

The Wheel Actor Training Company

Information Pack - 2022

A Vocational Experiential Training:

Our One Year Part Time Training with 'The Wheel Actor Training Company' aims to deliver high quality, affordable actor training, with a focus on the core principles and craft of the actor. We are aware that not everyone is in a position to commit to full-time training, however with classes taking place one weekend day and one evening per week, this course enables students to study alongside work and other commitments, whilst still receiving nine contact hours of training per week. We think this is will be great way for people to get a very real taste of what actor training is, and could provide a great experience either as a stand alone course; a strong preparation for those looking to apply to drama school; a vocational one year post graduate experience for those finishing a degree in other another subject; or for those coming into training after a career change.



Key Features of the course:

- **The opportunity to earn while you train** - *affordable, and accessible training is incredibly important to us, no audition fees and payments can be in instalments.*
- **An independent vocational experiential training** - *The training is experiential, 100% practical, industry focussed and not restricted by grading and exams. This allows for meaningful and responsive feedback and coaching tailored to the individual and company needs.*
- **Core actor skills training which is industry focussed** - *The entire focus of the time with us is to develop the fundamental core actor skills through a range of practitioners approaches so by the end actors are aware of a range of approaches rather than restricted to one methodology.*
- **100 % practical, with performance experience in Theatre and Screen** - *It is important to be able to apply and adapt your core skills to different mediums and different companies, so over the year you will begin to apply skills to theatre, screen and audio.*
- **Culmination in a professionally directed production open to the public** - *The experience of being cast, rehearsing and performing a professionally directed production to paying audiences often offers the greatest learning - we reflect on this learning and look at industry and casting - future plans before wrapping up the year.*

Training Ethos:

Our training ethos has been inspired by the studios, workshops and laboratories of a range of practitioners, in particular the work of Stanislavski, Grotowski, Barba and Oida.



They each created spaces where communities of actors came together with curiosity, passion and commitment, to embrace the complexities of training. In this spirit we want to create an environment that allows exploration, discovery and authenticity. Below are some key values that we are guided by throughout all of our training offers:

Integrity & Transparency:

Having personal and artistic integrity in our training is incredibly important to us, and with various training options available to people, we feel it's important to be transparent about our approach and how we work. With no big sales pitches and no false promises.

Progression & Development:

The Wheel is a symbol of movement and progression, we believe that actor training is dynamic and constantly evolving process of skills and personal development a continuous cycle of researching, doing and reflecting that never really concludes. Whatever background or experience you have, you always have something to bring to the studio, something to experience and something to learn.

Valuing the Individual and the Ensemble:

We pride ourselves on being friendly, personal and supportive, creating safe and secure environments that enable actors to be brave and open. Actors come in all shapes and sizes and there is no one way to train, so we value and embrace all the unique individual differences actors bring into the studio, and will always endeavour to tailor the training to ensure Individuals get the most from their time with us.

Practical and Industry specific:

All our courses, workshops and content will always be driven by industry demands, to ensure the experience is focussed, relevant and current. All tutors/workshop leaders are and will continue to be active working professionals in their fields.

Course Overview:

Our One Year Part Time Acting Programme is entirely practical, with options for external research tasks for those with more space in their working week. There are no graded assessments, just the freedom of working on the actors craft, this allows our ongoing feedback to be focused, personal, meaningful and a responsive dialogue with each training actor, with no need to quantify your progression into a number or fit reflection into a box. The course runs under 'The Wheel Actor Training Company' with students becoming company members, training with us for a year and ending the year performing in a fully directed production.

Course Content:

The Year will cover the core acting principles and the craft of the actor, from a range of different practitioners and directors perspectives, both through theatre and screen practice. Students will cover, voice, movement, characterisation, text work, improvisation and impulse, presence, rehearsal process through to performance and audition technique, industry preparation.



We believe in an integrated and holistic approach to actor training, and that an actor never really concludes their learning, its is simply a continuous cycle of research, doing and reflection from workshop to workshop, job to job and year to year... So the course is content fluid and reflects a year cycle of doing, reflecting and learning suitable for all backgrounds and experiences.

