

A BIGLITTLE THEATRE SCHOOL COURSE



Training for the Profession

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME Foundation Plus

One-Year Musical Theatre Foundation course within a training theatre company for students post-18. [incl. Trinity ATCL Musical Theatre Diploma *level 4 eqv.*]

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Part-time Musical Theatre training company for students in year 12 & 13

BIGLITTLE
theatre school

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“The variety of material covered has enriched me as a performer and helped me grow as a human being. I received multiple offers for drama school as a result of the intensity and supportive nature of the training.”

ABBY GRINDEY PDP 2022-2024
Urnang, City of London University
Musical Theatre (3 year degree course)



Training for the Profession AT BIGLITTLE THEATRE SCHOOL



BIGLITTLE Theatre School offers highly focussed, intensive and specialised training for those students in sixth form or gap year who are seriously considering a career in the performing arts. The **Professional Development Programme** has, since 2007 successfully provided first-class training and drama school audition preparation to hundreds of sixth-form students. A high percentage of **PDP** graduates gain places at top UK theatre schools.



A great many of our alumni have forged incredible careers in the industry, performing, directing and choreographing in the West End, National/International tours and regional theatre worldwide.

Natasha J Barnes (*Funny Girl, Spring Awakening, American Idiot, Lend Me A Tenor*), **Nick Hayes** (*Saturday Night Fever, Footloose, Priscilla Queen of the Desert and Hollyoaks for Channel 4*), **Chris Piper** (*Fame, Chicago, We Will Rock You, Charlie And The Chocolate Factory*), **Ryan Gover** (*42nd Street, Cats, We Will Rock You, The Wizard of Oz*), **Inez Budd** (*Heathers, Dirty Dancing, Grease*), **Dylan Mason** (*Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, 42nd Street, Wind In The Willows, The Boyfriend*) among many more.

Find out more about our alumni at www.biglittle.biz/alumni



NEW COURSE

In September 2023, and building on the success of previous programmes, we launched the **Professional Development Programme Foundation Plus**. This bespoke course extends **PDP** for students aged 18+ who have left full-time education and are looking for an **intensive and focussed musical theatre foundation course**. The programme is part-time (3 days per week), allowing students time to work to fund their studies, and successful completion of the course leads to a Trinity ATCL Diploma in Musical Theatre (*level 4 equivalent*).

What is PDP?

BIGLITTLE Theatre School's Professional Development Programme is a training theatre company offering an average of 9.75 hours contact time per week during term time, plus two major production weeks, one in February half-term and one in July.

Membership of **PDP** enables committed, focused and talented young performers to develop their skills in a fully professional environment, working with a wide range of top professionals in all aspects of theatre. **Students gain a place on the programme for one year, but may re-audition to remain a member in subsequent years.**



PDP students receive training in

- Dance
 - Acting (stage & screen)
 - Improvisation
 - Vocal technique
 - Acting through song
 - Monologue preparation
 - Shakespeare & Classical texts
 - Voiceovers & Podcasting
- and much more

PDP fully prepares students for drama school auditions and the demands of full-time professional training.

PDP Foundation Plus

Our new **Foundation Plus** one-year course enables students 18-21, (typically in a gap-year), to build on training already received in **PDP** or elsewhere, at Foundation Course level.

With 20.75 hours contact time per week, our small cohorts and incredible staff/student ratios enables a laser focus on the skills required to achieve drama school entry whilst enabling students to train without the additional costs and disruption of relocation.

Unlike a standard foundation course students benefit from being part of the **PDP** training theatre company and participate in two major productions during the year. Students successfully completing the **PDP Foundation Plus** course will receive an **ATCL Diploma (Level 4) qualification in Musical Theatre or Performing Arts from Trinity College.**

“ ... the teachers I work with weekly who are still working in the industry has shown me where my future might lead. ”

PIERS MIDDLETON PDP 2021-2023
Urdang, City of London University
Musical Theatre (3 year degree course)



The Faculty



BIGLITTLE is proud to be well acknowledged by top London drama schools and theatre professionals meaning we are able to provide the highest quality of teachers and creatives. All our teachers have extensive industry experience as actors, directors/choreographers or musical directors and many also work at top theatre schools in London and elsewhere including *ArtsEd, Mountview, LSMT, Emil Dale, GSA, PPA, RWCMD* and others.

