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All production photos by Helen Murray.

THE ALRA MISSION

ALRA (The Academy of Live & Recorded Arts) aims to equip actors and directors with the fundamental skills for a productive and creative life in the performance industry.

ALRA is dedicated to helping students of all backgrounds and ages to enter the world of live and recorded arts.

ALRA has a distinguished record of producing professionals prepared and ready to work and will continue to enhance that record in collaboration with the industry.

To achieve this we will:

- Provide a specialist vocational education for students whose primary goal is to work in the performing arts.
- Further expand and develop ALRA's links with the entertainment industry.
- Provide excellence in teaching, learning, student achievement and personal development.
- Constantly innovate and improve how performance practitioners learn and apply their knowledge.

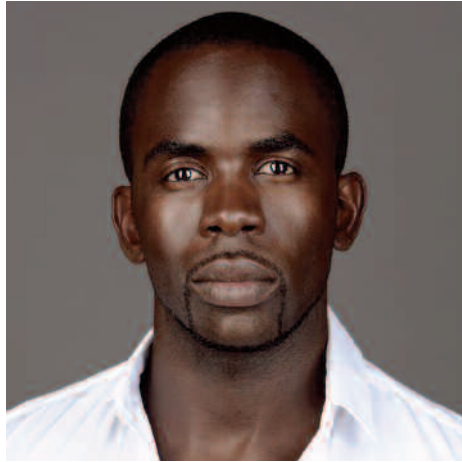
HISTORY

ALRA was founded in 1979 by Sorrel Carson and Caryl Ziegler. It was the first drama school to offer a training which encompassed all media: Live Theatre, TV & Film and Radio.

ALRA is CDMT and FDS accredited.

WHO TRAINED AT ALRA?

Amongst many other successful graduates, ALRA has trained:



MIRANDA HART

Miranda studied on the Postgraduate course at ALRA and has since become one of the most recognisable names in British comedy. She earned her reputation as a stand-up comedian at The Edinburgh Festival and on the London stand-up circuit.

She first came to prominence with her Radio 4 show Miranda Hart's House Party and the BBC comedy Not Going Out. Miranda's sitcom Miranda on BBC2 earned her two BAFTA nominations, three British Comedy Awards and an RTS Award, and starred in the BBC primetime series Call the Midwife.

She made her West End debut in 2017 as Miss Hannigan in the musical Annie.

JIMMY AKINGBOLA

Jimmy graduated from the Three Year Acting course in 1999. His TV roles include Antoine Malik in Holby City and Mick in BBC comedy Rev. He starred alongside Ian McKellen in the world premiere of Mark Ravenhill's play The Cut and went on to take the title role in Frantic Assembly's acclaimed production of Othello. He won a TMA Award for his performance in Joe Penhall's Blue/Orange.

He is co-founder of TriForce Promotions, which seeks to develop young talent and hosts networking events for actors, writers and producers as well as workshopping new writing with the BBC.

Jimmy is Patron of ALRA South.

WHO TRAINED AT ALRA?



SARAH PARISH

Sarah trained on the Three Year Acting course and has since become well known for her TV roles which include: Anna Rampton in W1A, Cath Atwood in Broadchurch, Cheryl in Trollied, Dawn Rudge in Peak Practice, Allie Henshall in Cutting It, Dr Katie Roden in Mistresses, Pasiphae in Atlantis and as a guest lead in Doctor Who.

She starred alongside Jude Law and Cameron Diaz in The Holiday and took a lead role in Sex, the City and Me.

DENISE GOUGH

Graduating from ALRA in 2003, Denise made her television debut in Casualty and has since appeared in many popular series from New Tricks to Stella. She was nominated for The Milton Shulman Award for Outstanding Newcomer (2012), at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards for her performances in Eugene O'Neill's Desire Under the Elms at the Lyric Hammersmith and Nancy Harris's Our New Girl at the Bush Theatre.

Denise made her National Theatre debut in 2015 in the lead role of Duncan Macmillan's People, Places and Things, directed by Jeremy Herrin. For this role, she won an Olivier Award for Best Leading Actress (2016). She returned to the National Theatre in April 2017 playing the role of Harper in Marianne Elliot's revival of Tony Kushner's seminal play Angels in America.



