Do you dream of performing on a West End stage? Or perhaps you have your heart set on starring in a hit TV series or award-winning film? Maybe you want to dance in venues across the globe? Whichever exciting career in Performing Arts you’re aiming for, The Manchester College can help you to achieve your ambitions.

It’s a very competitive sector. Talent isn’t enough. You’ll need drive, determination and bag loads of energy to succeed. You’ll also need professional training, which is where we come in. We offer courses in Dance, Musical Theatre, Acting and Technical Theatre. While many people enjoy performing as a hobby, we focus on arming students with the skills they need to enjoy a successful career.

Previous students have gone on to act in programmes like Coronation Street and Hollyoaks, perform at theatres such as the Royal Exchange, and dance on the X Factor and in touring musicals like Miss Saigon and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.

If you were born to perform, you’ll love the passion, enthusiasm and creative atmosphere that infects everyone in our Performing Arts Department. Our tutors have performed for audiences all over the world, and have undertaken extensive training to enable them to share their skills with students.

It’s a fast-moving sector, with changing trends and demands, so we’re constantly updating our curriculum to make sure it’s relevant and gives you the right skills to stand out.

Our industry connections are second to none. Coronation Street star Sally Carman is our patron and many members of our teaching team still work in the sector. You’ll also benefit from guest speakers, such as directors and choreographers, and have the opportunity to take part in workshops with experts in their field.

You’ll be learning your trade in the heart of Manchester, in our specialist campus with its extraordinary performance spaces, technology and professional equipment.

So if you think you have what it takes, and you want to learn from the best in one of the most vibrant, dynamic cities in the UK, we look forward to welcoming you next term.
Performing Arts

Our Patron

When actor Sally Carman isn’t treading the cobbles of Coronation Street, you’ll often find her here at The Manchester College, as she’s our very first patron of Performing Arts. Sally supports our students in a range of ways, including through exclusive acting masterclasses and Q&A sessions.

Sally has been working as an actor for more than 20 years. She’s best known for her roles as Abi Franklin in Coronation Street and Kelly Maguire in Shameless, but has also appeared in Holby City, Doctors, Prisoners’ Wives, Silent Witness and numerous other TV programmes.

Being a patron of the Performing Arts department is amazing. It’s so important to be able to express yourself and be happy in your own skin. It’s not only about actors and acting, it’s about creating fully formed human beings, and not losing the importance of arts and creativity.

Employability

To prepare you for your future career, you’ll take part in a range of ‘employability’ activities to equip you with the knowledge and experience of careers available to you:

Employability Sessions

You’ll be assigned an Employability Tutor and will take part in dedicated ‘employability’ sessions which will provide you with the skills you’ll need to thrive in the workplace.

Work Related Activity

You’ll learn more about the industry by taking part in a range of activities, such as:

• Q&As with directors, choreographers, agents and other professionals
• Masterclasses and workshops led by experts in their field
• Trips to learn about what it’s like to work in this dynamic sector

Work Experience or Industry Placement

You’ll spend at least 35 hours working in theatres, studios or other venues across the region. That could include time at The Royal Exchange Theatre, the BBC or ITV. You may even be able to apply for an industry placement, which would give you at least 315 hours of relevant experience.

As you probably know, experience is so crucial in this competitive industry – so a placement offers you the chance to strengthen your CV and showreel, as well as teaching you more about the performing arts world.

Some of our students even go on to gain paid employment with their placement provider at the end of the year, so this opportunity really can prove invaluable.

Study Programme

You’ll join our Centre of Excellence for Performing Arts when you enrol on any of our qualifications from Level 1 to Level 3.

If you haven’t already obtained a Grade 4 GCSE in English or maths, you’ll study to achieve this level of qualification alongside your course. This is a mandatory requirement and it’s also essential you achieve this for many careers.
Level 1 | Performing and Production Arts (Acting)

If you’re interested in performing and want to increase your knowledge and skills, this could be the course for you!

Over the year, you’ll learn professional acting skills and techniques. You’ll also discover more about the roles of key people within the performing arts world, such as playwrights and directors.

By the end of the course, you’ll have grown in confidence and ability, and you’ll be ready to progress to a Level 2 qualification.

