

## **ABOUT US**

Situated in the centre of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Academy of Performing Arts is one of the North East's leading dance & performing arts centres, offering fantastic facilities & expert tuition. We offer all our students of varying abilities & backgrounds equal opportunities to succeed in their chosen art form by providing a creative, dynamic & positive environment, with courses that equip students towards fulfilling their future aspirations. Our School was founded in 2005 by Principal Rachel Young and, backed by a team of professional performers and tutors, we have since developed excellent opportunities for students to study Musical Theatre. The course we have designed serves as an excellent preparation for going straight into professional work in Musical Theatre/Performing Arts or for further training in performing arts. The course is structured to give students a thorough grounding in the core aspects of acting, singing & dance, with coaching aimed at developing a high level of skill & diversity, to succeed in what is a very competitive industry. By concentrating on a manageable student intake (approx. 10-15 students per course per year), students will work in small groups & receive regular one-to-one sessions with tutors & specialist practitioners. Students will not only work with experienced full-time teaching staff, but also have the opportunity to participate in workshops & master classes with a wide variety of visiting professional choreographers, tutors & performers. This provides a valuable link to current professional practices & influential contacts within the industry. Throughout the course students are carefully monitored and encouraged to discuss class progress with course tutors. In-house and external productions, work experience and annual performances aim to consolidate all that has been learnt in the classroom, giving students confidence & experience in performing in front of an audience.

## **FACILITIES AND LOCATION**

Our Facilities include:

Large Waiting Room

'The Den' – Changing Room and Chill out area dedicated to our older students

Studio 1 : The Largest Dance Studio in the North East of Scotland.

Wardrobe Department and waiting room upstairs

Studio 2

Studio 4

Singing Studio

Kitchen (full time Students are permitted to use)

Study Room

The studios are in the centre of town with many student hall complexes within 5-15 minute walk. There are many shopping centres and shops near- by.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Ideally (but not a necessity) you should have at least two Higher Grades (or equivalent) including Drama, Music or Dance Practice and English. Equivalent NC qualifications in related disciplines will also be considered. However, entry is by audition and interview only and not on academic merit. Previous experience performing is essential. Some knowledge of music theory and experience of an instrument are helpful but not a necessary prerequisite for the course. If you are in doubt as to your suitability and entry requirements then please do apply in any case and we will further advise. You will be expected to demonstrate your abilities in dancing during the audition. Auditions will be individual.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

You will study full time for a minimum of 25 hours per week for the Higher National Diploma in Musical Theatre. This is a mix of taught classes, personal practise and research time. Alongside the HND course units, you may also study Grade 8 Trinity College Musical Theatre in year 1 and your Associate Diploma in year 2. BATD and IDTA Dance exam grades are available too and these final exams like Trinity College are optional. As part of the HND course you will take part in dance, singing and drama tutorials. There are 28 credits to be successfully completed over the 2 years. The Graded unit gives the overall grading of the HND.

Alongside the mandatory SQA units we allow you to add on extra classes and complete extra units in other performing arts areas. So you can add on extra Contemporary or Tap or Acting classes should you wish to improve on these areas. Some of the mandatory units which must be passed for HND Musical Theatre are:

Tap Dance / Jazz Dance / Ballet Dance / Singing / Vocal Production / Acting & Performance

Extra classes give you the opportunity to study Street Dance, Lyrical, Acrobatic tumbling, Pas de Deux, Choreography, Commercial, Body Conditioning and business skills which may help you in the future when working in the industry. All students will be given the opportunity to take part in public performances to gain vital experience and to enhance performing skills. Throughout these units students will work on a wide range of repertoire. This Course is accredited by the SQA and the SQA will annually inspect our tutors, verifiers, course work and marking standards so you can be assured of a high standard of course training. All HND certificates are issued by the SQA.

THE EXTRA'S THAT WE OFFER AT ABERDEEN ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS.....

**Trinity College Examinations:** Alongside the SQA units, students may prepare to sit their grade 8 or Associate Diploma in Musical Theatre. Repertoire that is studied in the HND units will also be suitable for Trinity College London examinations. Students are required to prepare a programme of pieces, rehearse them to a very high standard and perform them to an independent examiner. Any candidate successfully passing their grade 8 exam will also gain UCAS points dependant on their

exam grading and these points can go towards entry for a further higher education course if that is the destination of the student after completing our course. Trinity College is one of the world's leading drama, music and musical theatre examination bodies. An independent Trinity examiner will travel to our Aberdeen studios to conduct the exams. As music theory is also studied on the course, optional theory exams may be on offer through Trinity College too. BATD (British Association of Teachers of Dancing), IDTA (International Teachers of Dance) and ABT (American Ballet Theatre) are three of the World's most highly regarded dance organisations. Alongside the Ballet, Tap, Jazz Units you will also study Street Dance, Commercial, Basic Ballroom/Partner Work and Musical Theatre dance styles and have daily Body conditioning sessions. Body Conditioning and Fitness are equally as important as learning dance techniques. There will be an opportunity to take formal dance examinations through these dance associations should you wish. Dance Leaders – Students may be given the opportunity to gain their Level 2 Dance Leaders award.

**Master Classes** : Aberdeen Academy of Performing Arts have a close link to many industry performers, teachers and directors and as often as possible we will have Master Classes with these working professional performers. Who will also cover course content and audition techniques.