ALRA NORTH

Our campus in Wigan provides an excellent location for students to travel to and from Liverpool and Manchester. With the development of Media City and the BBC's move to Manchester, there is a strong national drama output from BBC Radio 4 and Granada TV studios. Increasingly, agents and casting directors are choosing to base themselves in Manchester and the surrounding area. Some of the most exciting theatre in the UK is produced in the North and Wigan is surrounded by theatres such as the Royal Exchange,

the Liverpool Everyman, the Leeds Playhouse, Bolton Octagon and the theatre company Northern Broadsides. The school is just five minutes from the main high street – Standishgate – with its shops, bars, clubs and the Grand Arcade shopping centre. Wigan Wallgate and Wigan North Western Stations are a five minute walk away. The running costs in Wigan are less expensive than London, which is reflected in ALRA's tuition fees for the North Campus. Living costs in Wigan are also cheaper.



ALRA SOUTH

Our home in London is at the Royal Victoria Patriotic Building, a magnificent Grade II listed Victorian Gothic building on the edge of Wandsworth Common, South West London. This is where ALRA has been based for the last 35 years. There is excellent access to the city centre for visits to West End theatres, fringe theatres and London nightlife.

Clapham Junction is just a ten-minute walk away and has an array of shops, restaurants and bars.

Trains to Waterloo and Victoria leave every few minutes and take less than ten minutes to reach their destinations. There are also direct trains to Shepherd's Bush and Westfield Shopping Centre.

Although some students might be able to live at home and commute to ALRA South, most choose to rent properties together in the nearby areas. ALRA holds Accommodation Days to help with this.

BA (HONS) ACTING

3 YEARS



The BA (Hons) Acting focuses entirely on a programme of study that combines practical actor training with theoretical study and research methodologies. This vocational course aims to equip students to operate effectively in a highly competitive artistic industry.

ALRA has a diverse range of specialist tutors who bring out the very best in each individual student.

ALRA provides the highest quality training for students aiming to follow a career as an actor. Our actor training covers TV & film acting for camera from week one to the end of training.

Students study movement, voice, acting technique, text, stage combat, radio and many other elements required to work as a professional actor.

3 Year Acting students have industry facing opportunities from their second year and showcases and/or panel events in both London and Manchester in their third year – regardless of which campus they choose to study at.

Based at either of the ALRA campuses,

BA (HONS) ACTING 3 YEARS

this is a full-time course delivered over three years.

Using industry-standard facilities and a world-class training curriculum, students are taught in groups of around 14 to 17 students through a combination of rehearsal, workshops, lectures and seminars.

The course includes:

- Acting – Through a combination of practical and theoretical classes and Scene Study presentations.
- Actor Voice – Taught by qualified voice specialists with extensive experience, using accepted methodologies.
- Actor Movement – Taught by movement specialists qualified in movement to Masters level or equivalent in conservatoire international training programmes. This module ranges from a core understanding of how the body works to application of movement to character through a range of methodologies.
- Stage Combat – An intensive training experience, assessed through one solo movement presentation and one group presentation, leading to certificated qualifications.
- Contextual Studies – An introduction to technology and industry expectations in preparation for showcasing skills.
- Acting for Camera – Led by a professional film or television director, using a professional director of photography and sound engineer. Students rehearse and record a ten-minute bespoke script.
- Performance – Working with a professional director and supported by

a stage management team, students prepare and rehearse productions which are performed for public and industry audiences.

- Showcase – Working with a professional director or casting director, short scenes are rehearsed and performed in London and Manchester to an industry audience.
- Personal Research Project – Students create an original live theatre performance or a recorded piece for film, television or radio.

There are typically 32 contact hours each week consisting of:

- 19 hours of lessons.
- 9 hours of rehearsal.
- 3 hours 30 mins of lectures.
- 30 minutes of tutorials.
- Some independent learning.

Independent learning is required and can vary. When not attending timetabled sessions, students are expected to memorise lines, research character and other aspects of the learning content which is then evidenced through blogging, vlogging or written notation.

All learning is supported with access to printed texts on site and thousands of digital texts through the college subscriptions.

In the final year, students record showreel scenes, perform in public productions, showcases and panels for industry and attend events that are designed to launch their professional careers.



To apply you must be:

- 18 years old at the start of the course (there is no upper age limit for applications).
- Have 112 UCAS tariff points (NB – exceptional ability and/or considerable life/work experience will be taken into consideration).
- If English is not your first language you must fulfil the language requirements as set out on the ALRA website.

The BA (Hons) Acting is validated by St Mary's University, London.