Level 2 | Performing and Production Arts (Acting)

Do you want to develop your acting skills and learn more about your future career?

This course is designed to give you a taster of what you could expect as a professional in the performing arts sector. You’ll discover what it takes to work for a theatre company and explore both on and off-stage job roles.

Of course, we’ll be helping you to develop your own talent. You’ll learn different acting techniques and find out how to effectively research a role. As well as acting out scenes using existing scripts, you might even write your own plays to produce.

You’ll be able to put your new skills to the test by performing to audiences, including in one of our two theatres!

Level 3 | Performing Arts (Acting)

Do you want to explore your acting skills in the heart of a vibrant, artistic city? At The Manchester College, you’ll be developing your performance skills under the guidance of industry professionals.

You’ll learn about current trends and practices, both within theatre and out in the world of film and television. You could soon be discovering more about contemporary theatre, site-specific theatre, movement, voice and a whole lot more.

We’ll also help you to prepare for the next stage in your journey towards a professional career. You’ll be honing your audition skills, learning how to network and finding out more about life as a freelance performer.

You’ll also be strengthening your CV, by undertaking relevant work experience. This city is home to The Manchester International Festival, the BBC, ITV and numerous other studios and venues, and we have the connections to help you land a rewarding placement.

Plus, you’ll get to perform to an audience, in one of our professional theatres.
**Level 2 | Performing Arts (Dance)**

Do you want to develop your skills in a variety of different dance styles, and learn what your life could be like as a professional dancer?

During this one year course, you’ll explore the world of dance, improving your techniques in a range of styles, from contemporary to jazz. You’ll perform set pieces and be taught how to choreograph your own routines.

Your tutors will also share their experiences of working as professional dancers, and you’ll learn more about life as part of a dance company, and all the different on and off stage roles open to you.

You’ll be putting all your new skills into practice, through live performances at one of the College’s own theatres.

**Level 3 | Performing Arts (Dance)**

Do you want to improve your dance skills and gain a qualification that’s prized by professional companies? The Manchester College is an ISTD approved dance centre right in the city centre of this vibrant, artistic city.

You’ll be taught by tutors who have enjoyed successful careers in the dance world. Some of them have travelled the globe on cruise ships or appeared on TV, and they’re ready to share their experiences with you.

While you’ll specialise in the type of dance that you’re most drawn to, you’ll also develop your abilities in other styles, including classical ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, and acro. You’ll be performing set pieces, as well as choreographing your own routines, and you’ll get to perform in front of an audience in one of our professional theatres.

Our main aim is to help you to succeed in a career within the dance world. So you’ll improve your audition skills, and learn how to network and present yourself as a professional performer.

You’ll also strengthen your CV and gain crucial experience with work placement at a local theatre, dance company or other relevant employer.

By the time you graduate, you’ll have the skills, experience and confidence to apply for dance roles or further study.
Programmes of study

Musical Theatre

Level 2 | Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)

If you enjoy acting, dancing and singing, you probably have your heart set on a career in Musical Theatre. From pantomimes and variety shows to West End musicals, this high-energy sector is great fun and incredibly rewarding. It’s also very competitive, so you’ll need the right training to succeed.

At The Manchester College, you’ll learn from tutors who have extensive experience of both teaching and working as a professional performer. You’ll learn a wide variety of skills and techniques, discover what it takes to work in Musical Theatre and explore both on and off stage job roles.

You will study all the key aspects of Musical Theatre, developing your skills in singing, dance and acting, and will perform in front of a live audience in one of our professional theatres.

Level 3 | Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)

From The Phantom of the Opera to The Lion King, musicals are some of the most energetic, upbeat and memorable shows ever performed. On this course, you’ll move one step closer to a career in musical theatre. You’ll learn from industry professionals, who’ve performed across the globe, and you’ll have numerous opportunities to wow audiences yourself, including in our own professional theatres and at the iconic Band on the Wall.

During the two year course, you’ll further develop your acting, dancing and singing skills. You’ll learn about current industry trends and practices, study a wide variety of Musicals and develop your repertoire. You’ll prepare for the next stage in your journey, by perfecting your audition skills and gaining valuable work experience with a relevant employer. By the time you complete the course, you should have the skills, knowledge and confidence to apply for jobs or progress to further training.
Once you’ve completed one of our Level 3 Diplomas, you’ll be able to progress onto our degree level qualifications with our higher education partner – UCEN Manchester – or apply to our very own drama school – The Arden School of Theatre.