Regular staff and recent guest teachers include;

Lucy Jane Adcock
Colin Billing [*BIGLITTLE Principal*]
Albey Brookes [*Foundation Plus Course Leader*]
Adam Jarrell
Don Gallagher
Emily Goodenough
Ryan Gover
Adrian Grove
Lauren Hall
Nick Hayes
Kelly Knight
Tom Lorcan
Matthew Malthouse [*PDP Course Director*]
Nigel Richards
Caine Stanton
Jamie-Lee Tuffrey
Michael Watson
Emma Woods [*PDP Head of Dance*]
Lisa Zahra

You can find out more about all the faculty and guest teachers including thier biographies at www.biglittle.biz/our-people

“ Working with the students at **BIGLITTLE Theatre School** was for me a very rewarding experience as they all have real ambition and are so keen to learn. ”

Don Gallagher
Actor - RSC



“ The commitment and talent from the students in PDP blew me away. I wish I could have gone to a facility like this prior to auditioning for drama school ”

Lauren Hall
Actor/Teacher



Audition preparation and professional development is led by **PDP Course Director Matthew Malthouse**.

Matthew has over 20 years of performing experience alongside his teaching career at many of the UK's top drama schools. This gives **BIGLITTLE** students access to up to date advice about what colleges are currently looking for from applicants.

What Will My Training Involve?

TERM 1

Audition Preparation & Professional Development

During the first part of the year we focus on everything to do with preparation for auditions for drama school entry. Finding songs, monologues, Shakespeare/classical monologues, writing personal statements, devising pieces, dance solos, application forms, self-tape filming. Everything you need to go into your auditions feeling confident is covered by our team of experienced teachers.

For those in year 12 and 13 who may not yet be auditioning for drama school this process enables students to gain a head start and benefit from workshops and mock auditions. For students in **PDP Foundation Plus** the small cohort and significant additional contact time enables a deep-dive into the entire process, with a focus on the individual student needs.

The programme, particularly at **Foundation Plus** level has a strong bias towards building confidence, skills and strength in dance. This is an increasingly important area for all musical theatre students particularly those who consider themselves to be actor/singers.

Across the year approximately fifty percent of contact time is devoted to dance training, classes and/or learning choreography in one form or another, including 45 minutes of ballet every Saturday morning.

The Musical

In the second part of the year (from November to February) the company goes into rehearsals for a fully staged musical production with a guest Director.



To enable the students to benefit fully from the professional theatre process, this project will be performed during a full time production week in February half term.

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Thursday

10am - 5pm **PDP Foundation Plus**

6pm - 9.15pm **PDP & PDP Foundation Plus**

Friday

11am - 5pm **PDP Foundation Plus**

Saturday

9.15am - 5pm **PDP & PDP Foundation Plus**



“It's taught me so much. I definitely wouldn't be going to EDA if it wasn't for the training PDP has provided.”

MEGAN SHAW PDP 2021-2023

Emil Dale Academy | EDA |

Musical Theatre (3 year degree course)

TERM 2

With rehearsals for the musical now underway, the audition preparation and workshops continue. Assistance with and feedback on audition self-tapes is provided and students who are in the process of auditions have regular 1-1 feedback and audition update sessions with the faculty.

Audition material is reviewed and adjusted/changed where necessary based on the results of a student's audition process.

The presentation of the musical during half-term, plus a second performance and enrichment opportunity at **BIGLITTLE's ArtsFest** event provide further opportunities to gain experience and build on the skills being developed.

PDP Foundation Plus students work towards a sharing of work at the end of term 2. The sharing is a presentation of material we have been working on in class.

Each student gets the opportunity to perform a solo item of their choice alongside short plays, dance and group numbers.

The sharing is informal and is an opportunity to experience performing the work in front of a supportive audience.



Summer Production - BROADWAY SHOWTUNES

During the final part of term 2 we begin rehearsals for our major annual production at the Pavilion Theatre. The rehearsal process gives students an opportunity to enhance skills working with the creative team on a wide range of musical theatre repertoire.



TERM 3

Broadway Showtunes rehearsals continue apace, primarily on Saturdays. For students in both **PDP** & **PDP Foundation Plus** the Thursday evening sessions continue with classes and workshops building skills and experience in all areas of training.

ATCL Diploma & Enrichment Project

With the drama school audition process now largely complete, students in **PDP Foundation Plus** focus on their diploma examinations and a programme of enrichment; a **Theatre In Education** module where students devise an age appropriate performance and supporting workshops for delivery to children in local primary schools during a two week period in June.

What Qualification will I receive?

Students who successfully complete the **PDP Foundation Plus** course will receive a **Trinity ATCL Diploma (NQA Level 4) qualification in advanced performance skills (Musical Theatre or Performing Arts)**.

The examination requires students to perform a recital of linked pieces which can be tailored to the student's strengths in performance (Acting, Singing, Dance, Mime etc.) This is followed by a 'Viva voce' (Oral Examination) which comprises of a discussion and an interpretation/improvisation element. There is no written work required for this qualification.



