

YOUR AUDITION

ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE
OF MUSIC & DRAMA
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Welcome

This guide tells you everything you need to know about your audition for the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. It will help you get the most out of your audition, so it's a positive and valuable experience.

To help you feel relaxed and calm those pre-audition nerves, a member of our admissions team will be available on the day of your audition to answer any questions about the college, the programme, or the selection process.

There are two rounds of auditions for the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes: first-round and recall auditions. If you are successful at the first round you will be invited for a recall audition.

We look forward to meeting you.

First-Round Auditions

You will need to prepare two contrasting speeches lasting no longer than two minutes each. You should select one piece from an Elizabethan or Jacobean play and another from a modern/contemporary (20th/21st century) play.

On arrival at the venue you will be met and taken as a group of approximately ten to a rehearsal room where you will be given a talk about the audition process and the programme structure. You will then have an opportunity to warm up in the space before the audition panel arrives.

Once the audition process starts you will be invited to perform your chosen pieces, in turn, to an audition panel comprising of two/three members. The audition panel is composed of acting lecturers and external, professional practitioners. Please note that your speech may be interrupted if it runs over two minutes. Occasionally applicants may be asked to stay longer and go through their piece(s) again by the panel. At the end of this session your first-round audition is complete.

We will inform you, usually within two weeks, if we will be inviting you to attend a recall audition.

Recall Auditions

On being invited to attend a recall audition, you will need to prepare two new contrasting pieces – one piece from an Elizabethan or Jacobean play and another from a modern/contemporary (20th/21st century) play. You should also prepare a song, which you should be prepared to sing unaccompanied. The song may be in any language, but should last no longer than two minutes. You do not need to imitate the original artist.

On the day of your recall audition, we will introduce you to one of our current acting students who will take you, as part of a group of up to five candidates, on a tour of the college. The student will act as your guide for the day and you can ask them any questions you might have.

During the day you will be asked to present your two new pieces to the panel. You will also work with the audition panel on material which may include improvisation, previously unseen texts and one or more of your four speeches. You will also participate in a singing workshop, a movement workshop and a short, informal interview. You will not need to prepare for the movement workshop but you should bring a bottle of water.

As in the first-round of auditions, the panel will be made up of members of acting lecturers as well as external, professional practitioners.

Following this audition, you may be asked to return for a second recall audition. You will not need to prepare any additional material for this audition unless advised beforehand.

We will inform you of our decision, usually within two weeks of your recall audition.

Feedback

The decision of the panel is final. Due to the large number of candidates for the first-round and recall auditions, we regret that we are not able to provide individual feedback. If you are unsuccessful, you are welcome to re-apply for the following academic year.

If you have any further questions or concerns about the audition and selection process, please contact our Admissions Team.

T: +44 (0)29 2039 1361

E: admissions@rwcmd.ac.uk

Audition Dates and Locations

AUDITION DATES

Each year we hold first-round auditions in Cardiff, London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Belfast between January and March for entry in September of the same year.

In Cardiff, we normally hold auditions on Fridays throughout this period.

Auditions in London are 6th-8th February 2012 and 5th-7th March 2012; Manchester on 12th-14th March 2012; Edinburgh on 12th-13th March 2012. Audition dates for Belfast are to be confirmed – details will be published on the college website.

Recall auditions are held between March and May 2012.

FIRST-ROUND AUDITION LOCATIONS

Cardiff	Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama Castle Grounds, Cathays Park Cardiff, CF10 3ER
London	Royal Court Theatre Sloane Square London, SW1W 8AS
Manchester	Contact Theatre Oxford Road Manchester, M15 6JA
Edinburgh	Scottish Book Trust Sandeman House Trunk's Close 55 High Street Edinburgh, EH1 1SR
Belfast	To be confirmed

The external audition venues are subject to change.

RECALL AUDITION LOCATION

All recall auditions will be held at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff.

Advice to Candidates

The college places a high value on:

- The ability to 'inhabit' a character – to understand and reveal their complex psychology
- The willingness to take risks, but to exercise some sophistication in their execution
- Generosity in working with others
- Technical and expressive ability in voice, movement and singing
- The ability to make proper contact
- An active interest in, and knowledge of, theatre and related performing arts
- Life experience – we encourage applicants of all ages from a wide range of backgrounds

We also make the following specific recommendations:

- Make sure that you are secure in remembering the pieces you select
- Avoid over-used speeches: if you have selected a piece from an audition book, the chances are that the panel will have seen the piece performed many times before
- Avoid speeches by characters much older than yourself, unless the sentiments within it are universal
- Avoid using an accent other than your own, unless you are absolutely secure in it
- Avoid telephone speeches
- Wear appropriate clothing which will allow you to move easily and comfortably
- Please do not use props

Acting at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama

STUDY IN A PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT

At RWCMD we offer an exceptional environment in which to study acting to a professional standard. Our established teaching team is made up of highly experienced industry practitioners who will help you develop the essential physical and emotional resources to respond to the wide ranging demands of the contemporary acting professions.

