

Aberdeen Academy of Performing Arts



Full Time Study Course Prospectus

2 year HND in Professional Dance

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ABOUT US

Situated in the centre of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Academy of Performing Arts is one of the North East's leading dance & performing arts centre, 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 and Professional Dance by developing 2 full time courses. These courses serve as an excellent preparation for further training in performing arts or for preparation for going straight into professional work in Performing Arts. Both courses are 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 now a days. By concentrating on a manageable student intake, 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 professional choreographers, tutors & performers who will come to our studio. 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. With 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 to perform in front of an audience.

FACILITIES AND LOCATION

Our Facilities include:

Large Waiting Room

‘The Dancers 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

Upstairs waiting room

Studio 2

Studio 4

Singing Studio

Kitchen (full time Students are permitted to use)

Study Room

The studios are in the centre or 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 in dance 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. You may be required to sing a short song.

COURSE CONTENT

Our Full Time Course Content

For dance course you will study full time for a minimum of 25 hours per week for the Higher National Diploma in Professional Dance. 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.

SQA HND Courses

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. The units that will be studied are:

Professional Dance Course

Tap Dance
 Jazz Dance
 Contemporary
 Street Dance
 Lyrical
 Ballet Dance (including pointe work where appropriate)
 Body Conditioning
 Graded Units.
 Acrobatic Gymnastics
 Dance History
 Anatomy and Physiology
 Acting for Dancers
 Singing for Dancers

The Performing Skills units will see students take part in public performances. Throughout these units students will work on a wide range of repertoire. This Course will be 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, the minimum of which is the same as any other institution offering HND. All HND certificates are issued by the SQA.

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

Trinity College

Alongside the SQA units students may prepare to sit their grade 8/Associate Diploma in musical theatre. Repertoire that is studied in the HND units will also be suitable for Trinity College London examinations. Students are 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 body. An independent Trinity examiner will travel to our Aberdeen studio's to conduct the exams. As music theory is also studied on the course, optional theory exams will be on offer through Trinity College too.

BATD (British Association of Teachers of Dancing), IDTA (International Teachers of Dance) and ABT (American Ballet Theatre)

These 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 will be given the opportunity to gain their Level 2 Dance Leaders award.

Workshops

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

Performance and Competition Trips

During your time at AAPA you will get the opportunity to take part in our Performance trip to Disneyland Paris. Students taking part 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 this trip will be expected to fund it their selves as this is not covered under course fees.)

As we believe that your craft is learnt in class and practiced 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 Professional Dance 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 an HND in Dance. 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. We have been lucky enough to have performed with Plan B, Jake Whitehall and Kerry Ellis/Nathan James/Lorna Luft to name a few.

Member of National Union of Students

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 dependant on your personal circumstances.

As we are a private institution we have complete independence over who we accept onto the course and the amount of students we take in. Alongside our own course tutors we are also free to employ professional staff for workshops throughout the year, fund Musical and Dance productions at a local professional venues. This full time 2 year course not only consists of study to gain an HND in Dance Performance 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 £3000 (total for 2 year Diploma would be £6000) 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)
 : £1795 personal contribution* or £1595 once the deduction of the £200 course deposit has been made. We split this yearly fee into 10 monthly instalments of £159 per month or approx. £40 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 all course fees for that year still being due to AAPA.

FACULTY

Below are the Core Staff at AAPA who teach on the course. We have numerous professional performers and other teachers who come and do specific technique master classes throughout each term who are not listed below.

Rachel Young – Principal and Dance Tutor

Rachel has teaching qualifications from International Dance Teacher's Association, British Association of Teachers of Dancing and has Fellowship status (the highest category of teacher certification) and American Ballet Theatre.

She is qualified in Stage dance (Tap / Modern /Jazz), Ballet, Highland. She is a certified Pre-Primary to Level 3 teacher with American Ballet Theatre after studying in New York in 2013. In 2009 Rachel qualified as a Level 2 (and part Level 3 qualified) Acrobatic Gymnastics coach and a Level 2 pre-school gymnastics coach with British Gymnastics and is a member of Scottish Gymnastics.

Rachel has an ATCL diploma with Trinity College in Musical Theatre performance and her certificate LTCL Diploma in Musical Theatre Teaching.

Rachel is also a Sports Leader/Dance Leaders UK Tutor and has a Diploma in Anatomy and Physiology.

Although Rachel teaches nowadays, Rachel's first professional performing job was at the age of 10 years old when she travelled the West Coast of Australia Singing and performing in shortened musical productions and seasonal shows. Since moving back to Scotland in 1995 Rachel continued her dance training at the Edith Duncan MBE school of Dance taking part in Scholarship auditions, Competitions and shows at HMT Aberdeen.

In 2005 at the same time as graduating from Aberdeen University with an honours degree in Law, Rachel set up Aberdeen Academy of Performing Arts and is the Principal and Owner/Director of Mac the Monkey.

She heads up the school of approximately 350 students. Rachel over sees and coordinates all exam entries, competition routines and trips, shows and teaches over 70 classes a week. On the Full Time courses, Rachel is the Head of Centre/Course Coordinator and teaches the dance units.