- **Level 4** Performing Arts (Acting) | Performing Arts (Dance) | Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)
- **Level 5** Theatre and Performance | Technical Theatre and Production Arts
- **Level 6** Acting for Live and Recorded Media | Dance and Performance | Musical Theatre | Theatre and Performance | Vocal Studies and Performance

For more information or to apply, visit ucenmanchester.ac.uk or www.theardens.co.uk

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### Careers

#### Musical Theatre Performer

As a professional performer in Musical Theatre you could find yourself working in some of the leading Musicals in the West End or even on Broadway. You could be performing as part of the ensemble or even as one of the leading roles. You may find yourself working in Children’s Theatre, on a cruise ship touring the world, with a company such as Disney or opening your own Performing Arts school.

- **Children’s Entertainer:** £100 - £140 per day
- **Drama School Director:** £1,579 - £2,734 per week
- **Cruise ship Entertainer:** £1,300 - £3,200 per month

#### Dancer/Choreographer

As a trained dancer, your passion could take you around the world. You could find yourself working as a professional dancer on a cruise ship, as a backing dancer in the West End or as a soloist for a contemporary dance company. You could become a dance teacher, a choreographer, or even the director of your own dance company.

- **Average Salary:** £36,000

#### Actor

As a successful actor, you could have an exciting and varied global career. You could work in film and TV, or on stage in touring and regional productions. You might also feature in adverts, and do corporate, radio or voiceover work. Many actors decide to form their own theatre/ production companies or move into teaching, writing or directing.

- **Average Salary:** £30,245
Meet

The Team

Our tutors are proof that you can have a successful career in the entertainment industry, if you’re prepared to work for it. They’ve performed at the West End, on cruise ships and at venues across the globe, as well as appearing on TV. Many still work as professional dancers or actors. All our tutors have undertaken considerable extra training to be able to share their knowledge and skills with our students.

Helen Cheung

Helen has worked as a professional dancer around the world. She’s performed on-board cruise ships for Costa Cruises and Princess Cruises, and been on numerous dance tours. Helen has trained in America and Italy as well as the UK, and holds teaching qualifications in ISTD Tap, ISTD Modern and ISTD Ballet. She owns three dance studios and teaches more than 300 students a week.

Ina Colizza

Ina trained in contemporary dance and ballet at Akerusia Danza in Naples and Balletto di Toscana in Florence and also gained a Master’s degree in Teaching at the National Academy of Dance in Rome. She’s danced with numerous international companies and is now the co-artistic director of Matrafib Dance Company.

Natalie Coverley

Natalie has a wealth of experience in children’s theatre and Commedia dell’arte, and has performed in the West End, as well as with touring productions and for her own theatre company. Natalie has a first class Honours degree in Musical Theatre and eight years of teaching experience, including for LAMDA exams.
Douglas Cowap

Doug has had an exciting and varied career. Highlights include performing a musical theatre show in Paris for a year, and writing and directing educational shows for major museums in London. He’s also toured the UK, France and Germany as a folk musician, and the USA and Hong Kong as a choralist and soloist.

He has 18 years’ teaching experience, and particularly enjoys developing students’ skills in acting for film and TV. Doug is dyslexic and left school in 1985 with no qualifications. He ended up going to university, and now does whatever he can to support his students to overcome any challenges they may be facing in their own education journeys.

Bethany-Jayne Dalton

Bethany-Jayne is a former student of The Manchester College. Since graduating, she has danced professionally in the UK and internationally, including performing in Adidas’ 2018 World Cup campaign. Bethany-Jayne has danced for both the BBC and ITV and travelled to 68 countries whilst working with Norwegian Cruise Line.

Leigh Hayes

Award-winning director and playwright Leigh Hayes, has been teaching Acting at The Manchester College since 2002. He specialises in the approaches championed by Stanislavski and Brecht. Leigh has coached performers who have gone on to attend some of the top drama schools in the country and who have since appeared on television and in shows for the National Theatre. Leigh has also toured with the National Student Theatre Company himself.