Students who show the most potential at audition are eligible for the Level 6 Professional Acting qualification awarded by Trinity College, London in addition to the BA (Hons) Acting. Means tested funding is available from DaDA (Dance and Drama Awards).

Applications should be made online via: www.alra.co.uk/courses/how-to-apply/online-application.

MA PROFESSIONAL ACTING

15 MONTHS



The ALRA MA in Professional Acting is a full-time actor training programme that has three taught terms followed by two performance terms; including one theatre production, recording a film scene and showcases in both London and Manchester. The course is delivered over 15 months.

Taking the ethos and concepts of our BA Acting programme, our MA Professional Acting course explores these concepts at a post-graduate level. Modules focus on the skills and techniques needed for professional acting today and encourage you to view your performance practice as continual development and as a means to further your particular strengths.

Students work individually and as an ensemble with projects in screen acting as well as radio and theatre acting, movement, voice and other vital techniques of the performing arts with opportunities for audition practice to a professional panel.

This is a highly practical course with a high amount of contact hours which reflects the demands of the industry that students are preparing to enter.

MA PROFESSIONAL ACTING 15 MONTHS

The MA Professional Acting Course includes specialist training in:

- Acting – Through a combination of practical and theoretical classes and Scene Study presentations.
- The Actors Voice – Taught by qualified voice specialists with extensive experience, using accepted methodologies.
- Actor Movement – Taught by movement specialists qualified in movement to Masters level or equivalent in conservatoire international training programmes. This module ranges from a core understanding of how the body works to application of movement to character through a range of methodologies.
- Stage Combat – An intensive training experience, assessed through one solo movement presentation and one group presentation, leading to certificated qualifications.
- Entrepreneurship – An introduction to technology and industry expectations in preparation for showcasing skills.
- Acting for Camera – Led by a professional film or television director, using a professional director of photography and sound engineer. Students rehearse and record a ten-minute bespoke script.
- Performance – Working with a professional director and supported by a stage management team, students prepare and rehearse productions which are performed for public and industry audiences.
- Showcase – Working with a professional director or casting director, short scenes are rehearsed and performed in a London and Manchester to an industry audience.
- Personal Research Project – Students

create an original live theatre performance or a recorded piece for film, television or radio.

Students are supported with rehearsal space, studio time and specialist equipment as applicable.

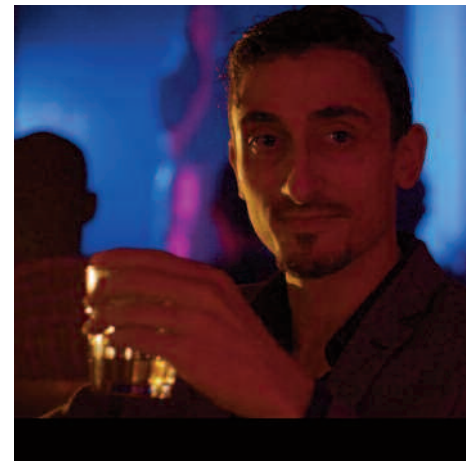
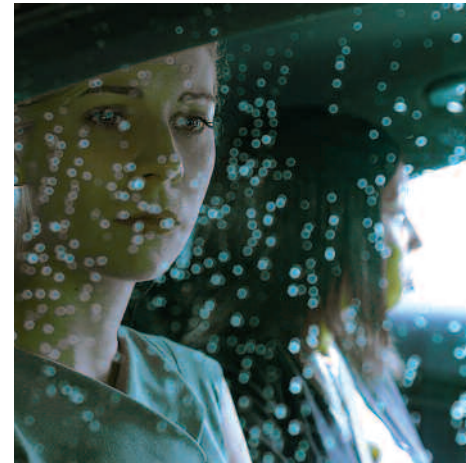
At the start of each year there is an intensive induction which introduces the students to teaching methods, research methods, facilities and resources. Students are assessed through performance and presentations and also through essays or journals, blogs, v-logs and podcasts.

Formative assessment tasks which happen throughout the module are marked as Pass/Fail only. This is to encourage students to focus on the experiential and experimental nature of the work over the need to achieve impressive marks.

As is usual in theatre training, students are given constant formative feedback in practical classes as well as more formal feedback on their written assignments and practical projects in tutorials.

