

# Giles Foreman Centre for Acting

A LEADING PROFESSIONAL ACTING STUDIO, BASED IN THE HEART OF SOHO

ACTOR TRAINING | FILM & TV PRODUCTION | CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

LONDON | NEW YORK | PARIS



## What makes the GFCFA 16-month advanced Professional Intensive Acting/Acting-Directing Programme unique?

**Our Advanced course is equivalent in level to Post Graduate study – however the training is designed for those – from any background – who have the capacity, ability and motivation to enter the Industry.**

The programme involves 30+ hours of intensive classes and rehearsal exercises per week, taught by top-level specialist coaches each with extensive professional experience. There are in-house showings throughout the course, and plays are presented to the public during the final two terms. During the final term, as well as advanced-level classes, students are eligible for Spotlight Graduate membership, scenes are filmed, there are Industry events, and a range of further performance opportunities – these even continue after the conclusion of the formal training.



We take only a single cohort of Intensive-Route acting students each year, to provide a focussed training designed to bring out individual strengths, and we welcome applications from people from a wide variety of previous backgrounds and experience. The programme is tailored towards the unique mix of talent drawn to our centrally-located Studio from across the UK, Europe and beyond. We have excellent links with UK and European Casting Directors, as well as a base in New York, and offer many opportunities to showcase talent to European casting directors, largely due to the strong connections formed by our Director, Giles Foreman and his extensive work as a film acting-coach. We also offer an ACTOR/DIRECTOR route and an ACTOR/PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR route.



At the **Giles Foreman Centre for Acting**, our acting philosophy developed from that of the original Drama Centre London under Christopher Fettes, Yat Malmgren and Rueven Adiv. That institution then produced some of the most exciting actors working today – Colin Firth, Pierce Brosnan, Geraldine James, Paul Bettany, Anne Marie Duff, Michael Fassbender and Tom Hardy to name but a few. Our programme has built on that tradition, to create a unique, challenging and professionally-respected four-term intensive programme. We offer it to only a small number of talented individuals each year.

[www.gilesforeman.com](http://www.gilesforeman.com)

[info@gilesforeman.com](mailto:info@gilesforeman.com)

Tel: 020 7437 3175

STUDIO SOHO Registered office: 2a Royalty Mews, Dean Street W1D 3AR

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Company No: 05645207

## The course in more detail

**ALL THREE routes:** At the heart of everything is the acting class. Here participants learn the Methodological approach, influenced by the work of Uta Hagen, Stella Adler and Lee Strasberg. Students explore in depth the Laban/Jungian transformative technique of Yat Malmgren that distinguished the Drama Centre worldwide as a centre for acting excellence; including guidance from the man who launched the Drama Centre, Christopher Fettes, as well as leading Internationally-respected practitioner [Giles Foreman](#). Everyone is coached for the Associate of Trinity College London Acting Diploma examination.



Participants have regular Meisner-technique, a range of Voice-work, singing, Movement and Movement-Psychology classes led by renowned teachers including Liana Nyquist and Janet Amsden plus Ballet and Period Dance with Glen Snowden. On-Camera classes, Stage and Film fight-skills, meetings with a range of top Industry Professionals, and unique industry-related opportunities arise throughout the programme. Rehearsal scenes and showings are built around classical repertoire as well as contemporary film and theatre texts, and take place throughout the course. During terms

Three and Four there are various public performance opportunities (see left, a devised play **The Ascent of Woman**, December 2015), as well as an industry-acclaimed showcase in Term Four.

**ACTOR/DIRECTOR route:** Directing demands multiple skills and personality traits. It requires intellectual abilities, intuition and access to emotions. A capacity to work with many different types of artists – actors, writers, designers, musicians and production staff. This course is designed to help the student develop an understanding of technical and creative theatre skills, and places particular emphasis on gaining experience of the acting process as part of the acting cohort. From term 2 onwards, Actor/Directors direct scenes and plays; they build their understanding of how to work with actors in rehearsal; plus theoretical study and business skills for fundraising and forming their own companies. They are tutored by Sue Dunderdale, a renowned director of theatre, television and film. She has immense experience of running workshops with directors, actors and writers, and of training students – she was previously Head of RADA's MA courses in Directing; in Text and Performance and in training actors 'MA Theatre Lab'.



