

Employer Partner Industry Insights

Our employer partners at Royal Exchange Theatre have talked to us about careers in the Performing Arts industry and what it takes to succeed:

What would you say the top 3 skills are to succeed in the Performing Arts industry?

Intrigue, Passion, Tenacity

What qualities do you feel are most sought after in the industry?

Kindness and likability – unfortunately, the industry is still often based on connections and people who you meet. If you do a job for one person and they liked you, they will probably employ you again

A willingness to help out, be flexible and to adapt

Passion and talent

Why do you think work experience is important for college students?

I think it gives them an idea of the realities of the world of work – sometimes there's lots to do and we have to work overtime, running around, sometimes there's less to do and we have to find jobs. The nature of the industry is very project/performance based so the work often comes in peaks and troughs.

What is the best thing about working in the Performing Arts industry?

It's cheesy but it's a family. You spend lots of time working with brilliant people, often late into the night and on weekends that they become like family. People care about their jobs and are passionate about doing a brilliant job which is infectious and makes us all want to be better and do the best that we can do.

It's also exciting, seeing the fruits of your labour appear on stage or in a rehearsal room is amazing! People get joy from seeing your work and you create happiness!

What is the most valuable piece of advice you have either been given, or would like to have been given when you first started out in this industry?

Be nice! Specifically for my job it was also – if you're the kind of person who likes to finish all of their tasks at the end of the day and switch off completely, this isn't for you. You need to learn to live with the fact that there will always be work to do, but you can't do it all every day.

Royal Exchange Theatre have partnered with The Manchester College for over two years. They have successfully hosted numerous work experience students, providing invaluable experiences, insights and networking opportunities. They also meet any opportunity they can to visit students in college to do talks, activities and share their knowledge and experience of the Performing Arts industry.