There are typically 32 contact hours each week consisting of:

- 19 hours of lessons.
 - 9 hours of rehearsal.
 - 3 hours 30 mins of lectures.
 - 30 minutes of tutorials.
 - Some independent learning.
- Independent learning is required and can vary. When not attending timetabled sessions, students are expected to memorise lines, research character and other aspects of the learning content which is then evidenced through blogging, vlogging or written notation.



To apply you must be:

- 18 years old at the start of the course (there is no upper age limit for applications).
- Have an undergraduate degree (NB – exceptional ability and/or considerable life/work experience will be taken into consideration).
- If English is not your first language you must fulfil the language requirements as set out on the ALRA website.

The MA Professional Acting is validated by St Mary's University, London.

Students who show the most potential at audition are eligible for the Level 5 Professional Acting qualification awarded by Trinity College, London in addition to the MA Professional Acting. Means tested funding is available from DaDA (Dance and Drama Awards).

Applications should be made online via: www.alra.co.uk/courses/how-to-apply/online-application.

MA DIRECTING

2 YEARS



Launching in September 2018, the ALRA MA Directing is an innovative programme with international placements, industry mentors and space for the exploration of techniques and approaches. Based at ALRA North and set within the Greater Manchester theatre community, this new course offers high quality, forward thinking connections while allowing students to understand all aspects of working in the profession.

The aim of this course is to develop graduates who will change the demographic of live theatre directors in this country. ALRA will recruit 4-6 student directors with diverse backgrounds and pare them with excellent experiences that will act as a catalyst for their forthcoming career as artists in the live performance industry.

Based at ALRA North, a centre of creative cultural development in the North West, creating high quality, forward thinking connections for all learners, this exciting new course allows directors to really explore their craft and understand all aspects of working in the profession.

Applications should be made via the ALRA website where a full course outline is available. There are no formal entry requirements although we prefer you to have an undergraduate degree in a cognate subject.

The final selection is made by workshop audition over two days involving a practical directing task using a group of current ALRA students as participants. The candidates will be observed within the directing process and then interviewed on how they felt their process evolved.

Applications should be made online via: www.alra.co.uk/courses/madirecting.

MA DIRECTING 2 YEARS

Module Summaries:

The Performer – The core elements of an actor's training through participation in voice and movement workshops.

The Performance Environment – Exploration of the different facets of the performance environment and the methods by which the director can communicate meaning and narrative to an audience.

The Philosophy of Directing – Developing a framework that examines the directing process, rationalise key decisions and communicate intent clearly with creative collaborators.

Producing – Creating a funding bid and developing the skills to produce future own work.

Culture, Perception and Directing – International Placement (2019 Placement is scheduled for Tokyo, Japan) giving the learners a new theatrical context for two weeks. Students then make work that responds to the experience.

Directing Practices – Challenging and enriching the students' existing practice by exploring directing processes and making a performance that brings together their experiences from the course. This module will include two placements and mentoring from an external industry specialist.

To apply you must be:

- 18 years old at the start of the course (there is no upper age limit for applications)
- Candidates will be expected to have a 2.2 at BA (Hons) in cognate subject or will have acquired experience through work or other means that enables ALRA to be confident of the candidate's ability to succeed in the programme. This recognition of prior learning will be gathered in the form of references
- If English is not your first language you must fulfil the language requirements as set out on the ALRA website.

The MA Directing is validated by St Marys University, London.



FOUNDATION ACTING DIPLOMA

1 YEAR



Our Foundation Acting Diploma is a full-time one year course. Students are awarded the ALRA Foundation Acting Certificate on completion.

Whilst no guarantee can be made, most ALRA Foundation Acting Diploma students have gone on to study at Drama Schools and University 3 Year Degree Programmes.

The course includes training in:

- Acting – Introduction to Acting through the study of various techniques, Audition Preparation
- Voice – Vocal preparation for audition including singing, Technical Voice & Text
- Movement – Introduction to Movement for performance through the study of various practitioners

Applications should be made online via: www.alra.co.uk/courses/how-to-apply/online-application.

OTHER COURSES



SHORT COURSES

ALRA runs a variety of short courses for students, teachers & professionals. Up-to-date information is available on the website www.alra.co.uk/courses/short-courses.

PARTNERSHIP COURSES

Leicester College

A performance Degree providing professional preparation, studied intensely over two years.

This course is validated and awarded by De Montfort University and delivered at Leicester College with curriculum and training approaches designed using ALRA's Conservatoire ethos.