Kerry Kawai

Kerry has been acting and directing for almost 20 years. She formed her first successful theatre company at the age of 22 and ended up producing, directing and performing in numerous productions. She also formed other touring theatre companies in Japan and right here in Manchester. Kerry is a well-known face in the Manchester Fringe scene, both as an actor and as a director.
Celia Lee
A classically trained soprano, Celia moved into teaching more than a decade ago. She’s since taught hundreds of young people, including through Vocaltutor and Mainstream Theatre Arts. Celia was part of a national government campaign to promote singing in primary schools, which saw her helping teachers to set up school choirs. She’s an RSL examiner for Performing Arts Awards (Musical Theatre) and recently began studying Estill Vocal Training to offer even more support to her students at The Manchester College.

Lucy Oldham
Lucy is an experienced Performing Arts curriculum manager, who spent over a decade working in theatre and education, both nationally and internationally. Lucy has a passion for Shakespeare and has directed multiple versions of his works in a variety of locations.

Sonia Morris
After graduating from the Arden School of Theatre, Sonia worked in both theatre and television. She co-founded one of the first black theatre companies in Manchester almost 20 years ago. The 50 Dolla Playas Theatre Company, helped to address the lack of roles for BAME actors and to create more opportunities for them to work with substantive text. Sonia has also promoted theatre performances in the UK and New York.

Charlotte Swindells
Charlotte has worked as a professional dancer and choreographer for a number of companies, including Stageworks Worldwide Productions, Showstoppers Productions, Vibe UK and Princess Cruises. She’s achieved advanced dance and teaching qualifications in Cecchetti Ballet, ISTD Tap and ISTD Modern.
Rebecca Tonye
Rebecca has worked in contemporary dance, jazz, Bollywood and musical theatre, and has experience of both stage and screen. Along with performing, she’s also an experienced choreographer. Rebecca has been teaching for over 15 years, including at a leading London stage school and youth groups in the UK, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Rebecca is also the co-director of The Manchester College’s contemporary dance company – Delusion.

Jake Simpson
Jake trained at The Manchester College before moving on to university. He’s qualified to teach all aspects of Musical Theatre, and specialises in vocal anatomy and physiology, amongst other subjects. He’s a tenor and has performed at numerous venues, including The Royal Albert Hall, The ARTS theatre and East Winter Garden at Canary Wharf. Jake has a wealth of experience in teaching both singing and dance. He’s worked with many learners who have special educational needs, and is passionate about inclusivity and equality within the arts.

Location
Choosing to study Performing Arts at The Manchester College, means you’ll benefit from our extraordinary performance spaces, state-of-the-art technology, industry-standard equipment and two fully equipped theatres.

And where better to study than Manchester? This city has a rich musical and performing arts tradition and boasts countless theatres, as well as the country’s longest running TV soap. It’s also home to the world-renowned Manchester International Festival.

Our Performing Arts campus is located right in the heart of the city, just five minutes’ walk from Piccadilly station. With the multi-million pound MediaCityUK on your doorstep, and exciting performance venues within walking distance, such as Home, The Royal Exchange Theatre, Hope Mill, The Palace and the Opera House, you’ll find inspiration and entertainment at every turn.

Shena Simon Campus
Whitworth Street
Manchester
M1 3HB

Greater Manchester

Shena Simon
Whitworth Street
Manchester
M1 3HB
Building Excellence

The College, alongside higher education partner UCEN Manchester, is investing £140m in our students by transforming and restructuring our campus estate.

Our new and redeveloped campuses, set to open throughout 2021 and 2022, will provide exceptional study facilities along with access to outstanding student services and support, allowing our students to thrive in industry standard training environments.

By autumn 2022, all of our Performing Arts provision will be taught out of a brand new Centre of Excellence for Performing Arts in Manchester City Centre.

Extensive facilities

The new campus will have numerous other industry-standard facilities and equipment, including a scene dock, a paint wall for creating scenic elements, and a fully stocked wardrobe and props store.

The campus will give students access to industry-standard facilities, including:

**Six studios**
Students will have access to six double height professional studios with fully sprung Harlequin floors and easy connect sound systems. One studio also includes rigging points for the temporary installation of theatrical lighting.