GAIN EXPERIENCE AND MAKE CONTACTS

The department has close links with the acting industry to ensure that the teaching reflects the most up-to-date professional practice. Collaborations with professional organisations, visiting directors, actors and casting agents provide you with valuable experience of real working conditions and enable you to make vital contacts within the industry.

ENJOY WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES

In the summer of 2011, our brand-new, £22.5 million, world-class training and performance facilities opened. This includes the 160-seat Richard Burton Theatre, acting and movement studios, an exhibition gallery and a 450-seat concert hall.

BECOME PART OF A LIVELY ARTS SCENE

The city of Cardiff is the largest media centre outside of London. Successful programmes such as *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood* are produced by BBC Wales in Cardiff and the BBC have recently opened a new drama village in Cardiff Bay where flagship programmes such as *Casualty* and *Being Human* are filmed. The drama village is a key part in the BBC's commitment to double TV network production from Wales by 2016.

A £330 million film studio chaired by Lord Richard Attenborough located just outside of the city opened in 2009. Recently the film *Ironclad* was produced there, along with scenes from BBC's *Merlin*.

After an astonishing first year featuring a production a month, The National Theatre of Wales (NTW), already have nine shows in development for this year. The NTW was launched to create, develop and enrich English language theatre within Wales, with an international reach.

Chapter Arts Centre reopened after a major redevelopment and the Sherman Theatre will reopen in the February 2012 after a £6 million development.

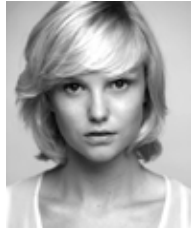
Acting Alumni

www.rwcmd.ac.uk/actorsprofiles



Ruth Jones

Best known for co-scripting and starring in the multi-award winning hit TV comedy *Gavin and Stacey*, Ruth's latest project is Sky 1's *Stella*, a show produced by her own production company, Tidy Productions. Ruth is co-creator, writer, executive producer and also plays the lead.



Joanna Vanderham

During Joanna's graduating year she played a lead role in Sky 1's *The Runaway*. 2012 is set to be an even bigger year, with roles in the film *What Maisie Knew* and Lynda La Plante's *Above Suspicion* for ITV1. Joanna recently appeared in *Young James Herriot* for the BBC.



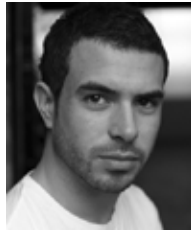
Simon Trinder

Since winning the BBC Carleton Hobbs Bursary Award in his final year at RWCMD, Simon has appeared in over 60 BBC radio plays. His theatre career has included a three year contract with the RSC during which time he performed in twelve productions.



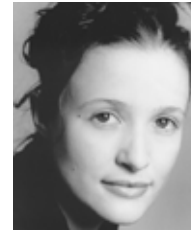
Craig Gazey

After a successful three years in *Coronation Street* winning the National Television Award for Best Newcomer, and Best Comedy Performance Award at the British Soap Awards, Craig has gone back to the theatre where he began his career working with RSC. In the spring, Craig has the lead role in the award-winning comedy *Funny Peculiar*.



Tom Cullen

Tom won Most Promising Newcomer at the British Independent Film Awards for his debut feature film *Weekend*. The film has also won a host of awards including The Audience Award at Hip Festival. Tom is currently starring in *World Without End*, the sequel to Golden Globe and Emmy nominated *Pillars of the Earth*.



Lyndsey Marshal

Lyndsey starred as Cleopatra in HBO's *Rome*. She won the Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Best Newcomer. She recently played Jackie in thriller *Hereafter*, directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Matt Damon. Lyndsey's next project is starring in the forthcoming Julian Fellowes TV series *Titanic*.



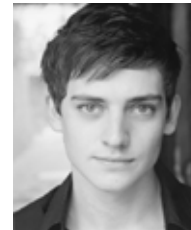
Kimberley Nixon

Kimberley is currently in Channel 4's *Fresh Meat* and alongside Michael Sheen in the film *Resistance*. She has also appeared in the BBC's *The Cranford Chronicles*, and in the West End stage adaptation of *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. Kimberley has featured in five films including *Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging*, *Wild Child* and *Cherrybomb*.



Eve Myles

The part of Gwen in BBC Wales's *Torchwood* was written specifically for Eve, who won the 2007 Bafta Cymru Best Actress for her performance. Eve has also appeared in other BBC series including *Belonging*, *Doctor Who* and *Little Dorrit*.



Aneurin Barnard

Aneurin won a Laurence Olivier award for his performance in the West End musical *Spring Awakening*. He played a lead role in musical drama *Hunky Dory* with Minnie Driver and fellow RWCMD graduate Kimberley Nixon. Aneurin will play David Bailey alongside Karen Gillan's Jean Shrimpton in the biopic *We'll Take Manhattan*.

How to Find Us

Unfortunately there is no parking at the college itself except for disabled parking. However, there are pay and display car parks either side of the campus on North Road, and opposite in the Civic Centre. Please ensure you allow enough time to park. Alternatively, the college is located only a 15 minute walk from Cardiff Central Train Station. National Express and Mega Bus both stop outside Cardiff University's Student Union, which is a 5 minute walk from the college.

www.rwcmd.ac.uk/howtofindus