Applications should be made online via: www.leicestercollege.ac.uk.

Yellow Academy
Course Leader: Kumiko Mendl

Yellow Academy is a summer school run jointly by ALRA and Yellow Earth Theatre for British East Asians interested in acting. Admission is by application followed by audition. The workshop topic varies each year and runs in July. Previous workshops have been around audition preparation and acting for camera.



- Observation and Taster Days – a chance to see if our drama training is right for you before accepting your place.
- Accommodation Days – at both centres to put you in touch with estate agents, landlords and other students looking to rent affordable accommodation.
- Induction Week – at the start of first year to help you settle in.
- Study skills support for students who need extra help; a high proportion of students of creative subjects are dyslexic or dyspraxic and ALRA have specialist staff to help.
- Hardship Fund for students in urgent financial need.
- Enrichment – activities include: workshops with and talks from external practitioners and inspiring people as well as tickets for shows.
- Extra-Curricular Events – theatre trips, sports and social events.
- Wellbeing – Each year group receive tuition in mindfulness and wellbeing skills for the actor throughout their training.
- Counselling – for those who struggle to cope with the stresses of training. Sessions are free and confidential.



For Fees and Funding please see the latest information on the ALRA website www.alra.co.uk.

DaDA (Dance and Drama Awards) are means-tested scholarships funded by the Young People's Learning Agency and awarded by schools to the students who display the most potential to succeed in the profession.

All applicants are considered for awards as part of their audition, and notified if they have been successful at a later date. Please note, Dance and Drama Awards and Student Loans have eligibility criteria which must be met in order to receive the funding.

DaDA funding is available through ALRA's association with Trinity College, London. ALRA is a private school, working with partners in Further and Higher Education.

Depending on personal circumstances and the course undertaken, students can access funding from a variety of sources. Students on the Three Year Acting course who are not offered DaDA (Dance and Drama Awards) are entitled to apply for a Student Loan to assist them with the cost of tuition.

Please be aware that the course fees vary between ALRA North and ALRA South. All students who are eligible to receive Student Loan funding are also eligible to apply for a Maintenance Loan to help with living expenses.

Please check the ALRA website for the latest fees and funding information via: www.alra.co.uk/courses/how-to-apply/fees-funding.



OUTREACH PROGRAMME

As part of ALRA's commitment to widening participation and access for all, we offer an outreach programme for schools, colleges and universities.

The workshops consist of vocal warm-ups, movement, games, work with text and a talk from a senior member of staff giving you a first-hand insight into life at ALRA South and ALRA North.

Auditions can be booked alongside these workshops – this saves prospective students time and money and allows them to audition in a familiar environment.

Please check the ALRA website for full details via: alra.co.uk/about/schools-outreach-programme

HOW DO I GET A PLACE AT ALRA?

Make sure you read the Audition Guidelines and related information on our website. You'll find information about the audition process and what is expected. Each of the conservatoire drama schools operates slightly differently so it's worth taking the time to do some research.

Each audition at ALRA takes place over the course of a few hours. You will need to learn two monologues and take part in group workshops. It's an active day so you'll need to be dressed appropriately and we recommend you bring a drink and snack with you.

ALRA is committed to Audition and/or Interview each person who applies for a place to join us. We receive thousands of new applications each year. Student numbers are strictly limited and we offer places from the first audition. We advise that you apply early to avoid disappointment.

ALRA SOUTH

Studio 24,
The Royal Victoria Patriotic Building,
John Archer Way,
London,
SW18 3SX

Train Stations: Clapham Junction and Wandsworth Common.

Buses: 77 & 219

Train: Clapham Junction is a 10 minute walk away.

Access: Please call us on 020 8870 6475 to discuss your needs before setting off on your journey.

ALRA NORTH

The Annexe,
Trencherfield Mill,
Wigan,
WN3 4BF.

Train Stations: Wigan Wallgate and Wigan North Western.

Buses: 320, 362, 620, 352, 360, 375, 385.

Train: Wigan Wallgate and Wigan North Western are a 5 minute walk away.

Access: ALRA North has excellent access for people with disabilities, and we welcome applications from those with access needs.

For more detailed travel and access information visit: www.alra.co.uk

For more information please contact: 020 8870 6475

info@alra.co.uk

www.alra.co.uk



alra Academy of Live
& Recorded Arts

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Charity Number: 1090724.
Registered in England.
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