

## **Your Degree in Theatre and Drama...What Next?**

The course aims to produce artists that are physically and vocally flexible and intellectually alive and curious. Alongside core disciplines of voice, movement and acting studies, you will have developed a range of creative and practical techniques and transferable skills that will encourage you to be an independent thinking and motivated artist, an articulate and reflective practitioner equipped to succeed in a competitive profession.

### **What skills have I gained from my Theatre and Drama degree?**

You will have developed a flair for dramatic performance and the ability to respond creatively to a variety of situations.

The skills you gain while studying a performing arts degree are valued by all types of employers, for example:

- **Confidence;** independent, creative, and comfortable with themselves
- **Teamwork and collaboration;** participating in the daily work required to excel in music, whilst managing college, work, performing etc.
- **Self-awareness & Self-discipline**
- **Open minded** and the ability to move beyond boundaries and experiment with different ideas;
- **Communication skills;** developed through performing and engaging listeners.
- **Analytical, critical and research skills;**
- **Ability to cope with criticism** and learn from it; giving and receiving criticism, learning from mistakes and striving for improved performance.
- **Stamina;** determined, never give up attitude
- **Good physical dexterity, memory and concentration;** developed in practice and performance.
- **Time Management and Organisational skills;** producing and planning performances, learning lines/different roles - makes good project managers, able to organise and plan ahead toward individual or group performances/goals.
- **Teamwork;** through working effectively with others one learns that a performance will be successful.
- **Performing under pressure** - overcoming nervousness in order to perform well during exams, shows and auditions.

*Other desirable qualities, characteristics required for employment in the Arts/Drama sector:*

- A passion for Theatre/film in several forms.
- Provide Creative ideas
- Individualism
- Ability to network.
- Self-directed learning and work.
- Adventure & Curiosity
- Commitment & Resourcefulness
- High self-esteem and personal focus.
- Problem-solving & lateral thinking
- Project management, Organisational and time-management skills.
- Awareness of governmental financial and career supports e.g. The Arts Council/Theatre Funding/Grants.
- Ability to express yourself both orally and to be creative, persuasive and prepared to take artistic risks.
- Excellent negotiation and interpersonal skills.
- Self-motivation and the ability to motivate and inspire others.
- Dedication and enthusiasm.

## **What can I do with my Theatre & Drama degree?**

Graduates will have the ability to pursue careers in the performing arts, education, arts administration, community arts, film and television media, and may also undertake further study in the area of drama, theatre and performance.

***When I graduate from this Degree, what necessary steps do I need to take to be qualified to teach?***

Graduates will be able to seek work as drama teachers in stage schools and various community arts organisations. They will need a further qualification to teach in Primary and Second level Schools.

## **Job options**

Drama is a very popular degree subject, jobs in acting are very sought-after and often gained through personal contacts, so be prepared to practice your people skills.

***There are lots of roles in the arts for drama graduates in;***

- Actor
- Direction
- Production
- Design
- Theatre Stage Manager
- Arts Administrator
- Journalism and PR.

- Radio Broadcast Assistant
- Dancer
- Drama Teacher
- Drama Therapist
- Music Therapist
- Cabaret
- Stand Up Comedy
- Digital Media

The skills taught by drama courses can be useful elsewhere – a lot of the economy can use people who can perform and present in front of others.

*Drama graduates can also be found in:*

- Teaching
- Management
- Advertising
- Project and Events Organisation
- Community work

*Drama and theatre studies graduates get jobs with a range of employers including;*

- Theatres and Arts Organisations
- Broadcasters
- Schools
- Colleges and Universities
- Welfare Organisations
- Advertising agencies.
- Cultural and Creative Industries
- Holiday Park Entertainment
- Artistic, Literary and Media occupations
- Personnel Manager
- Charities Administrator

Remember that many employers accept applications from graduates with any degree subject, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed here.

*There are many other areas of work that you could go into, such as;*

- Advertising, Marketing & PR
- Charity, Not-for-profit & NGO
- Culture, Music & Performing Arts
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Management Consulting & Business
- Retail & Sales

- Teaching & Education

***Be aware that freelancing and self-employment is common, as are what is termed 'portfolio careers' – having several part-time jobs or commissions at once.***

The **Arts Council** offers a wide range of financial supports across art forms and arts practices, including theatre.

For self-employed practicing artists, the Arts Council of Ireland is the body charged with allocating governmental finances in this sector. It acts in partnership with the arts, providing advice and financial support to artists in all domains, and as an advocacy body for continued governmental and private funding.

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

## **Work Experience**

Performing artists generally supplement their training, generate opportunities and enhance their creative knowledge through work experience and by participating in voluntary projects. Contact your local community centre or search the internet for details of community projects in your area.

Other options include getting involved with unfunded charitable organisations' projects, or to support industry professionals in developing their creative process.