To enable this we have articulated six key core elements of the actors craft or we like to refer to as the six DNA strands that make up the actor. These strands will be the focal point of the training and are also the same strands we work on in 'The Actor's Gym' with our professional actor network.

The Craft of the Actor DNA Strands

Physicality/Presence

Voice/Text

Imagination/Creation

Connection/Ensemble

Improvisation/Play

Character/Embodiment

Course Structure:

The detail of content is fluid to enable tailored, specific training meeting the demands of the individual and the company, as well as to embrace any integrated performance opportunities over the year that may arise but we have a structure in place to allow the responsive training to occur, and still to drive the individual and companies progression forward.

We have divided the year up into three stages...

Stage 1: (Autumn/Winter) Exploring the Core Elements of the Actors Craft...



This first stage will introduce the core fundamental 'DNA Strands' of the Actor, and establish the foundations of the company. We explore these areas from a range of practitioner and director approaches and take time to get to know each other. Actor Training requires trust, bravery and understanding so it is fundamental that we get to know each other during the process, as we progress into honing and developing your skills and technique. During this time of getting

to know the company we will be developing plans for the final production to ensure it fits and compliments the company dynamic.

Stage 2: (Winter/Spring) Applying the Core Elements of the Actors Craft...

This stage will enhance and deepen your understanding of the actor's craft through more focused and complex work.

Exploring how interconnected all the strands are, you will begin to apply your training through small studio based projects, exploring screen acting, audio work and stage craft, you will begin to find a more integrated approach as an actor.





Stage 3: (Spring/Summer) Production Process & Industry Awareness/Preparation...

The final stage will focus on industry preparation and practice, including audition and casting preparations, as well as ongoing guidance about next steps such as further/ongoing training and navigating the industry. Stage Three will culminate in a professionally directed public

performance, allowing you to experience an intensive rehearsal and production process.

Nuts & Bolts:

Fees: We believe in making training as accessible as possible and will always ensure the fees are as low as possible to make training affordable and accessible.

2022/23 Fees: £2,600 for the year (can be paid in instalments)

- This covers training and production costs - There are no audition fees

Dates: Running from October - late June in a 3x10 week term structure. You will train one full weekend day and one week day evening (days TBC) - in June there will be a 2 week period of intensive rehearsals leading into the production.

Contact hours: We anticipate the average contact hours being approx 9 hours commitment a week, over a weekend day and one weekday evening, with an increase of approximately 30 hours for the two weeks leading into production. For those with more space in their working week there will be opportunity to engage in further research and other performance and training projects.

We try to firm up the schedule in consultation with the company, so this might be one weekend day and a week day evening each week, or one weekend day plus a task each week with a two day weekend every 3rd week. We will see what works best for the company nearer the time.

Note: The running of the programme is subject to recruiting a minimum number in the cohort to make it viable.

Application & Audition Process:

If you would like to apply for the One Year Part Time course, please download our short application form online www.thewheel.org.uk, fill it in and email it to info@thewheel.org.uk. We will offer an audition to all applicants and once we've received your form, we will be in contact shortly to offer you a choice of audition dates. There are no audition fees.

Auditions can take place in person or via Zoom.

For the audition you will be asked you to prepare two short contrasting monologues (2 mins max): one classical (written before 1960) and one modern (written after 1960).

The audition process will involve an informal meeting with the two directors (Kev and Amanda). We will ask you to present both your monologues and we will then redirect at least one of them. This will be followed by a short interview, which gives us the opportunity to get to know you, in particular what made you apply, a bit about your previous experience and your commitment to training. This also gives you the opportunity to ask us questions and learn more about the course.

The auditions will be 30 - 50 mins long.

A key principal of all our work at The Wheel, is put the individual at the centre of their training and we are committed to valuing, respecting and nurturing each individual we work with. This includes those who audition with us and we believe it is important to create a warm, supportive and welcoming environment, in our auditions.

After your audition you will usually receive a decision within a week.

Any Questions or thoughts?

Please drop us an email, a phone call or ask for a video chat (we would normally say lets meet for a coffee and chat but during this current crisis a video chat is the next best thing). We genuinely love meeting new people and finding out more about them so any chance to chew the fat and discuss any of our work is very welcome.

Email: info@thewheel.org.uk

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