

THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

Theatre and Performance at Goldsmiths: Some future career paths

Studying Theatre and Performance at Goldsmiths offers a great opportunity to develop a range of intellectual and practical skills.

You may decide to work in theatre, in devising, performing or technical roles, or move towards arts management. A number of our students build successful freelance careers (or 'portfolio' careers) combining a number of different roles. Programmes in the Department of Theatre and Performance will also enable you to develop many alternative forms of knowledge (transferable skills).

What skills will I gain?

As the degree has a significant practical component from the first year you will be taking on varied roles in groups: negotiating, planning and organising performances. You will be encouraged to push creative boundaries and therefore develop a high level of thinking 'outside the box'. Your ability to communicate to an audience and to your peers is particularly key. These are skills sought by the performing arts sector as well as by graduate employers in general.

Where do Goldsmiths Theatre and Performance graduates work?

The majority (82.2%) of Theatre and Performance graduates from 2014 were in full- or part-time work six months after graduating.

Some of the graduate-level careers that Goldsmiths Theatre and Performance graduates of 2014 have gone on to are: ¹

- Press Officer
- Lighting Designer
- Account Manager
- Communications Intern
- Self-Employed Actress
- Production Assistant (Events)
- Head of Social Media
- Marketing and Public Relations (PR) Assistant
- Self-Employed Costume Designer

Employers include: ¹

- Underground Film Club
- Spare Tyre (theatre company)
- Chloé Nelkin Consulting (public relations firm)
- Southwark Brewing Company
- Futerra (communications agency)

- The Mill (VFX company)
- Pop-Up Films (production company)
- Eteach (education jobsite)
- Camron (communications agency)

¹ Source: *Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education*. This data is collected six months after graduation and shows where graduates start their careers.

As you can see a number of Goldsmiths Theatre and Performance graduates choose to work in the performing arts sector. Below are some suggestions of the more common roles open to you. You may also choose to transfer your skills to other graduate career areas.

What kind of work might I get once I graduate?

Arts Management

This covers working for arts venues or organisations in a range of roles such as PR, marketing, programming or general administration.

Community Arts Worker/Education Officer

In these roles you will work with sections of the community to address issues such as social inclusion. You might work for a voluntary sector organisation or a theatre outreach/education department.

Events Management, Marketing or PR

These roles will use the high level of communication, creative thinking and organisational skills developed on your degree.

Self-employment/Freelancing

This is a common avenue in creative fields. You may set up your own theatre company, work as an actor, have a technical role or run drama workshops.

Teaching

A career as a school teacher is open to you if you take a postgraduate teaching qualification. You might also choose to teach in a less formal setting, through an arts venue or theatre company.

“Since graduating from the BA in 2010 I’ve been doing drama and dance workshops with Noxon Arts, a theatre and education company. I’ve also been working independently in various creative institutions that primarily work with young teenagers and young adults with learning disabilities, including Rock Creative in Devon, and Heart n Soul in Deptford,

getting a sense of how theatre changes in a completely different environment - leafy Devon compared to South East London. I’ve also done work experience in primary and secondary schools to see how theatre can be implemented within a curriculum and within a more formal structure than a workshop. All of this has helped me find where I fit in within the professional world as opposed to a formal academic learning environment, and discover where I want to take and hone the skills that I’ve got.

Doing the BA at Goldsmiths prepared me for all of this because it encourages a lot of independence, not only through the independent academic learning you carry out but also in terms of rehearsing, collaborating, and building your own contacts through the practical projects you’re given. You get confident, because you learn to ‘own’ your work and you learn to try and be original with your work as well. You’re not always relying on someone to get you to do something - you’re having to organise things yourself.”

Rosie, BA Drama and Theatre Arts, graduated 2010

Where can I find further information?

On the Prospects website, the ‘What can I do with my degree?’ section is a useful starting point.
www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm
Creative Choices (Creative & Cultural Skills) - ccskills.org.uk/careers/advice/any/theatre
Chartered Institute of Public Relations - www.cipr.co.uk
Get Into Teaching (Department for Education) - www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching
Stagecoach (network of theatre arts schools) - www.stagecoach.co.uk

Goldsmiths Careers Service

The Careers Service has a full programme of events - you can find out more at www.gold.ac.uk/careers

From the moment you arrive at Goldsmiths you can use us to help you plan your future - pop in and book an appointment with a careers consultant.

<http://learn.gold.ac.uk> (search ‘Goldsmiths Careers Service’)
[@CareersGold](https://www.facebook.com/goldsmiths.careers)