Loose-fitting and suitable for movement, no logos or patterns	Any clothing store
A few	Plain t-shirts (any single colour, long/short sleeve)	For daily use in class	Any clothing store
1 pair	Non-slip, non-marking shoes	Must be different from outdoor footwear and have a grip sole	Sports or dance shop
1	Notebook and pen	For taking notes in class	Any stationery shop
1	Smartphone (for use as recording device)	Particularly useful in Acting Through Song and Musical Theatre classes (please ask tutor and class permission before recording)	N/A

You may occasionally be asked to bring items from your own wardrobe for particular projects or assignments. You will always receive prior notice and your consent will be sought. If you have any concerns, please speak to your Personal Tutor.

Some classes may stretch into the evening until 9pm when our campus closes, but this should not happen frequently.

Reading List

Throughout your three years on the programme, most of the plays and books you'll need will be provided through the College Library, VLE (Virtual Learning Environment), or class handouts. However, we encourage you to purchase or access your own copies of the following texts so you can annotate, re-read, and explore them in depth.

We recommend beginning your reading before the course starts to help you feel prepared for discussions and rehearsals, but don't worry if you haven't managed to finish them before term starts.

Required Texts

These plays and books will form the foundation of your study and performance work:

The Crucible – Arthur Miller

A gripping exploration of mass hysteria, morality, and power, set during the Salem Witch Trials.

A View from the Bridge – Arthur Miller

A powerful drama about love, loyalty, and justice within an Italian-American dockworker community in Brooklyn.

Joe Turner's Come and Gone – August Wilson

Part of Wilson's Century Cycle, this play offers a rich portrait of African-American life in 1911 Pittsburgh, full of history, hope, and searching for identity.

A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry

A landmark play about race, class, and the pursuit of dreams in mid-20th century America.

The Four Agreements – Don Miguel Ruiz

A guide to personal freedom and effective communication—valuable for both personal development and collaborative creative work.

Recommended Reading

A People's History of the United States (1492 to Present) – Howard Zinn

A compelling, accessible account of American history from the perspective of everyday people, offering essential cultural and political context for your studies.

We recommend budgeting approximately £50 per term for books and scripts, though many resources will be provided.

Study Skills and Academic Support

You are expected to submit all written assignments in typed format via the VLE. While College PCs are available, having access to your own laptop or device will be a significant advantage. If you have a diagnosed or suspected learning difference, such as dyslexia, please contact the College Disability Adviser for additional support.

The College offers Study Skills assistance throughout your training. Your tutors and Student Services are always here to help.

Theatre Visits

American Theatre Arts students are encouraged to attend live theatre regularly, particularly in London. Group trips will be organised during your first year, with tickets costing around £15–£20 per show (up to four shows). These visits are optional, and alternative learning options will be provided if you're unable to attend.

Semester Abroad (Level 6)

In your third year, you'll have the opportunity to spend a semester studying in the United States. A separate document detailing the visa process and provisional costs will be shared at the start of each academic year. You'll receive full guidance before selecting your destination in Year Two. The College continues to seek financial support options for students who need help covering travel and living expenses during the semester abroad.

We Look Forward to Welcoming You

We are so excited to begin this journey with you. Please bring your curiosity, commitment, and unique voice—we'll provide the guidance and tools to help you grow.

If you have any questions, or need help with preparing for the course, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Warmest wishes,

The American Theatre Arts Team

Rose Bruford College