Entry Criteria

All students who meet the following criteria are able to apply for an audition.

We welcome suitable applications from students who are new to BIGLITTLE Theatre School and who would like to train with us.

- **Age Limits**
 - **PDP** - students must be aged 16+ and entering year 12 or above in the September that they apply.
 - **PDP Foundation Plus** - students must be at least 18 and no older than 20 years of age in the September that they start the course.
- Students must be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to a potential career within the performing arts/creative industries.
- Students must possess a solid skill set in at least 2 out of 3 disciplines (acting, singing, dancing) with a strong desire and willingness to improve and develop.
- Students must be "trainable". Students must be open and receptive to learning new techniques, methods and ideas.
- Students must demonstrate a mature and professional outlook, be able to work as a team and be totally committed to the programme.
- Current **BIGLITTLE** students should already have an exceptional level of attendance and commitment to their training at **BIGLITTLE** and be able to demonstrate they can continue this within the programme.
- **Students must not take on any commitments outside of the programme** which prevents them from attending the full programme.

IMPORTANT - *BIGLITTLE has always understood and accommodated requested absences by students involved with school productions and dance school shows where the clash of dates has not impacted the students training too severely. Regrettably, there are sometimes occasions where this is just not possible and students should be aware that it may not be possible to be part of the PDP programme if they are already over-committed elsewhere.*



What standard do I need to be to audition?

The training is designed for students who will likely have a significant history and background in musical theatre, dance or acting training & performing. The programme is not suitable for beginners and a strong skillset in at least two of the three disciplines of acting, singing and dancing is required.

It is important to us that we believe that students have sufficient potential to make it likely that they will at the end of their time in the programme be able to achieve successful entry to a higher education performing arts course.

Costs & What is Included



Full information regarding fees for the forthcoming year, and what is and isn't included is on the addendum insert which accompanies this prospectus, and is also available on our website.

BIGLITTLE Theatre School is proud to be a not-for-profit organisation and all both **PDP/PDP Foundation Plus** are heavily subsidised to make the training accessible to as many students as possible.



How do our fees compare?

We have designed our foundation course to enable students to receive the same level of audition preparation training available at London colleges but at a fraction of the price.

A typical foundation course costs between £9,000 and £12,000 for a year whereas the **PDP Foundation Plus** course represents incredible training value **with more content** (*productions, diploma, enrichment*) and no relocation and accommodation expenses. The part time nature of the course also enables students to work part time to fund their studies if required.

Membership of **PDP/PDP Foundation Plus** is for one year and fees become due upon acceptance of a place. Except in extenuating circumstances no refunds are given for a student who leaves part way through the year.

Audition Requirements

After receipt of a completed application form, suitable students will be invited to audition.

Full information regarding audition dates & process is included in the enclosed sheet with this prospectus or is available online from our website, but in general terms students will be asked to present the following:-

- **Two contrasting Musical Theatre Songs** - the panel may choose to hear one or both.
Please provide sheet music for the audition pianist in the correct key & format for your audition.
- **A short contemporary monologue.** This piece should be in your own voice - no strong accents.
The monologue should be from a play or scene written after 1960. No classical pieces, please.

Please note ALL pieces (both songs and speeches) MUST be less than 2 minutes in duration.
(It is acceptable to make cuts in songs/speeches to achieve this)

HOW TO APPLY

Students may apply for an audition by visiting our website and completing the form at www.biglittle.biz/pdp-apply. If you have any questions, or would like to talk to us about whether **PDP** or **PDP Foundation Plus** is right for you then please get in touch via our website or call us on 01202 434499.

OPEN DAYS & PRE-AUDITION WORKSHOPS

From time to time we run open days and pre-audition workshops for students who are interested in finding out more about **PDP** and **PDP Foundation Plus**. We are happy to arrange visits for prospective new external students & parents to view the programme in action.

We welcome applications from students who do not currently train with BIGLITTLE.



“ I can honestly say teaching the students at **BIGLITTLE** is one of the most joyful days of teaching I have ever had.