Ryan Jenkins – Creative Consultant in Dance

Ryan has worked in every area of the entertainment industry most recently as creative director working with the government to representing the UK for national day at Milan Expo 2015. Worked with the biggest creatives in the world, Matthew Bourne, Arlene Philips, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Joel Schumacher, Peter Darling, Richard Marcel to sharing the stage with stars as Marguerite Porter, Adam Cooper, Kerry Ellis, Idina Menzal, Miriam Margolyes, and Adam Garcia. The only teacher in the world to have taught the dancers from the hit US t.v show Dance moms for Abbi Lee Miller and UK for Jennifer Ellison and choreographer for season 2 TV show Dance mums UK. Founder of ID Dance - A dance examination board offering a syllabi in contemporary dance with new revolutionary new teacher training programmes supported by many of the UK's

leading dance colleges - www.id-dance.co.uk Fast becoming one of the countries most sought after choreographers creating in Theatre, T.V, Film, Live events, Cruise's, Pop videos, Adverts to teaching at the UK's top dance colleges and and many dance school nationwide has gained himself extensive knowledge about the needs and wants for the ever changing world of show biz. Most notably known for appearing as a finalist in the top 20 of 'So You Think You Can Dance' series 2 and Got to Dance, before this he had a flourishing career in London's West end but not before gaining his first job at 19 in Matthew Bourne's 'Swan Lake' then appointed Dance Captain for 'Grease' musical UK and European tour choreographed by Arlene Philips. Original London cast of 'Wicked', For ENO (English national Opera)- 'Kismet' London Coliseum, 'Cabaret' (Lyric theatre) by Javier de Fructos. Featured dancer - Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Phantom of the Opera' movie directed by Joel Schumacher and choreographed by Peter Darling. Choreographer working with Lebanese and Vietnamese Governments to introduce Musical Theatre to their countries, working alongside an 80 piece Orchestra and their biggest pop star - Duc Tuan. Artistic director - 'Prince Charming events' working with and covered by Fashion T.V and OK! magazine. Creative director 'Celebrity Gleex' -a cast of ex reality T.V stars from, X-factor, Grease is the Word, SYTYCD as support act for Peter Andre and Lulu performing to crowds of 10,000. Choreographer - Mt4uth, channels 5 'Don't Stop Believing' (shine TV), G*Mania - Video - Don't stop believing. London fashion week shows - Ariella couture, Elliot J Frieze, Jan Bertelsen and Anna Paola. 'Bloodbath' musical Edinburgh, 'Ripper' musical directed by Vernon Mound, 'Anthology' for Irish composer Conor Mitchell. Annie get your gun, market place theatre, Ireland. 'Godspell' Grand Opera House, Belfast and Rose Theatre, Kingston, London. 'Fashion Victim' musical - London Cinema museum. Two cruise pro- ductions for Zentertain, Scandinavia. Staging Director –Tourism for Ireland 'St James's Palace'. 'Shipyard and Docks' - Royal gala Belfast city hall. Assistant choreographer- Michael Flatley and Molly Molloy stadium tour 'Celtic tiger'. Ryan has taught at over 200 academy's internationally including Bird College, L.I.P.A, Urdang , London Studio Centre, Stella Mann, Mandy Ellen and Pineapple performing arts. An international judge/adjudicator for Encore events, Dance show live, Disney camp and many established uk dance festivals. Patron to Starlight Dance Academy and creative consultant to many dance company's. Ryan actively works giving his time to create or teach for many charity's including - Music theatre for Youth, Ireland, Autism got Talent with Pineapple Performing Arts, Prince's trust, London Taxi drivers fund for children and many smaller local fundraisers. For more information please visit www.ryanjenkins.co.uk Twitter/Instagram - @realryanjenkins

Emma Hunter – Ballet and Body Conditioning

Emma began her dance training with Anne Forsyth at the Aberdeen Academy of Dance where she was given the opportunity to perform at His Majesty's Theatre in various Christmas pantomimes and with Scottish Ballet as Clara in The Nutcracker and Wendy's daughter in Peter Pan. In 1995, Emma was part of a group of students from the Aberdeen Academy of Dance who travelled to perform with the Saiga Ballet in Japan.

Continuing her training at Ballet West, Emma completed Royal Academy of Dance examinations to Advanced level and competed in competitions such as the Molly Lake Award, where she was a semi-finalist and the prestigious Prix de Lausanne. Emma performed and toured with the Ballet West Company in classic productions such as 'Swan Lake' and 'Romeo and Juliet' as well as in new pieces 'Scottish Symphony',

'Gershwin', 'Celebration' and 'Anything Goes'. She also performed as a guest artist with The Manx Ballet Company in their production of 'La Boutique Fantasque'.

Emma trained as a fitness instructor allowing her to teach a variety of fitness classes and holds an HND in Health, Fitness and Exercise. Emma currently works as a freelance dance tutor and fitness instructor in Aberdeen.

Steph Ross – Contemporary / Jazz

Jennifer Mckinnon Magee - Singing, Acting and Performance

Jennifer is originally from the States and holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Theatre with an emphasis in acting and directing. She has been teaching Acting for 9 years both privately and in secondary/primary schools and currently also teaches for the Aberdeenshire Council/Ellon Cluster. She has also personally performed in productions across the US, London and Aberdeen.

Kirsty Robertson – Singing

Rhianne Reid – Music Theory and Singing

Olwyn Jack – Vocal Production and Techniques

Sali Kindley – Anatomy and Physiology / Professional Development

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 direct 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 applicants 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. Auditionees 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 Visit our website www.academyperformingarts.co.uk to fill out an online application form stating which course or courses you would like to apply for and email it to us.

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.

Upon your application you will be emailed an audition time and date. Please adhere to the audition guidelines – they are there to help you succeed. In this email we will tell you what you need to do to audition.

*HND Professional Dance units are awaiting verification by the SQA. This should come before the end of August 2016.

** 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.