**Assessment Studio**
Our assessment studio can be fully ‘blacked out’ with theatre standard drapes, and has its own professional lighting and sound system allowing for the use of LED theatrical lighting and audio/visual effects.

Four hanging points allow for students to be trained and assessed in aerial work and use other flown equipment and scenery when needed. This space is ideal for day to day rehearsal, high standard assessments or even small shows, installations and showcases with an audience.

**Theatres**
Two modern and professional standard performance venues will be located onsite, both utilising state-of-the-art LED theatre lighting systems and controls, as well as high quality sound systems, including professional microphones.

**Black Box**
The smaller of these multi-purpose performance spaces is a black box area, which can be easily transformed for plays and dance performances set in any time period or location. The space seats up to 99 audience members and can also be used for theatre in the round.

**Main Space**
The larger of our two spaces will be used in a number of ways, including as a traditional Proscenium Arch theatre. Almost 200 audience members can be catered for. A tension wire lighting grid will allow staff and learners safe access to lighting and sound equipment above stage. Industry-standard equipment will make a range of dramatic effects possible, including aerial work.

**3D Workshop**
Sets and props can make a huge different to a performance, so our students will benefit from a fully kitted out 3D workshop to create bespoke sets and props for our in house productions.
What Our Students Say

Talisha Peach
Level 3 Performing Arts (Dance)
Former Kearlsey Academy student

“The college as a whole has influenced me to work harder and pushed me to reach my ambitions. Tutors have given me more information about the next steps I can take to achieve my goals, including the work experience I completed with my local dance school. They also gave me the opportunity to perform with Jack Whitehall at the Manchester Arena.”

James North
Level 3 Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)
Former Droylsden Academy student

“My time at the college motivated me to work hard to reach my goals. There are a lot of brilliant students which made me want to stand out amongst the rest.”

Connie Maguire
Level 3 Performing Arts (Dance)
Former Poynton High School student

“The college has helped me progress massively and encouraged me to continue pushing myself. My tutors have given continuous support in the run up to auditions to ensure we perform to the best of our ability. They’ve also given us amazing opportunities to work with professionals within the industry.”

Alisha Cathie
Level 3 Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)
Former Longdendale High School student

“I was attracted to The Manchester College because of how inclusive the college is. There are a variety of different backgrounds present creating a fun, diverse and accepting environment.”

John Kapansa
Level 3 Performing Arts (Acting)
Former Stockport School student

“Studying at The Manchester College was possibly the best decision I ever made. I would say TMC holds the most important memories of my life. Not only did it help me understand the Performing Arts world a bit better, it helped me grow as a person.”
How

To Apply

Applying to study at The Manchester College is really easy and can be done online via desktop, tablet or mobile.

Simply follow these eight steps and you’ll be on your journey to amazing in no time at all.

Step 1 | Visit tmc.ac.uk
Step 2 | Browse our range of courses and choose the course you’d like to apply for
Step 3 | Apply for the course using our application portal, making sure you complete all of the relevant information
Step 4 | Receive a conditional offer
Step 5 | You will be invited for an audition/interview which will take place either in person or remotely via self-tape
Step 6 | Register to our New Student Welcome Day (16-18 year old students only)
Step 7 | Join us at enrolment on the date we specify on your invite (For 16-18 year old students applying for September this will be after you receive your results)
Step 8 | Start your journey to amazing

What

Next?

Find out more and apply

To find out more about The Manchester College and our Performing Arts department and to apply for one of our courses visit: tmc.ac.uk/performing-arts

Visit us

Join us at one of our Open Events throughout the year to learn more about our courses, visit the campus you could be studying at and tour our facilities, speak to our tutors, view demonstrations and work from current students and much more.

To find out when our next Open Events are taking place visit: tmc.ac.uk/events

Stay in touch

Follow us via our social media channels
FB: The Manchester College
IG: @TheMcrCollege
TW: @TheMcrCollege

Contact us

Got a question about one of our courses or about The Manchester College or just need to get in touch?
Contact us:
EM: enquiries@tmc.ac.uk
TEL: 03333 222 444
The Manchester College is committed to equality of opportunity, non-discriminatory practices and supporting individual learners.

This information is also available in a range of formats, such as large print, on request.