Consider organising acting or dance workshops and creative laboratories to expand your art form and apply for funding for self-created art projects. Many dancers and actors also start their own company with a particular art form that they want to explore.

These unpaid projects or workshops are valuable ways to grow as an artist while creating opportunities for the exchange of ideas and these open forums/performances are often attended by industry professionals.

## ***Gain an understanding of the industry and the range of opportunities available***

The industry is forever evolving. Ensure you are well read and up to date on what's happening and be aware of the changing trends that affect the business.

There are many specialist websites where you can learn more about the industry, and find ads for placements and jobs.

It's also worth using sites such as LinkedIn to build your network of industry contacts.

## **Networking**

- Personality and 'who you know' are very important
- You need to have the personality to deal with knockbacks – need to be accustomed to this
- Build up contacts during your study (teachers/student colleagues/careers advisors)
- Talk to them
- Find out what avenues they can help you develop
- Luck comes from chance meetings and contacts with those in the business
- The more you meet with people, the better chance you have of that lucky break!

- Commit yourself to new ventures

*Starting off a career can be daunting, worrying and uncertain but can also be exciting!*

## **Postgraduate Courses`**

- [www.postgradireland.com](http://www.postgradireland.com) for courses in Ireland
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) for courses in the UK.
- [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) for courses in Ireland

Gaining a postgraduate qualification brings with it many benefits. It enables you to gain further, more specialised knowledge in your field of study. It can give you a specific technical, vocational or professional qualification and facilitate you in developing a range of key skills including; research, analysis, evaluation and written communication.

There are also many 'conversion courses' should you wish to change direction and move into a different career.

For further information, go to the 'Further/Postgraduate Study' link on the Students page of our website;  
<http://www.mycit.ie/careers>.

*Some examples of post grad study within the sector: (there are many more)*

**NUIG - MA Drama & Theatre Studies**

**UCD – MA Directing for Theatre**

**Trinity – MA Theatre & Performance**

**NUIG – MA Writing for Theatre**

**Trinity – MA Stage Design**

**Trinity – MA Theatre Directing**

## **Have a memorable CV**

Don't try too hard but remember it is a creative business. Your CV needs to make an instant impression – it's what's going to get you in the door for an interview. You ideally need to demonstrate your passion, an active interest, or projects you've pursued in your own time relating to theatre/drama. This will give you a much greater chance of being invited in for a face-to-face meeting.

Your CV should detail not only your paid work history, but any relevant work experience, paid or unpaid, either with a business or projects you have undertaken yourself. You need to show the person looking at your CV that you are proactive, keen and have used your own initiative. Internships are often heavily admin-focused, so don't forget to include this particular experience you have gained.

## **Further Resources**

Gradireland publications – Available at the Careers Service or download a copy of the relevant sector publications from [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com)

For career opportunities in the UK see [www.targetjobs.co.uk](http://www.targetjobs.co.uk)

The TARGETjobs publication and TARGETjobs magazines are available from the Careers Service or download a copy.

**Tip:** If you are unsure about what direction to take after your degree, the gradireland Careers Report is a useful tool for matching your personal information and preferences to potential careers. Log on and register at [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com) to use the report.

**Tip:** If you want to find out more information about what is involved in any of the job titles listed in this document, check out the *A to Z Occupation List* on [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie).

### ***Useful Websites***

<http://www.irishtheatre.ie/> - Resource for Theatre in Ireland

<http://www.irishtheatreinstitute.com/> - Artist support & training – Ireland

<http://www.theatreforum.ie/jobs-board/> - Theatre Jobs – Ireland

<https://artsmanagement.ie/jobs/> - Theatre Jobs & Internships Ireland

[www.creativecareers.ie](http://www.creativecareers.ie) - Links to jobs, creative spaces for rent/hire, intern and volunteer opportunities and training. Also has an excellent links page, providing a list of resources divided by heading for further research - Ireland

[www.vaireland.org](http://www.vaireland.org) - Voluntary Arts Ireland, a body that seeks to promote involvement in voluntary art, particularly cross-border. Job vacancies for the organization are also advertised here.

<http://www.create-ireland.ie>

<http://www.iacat.ie/> - Irish Association of Creative Art Therapists

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/> - Provides career information, entitlements and career tools for young people in the UK.

<http://shop.rhinegold.co.uk/products/rhinegold-british-performing-arts-yearbook-2016-17> - Resource for performing Arts – UK

<https://www.dramauk.co.uk/> - Careers & Theatre - UK

<http://www.castingnow.co.uk/> - Jobs - UK

<http://www.movieextras.ie/> - Jobs – UK

<http://www.mediavolt.co.uk/> - Media Industry Jobs – UK

<https://www.thestage.co.uk/> - Jobs/Industry News - UK

<http://www.sagaftra.org/> - Screen Actors Guild – USA