Their sheer talent and hunger to improve made it **SO** enjoyable and I left feeling rewarded and very excited for their futures! ”



Emily Goodenough
West End Performer



“ I have learned more and improved more in the last five months of doing PDP than I have in seventeen years. ”

JENNIFER BARON PDP 2022 - current

“ It was a pleasure to work with your very talented students. They showed a level of professionalism beyond their years and what a credit they are to your school, your staff and the level of your training. ”

Lesley McClymont, Head of Singing
The Brighton Academy



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EMPOWERING
DREAMS
ENRICHING
LIVES

Application & Audition Process

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME Foundation Plus

One-Year Musical Theatre Foundation course within a training theatre company for students post-18. [incl. Trinity ATCL Musical Theatre Diploma *level 4 eqv.*]

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Part-time Musical Theatre training company for students in year 12 & 13

INTERNAL CANDIDATES

refers to those who are already part of BIGLITTLE Youth Theatre.
(or who are auditioning for entry in March 2024)

EXTERNAL CANDIDATES

refers to students who are not part of BIGLITTLE Youth Theatre.
(although they may be receiving training from BIGLITTLE in other ways)

Places on the programme are offered on merit and equal weight is given to both internal & external applicants.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Friday 1st March 2024

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Friday 30th August 2024

AGE LIMIT FOR APPLICATIONS

Students must be aged 16-20 on August 31st 2024

HOW TO APPLY

All students applying for a place to train on either the **Professional Development Programme** or **PDP Foundation Plus** course should complete the application form at www.biglittle.biz/pdp-apply



EXTERNAL CANDIDATES

Once an application form has been received, students who we feel are suitable for the training will be invited to submit a self-tape video containing the following;

- 1x musical theatre song
 - 1x contemporary monologue
 - A short introduction piece to the camera telling us a bit about yourself and why you are applying for the programme
- Each item must be no longer than two minutes in length*

Successful applicants will then be invited to an in person recall audition on one of the dates overleaf.

INTERNAL CANDIDATES

Internal candidates should apply as described above. They will not be required to submit a self-tape, but will be required to attend an in person audition on one of the dates overleaf.

Big Little Theatre School Ltd. is a non-profit making organisation providing training and professional development in the performing arts to dedicated children and young people.

Company Number 04760231 Registered in England and Wales • Registered Office: 1 East Borough Wimborne Dorset BH21 1PA

AUDITION DATES

Sunday 23rd June 2024

Sunday 28th July 2024

Sunday 8th September 2024

A **BIGLITTLE THEATRE SCHOOL** COURSE



IN-PERSON RECALL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

All students invited to attend an in-person audition, whether as an internal candidate, or an external candidate who has been recalled following on from their self-tape submission will be asked to prepare the following material;

- 2x contrasting musical theatre songs
- 1x contemporary monologue
- 1x Shakespeare/classical monologue (*PDP Foundation Plus applicants only*)

[All of the above must be cut so that each individual piece is no longer than 2 minutes in duration]

The audition will also include a group dance and acting workshop segment, plus a 1-1 interview.

PRE-AUDITION WORKSHOP

New for 2024 are our pre-audition workshop days for students who are considering applying for the programme.

These workshops are open to any prospective student in school year 11 or above who would like the opportunity to work with the senior faculty for a day, to experience the style of training offered, and have an opportunity to work on material that they may wish to use in auditions, plus an insight into the drama school audition process.

Our next workshop date is;

Sunday 28th April 2024 10.30am-4.30pm

There is no charge to attend, but booking is essential.

Please book online at www.biglittle.biz/pdp-taster or contact us at admissions@biglittle.biz.

Costs & What is Included

Professional Development Programme

The fee for membership in 2024/2025 is £2,595.

This includes all costs of training, including 9.75 hours contact time for 34 weeks during the academic year. This represents the total cost of the training, (excluding items below), and includes all additional contact hours for rehearsals and production contributions for both the musical and Broadway Showtunes.

PAYMENT TERMS

Fees may be spread across the year in 10 monthly instalments (Sep-June) of £259.50 or they may be paid in 4 instalments of £648.75 due on September 30/December 31/March 31/June 30.

PDP Foundation Plus

The course fee for 2024/2025 is £5,395.

This includes all costs of training, including 20.75 hours contact time for 32 weeks during the academic year. This represents the total cost of the training, (excluding items below), and includes all additional contact hours for rehearsals and production contributions for both the musical and Broadway Showtunes.

PAYMENT TERMS

A deposit of £1,000 is due upon acceptance of the offer of a place. The balance of fees may be paid either in 10 monthly instalments of £439.50 (Sep-June) or in 4 quarterly instalments of £1098.75 due on September 30/December 31/March 31/June 30.

What is not included

- Uniform items (*Dancewear/shoes plus new students are required to purchase a personalised hoodie*)
- 1-1 Singing Lessons (*these are available weekly or bi-weekly at an additional charge*)

Membership of **PDP/PDP Foundation Plus** is for one year and fees become due upon acceptance of a place. Except in extenuating circumstances no refunds are given for a student who leaves part way through the year.