**Performance and Competition Trips** : During your time at AAPA you may get the opportunity to take part in our Performance trips. In the past we have been to Disneyland Paris and London. Students on the Disney Land trip will have the opportunity to perform in the park and pre-parade (subject to successful Disney auditions) and may even compete on stage at the International Festival of Dance and Performing Arts. (Students participating in competition and performance trips will be expected to fund it themselves as this is not covered under course fees.) As we believe that your craft is learnt in class and practised on stage, we offer you the chance to take part in competitions around the UK including our own 3 day event in Aberdeen. Our past students have loved being offered this extra opportunity.

**Life Beyond HND** : While the 2 year course in Musical Theatre is a great grounding for life in general (confidence, presentation skills, hard work ethos, physical fitness etc) there are many routes students can take after successfully gaining the HND. For example, professional work, further study in Dance or Musical Theatre or jump in to a 3rd year university degree course which through part time study can convert the HND into a BA (hons.) degree. Whatever route you chose to follow after completion of the course we are there to help and support. We can also act as a reference on your behalf should you need one. Throughout the year there maybe extra opportunities to perform or take on professional jobs. In the past our students have performed at fashion shows, charity events, corporate oil company events and paid performance work. We have been lucky enough to have performed with Plan B, Jake Whitehall and Kerry Ellis/Nathan James/Lorna Luft / Adam Garcia to name a few.

**Location** :Our College facilities are located in the Centre of Aberdeen. There is lots of student accommodation in the area. Our facilities are ideal for students studying full time. As well as many studios to work in during free time or non-tutor contact hours we have The Den - the student chill out room, a study room and a fully functioning kitchen. Our College is an NUS member meaning

students can access a student card upon matriculation and apply for an NUS card which gives discounts in a variety of shops, services and restaurants.

**COURSE FEES:** Aberdeen Academy of Performing Arts is a private institution. It means, unlike most further education colleges and universities, the Scottish Government will only pay a portion of your tuition fees. As we are a recognised Further Education provider you may be eligible to apply to the Student Awards Agency for Scotland for some assistance. You may also be eligible to apply for young Student Bursary too, dependent on your personal circumstances. As we are a private institution we have complete independence over who we accept onto the course and the number of students we accept. Alongside our own course tutors, we are also free to employ professional staff for workshops throughout the year and to fund Musical and Dance productions at local professional venues. This full time 2 year course not only consists of study to gain an HND in Musical Theatre but we have added extra classes and opportunities to the full time course to ensure that we deliver a course which will produce students ready to take their next step into further study or professional work. The Tuition Fees each year are £3500 (total for 2 year Diploma would be £7000). Optional Trinity College, Dance and Music exams and performance trip are a separate additional fee. For example the fee could be made up of the following: : £1205 SAAS funding (If you are eligible for assistance – the figure can vary year to year) : £2295 personal contribution\* or £2095 once the deduction of the £200 course deposit has been made. We split this yearly fee into 10 monthly instalments of £209 per month or approx. £53 per week! \* This contribution can be made up of your own resources, parental contribution, student loan funding (if eligible) or young students bursary (if eligible). Upon acceptance to the 2 year course we will detail the payment dates and instalments. This can be mutually adjusted dependent upon each student's circumstance. A non-refundable deposit of £200 is required to be paid immediately to secure your place on the course if you are accepted for study. Once the course has started course fees are non-refundable and with drawl from the course will result in full course fees for that year still being due to AAPA

**STUDENT WELFARE:** Students are encouraged to talk to their class tutor if they are having any problems or issues with their class or course work. We have a child protection officer who is available by appointment for any other issue a student maybe facing or if they don't want to talk directly to their class tutor. There is always a First Aid trained person in the building to help deal with minor injuries. We expect our students & staff to uphold positive working relationships. We expect our students to also maintain a respectful positive attitude and manner and to uphold the high level of professionalism with which we operate our training programme. In this respect we do not allow students to direct negative comment or criticism directly to either a tutor or fellow student in any instance. Please refer to our Behaviour Policy, available in your student welcome pack. Should we find that students break our behaviour policy the relevant procedures will be followed by staff.

**HOW TO APPLY:** AAPA is committed to offering training to people from a wide variety of backgrounds. As stated earlier our admissions policy is not focused on an academic basis – the **audition is practical and interview.** AAPA does not discriminate against applicants on the grounds

of sex, disability, ethnicity, religion or sexuality. We welcome applications from disabled students & offer places on the basis of potential & suitability for the course of study. Our audition process is designed to explore a candidate's current ability but we will also look for potential, to ensure their suitability for both our training programme and a potential career in the performing arts industry. Students auditioning should have some experience in one or more genre. In some cases we will accept applicants with no previous training, providing they demonstrate potential & the correct physical attributes which enables the student to complete the course safely. Please fill out an online application form to book your audition.

**The Audition Day :** Auditions are held on-site, which will provide an introduction into student life at AAPA. Entry is through successful interview & audition. Upon arrival, candidates will be given a short tour and will then be asked to show us their audition pieces. We may ask candidates to demonstrate certain things. Then there will be a short interview – providing students with an opportunity to ask any questions about the course. Please adhere to the audition guidelines – they are there to help you succeed.

AAPA reserve the right to change any of the information in the prospectus without prejudice to any potential student. Staff and tutors may change at any time before or during the course.