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**ACTOR/PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR route:** This is designed for those individuals who wish to develop as a professional acting coach. It develops an understanding of a range of theories and approaches to the art of acting. From term 2, Actor/Instructors are tutored by Giles Foreman with a focus on the above. In term 3 they assist him and other coaches in a series of classes and workshops. In the final term they are assessed on a workshop designed and delivered to an invited student group, and offered advice and support while gaining experience in the field.

## Follow-on

Following the course, we offer continued membership of the studio to successful graduates of our full-time programmes, to help them sustain their development in the period following full-time training, including opportunities to appear in plays (see right and above, Arthur Kopit play in rehearsal with Dannie Lu Carr, May 2016) and short films. So far, we have had huge successes, and 60 – 70% of our acting alumni are regularly acting. Graduate successes include: a French TV drama series; Guest-lead in *Schutzlos* (Tatort Luzern): 5 episodes in the first series of hit ITV costume-drama *Victoria*, Autumn 2016. 2014 graduates: one featured in the short film [Stutterer](#),



winner of the [Oscar](#) for Best live-action short at the 2016 [Academy Awards](#), and another had a main role opposite Jane Birkin in [La Femme et le TGV](#), nominated in the 2017 [Academy Awards](#).

Our acting Graduates are currently represented by the following agents:

<b>Troika</b>	<b>Patrick Hambleton Management</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>Independent Talent</b>
<b>Conway Van Gelder</b>	<b>Hamilton Hoddell</b>
<b>Waring and McKenna</b>	<b>Sally Hope Associates</b>
<b>A and J Management</b>	<b>Paula Farino</b>
<b>RBM</b>	<b>Rebecca Blond</b>
<b>Middleweek Newton</b>	<b>Stopford</b>
<b>Identity</b>	<b>Connor Management</b>
<b>Dee Boss Management</b>	<b>Agentur Samir Osman</b>
<b>Act One Paris</b>	<b>A LeightHouse, Madrid</b>
<b>Agentur Danilo</b>	

Many other agents regularly attend our performances and industry events, including:

<b>Julian Belfrage Associates</b>	<b>Macfarlane Chard</b>
<b>United Agents</b>	<b>Johnson Mathers</b>
<b>Sharkey and Trigg</b>	<b>Natasha Stephenson</b>
<b>Curtis Brown</b>	<b>Narrow Road</b>

Casting Directors who visit the Centre include:

<b>Irene Cotton</b>	<b>Jeremy Zimmerman</b>
<b>Iris Baumuller</b>	<b>Tonucha Vidal</b>
<b>Simone Reynolds</b>	<b>Paul de Freitas</b>
<b>Swan Pham</b>	<b>Leo Davis</b>
<b>Hubbards</b>	<b>Lucy Rands</b>
<b>Leoni Kibbey</b>	<b>Des Hamilton</b>
<b>Kate Bone</b>	<b>Gail Stevens</b>

Production stills are from *Amphitryon* and *The Bacchae*, directed by Giles Foreman: Teatro Technis

## Finances



For 2018 entry, the four-term (16-month programme) fee for the course is £11,900, payable termly – under £9000 per year, for our intensive taught curriculum – an incredibly advantageous rate, and considerably more affordable than other institutions.

The actor-director strand within PGIP provides an additional unit of bespoke Directing Tutorial guidance plus extra play-direction opportunities. Fee £12,500.

We are registered with the **Professional Career Development Loan** scheme, and can also offer a payment option by monthly bank transfer.

We offer one half-[scholarship](#) each year, PLUS from September 2016, a new fourth-term bursary.

**If you are – or you know someone who is – ready to take the leap – now is the time to book in for audition!**

## How to apply

For each September entry, auditions are offered between November and July.

We are looking for **interesting, creative and committed individuals** who want to be able to achieve truthful, layered performances. All our dates are listed on the front-page Post on the GFC website: [Dates and special events coming up](#). The application form is available on our website – or contact us to book in, and we will send a form by email, with full details on what we would like to see. There is an audition fee of £30. Our panel asks to see a classical and a modern monologue, to work with you on the pieces, providing opportunities for exploration and for feedback. We audition all applicants, and aim to advise on the result promptly.

**Relevant Pre-Course Experience might include (but is not limited to)**

- A qualification in acting / drama / directing / theatre studies / dance, or similar relevant discipline
- A Diploma from a professional drama / dance / performance school
- An Honours degree in a discipline other than those listed above, with performance-related experience
- Experience as a performer



**If you have the talent, focus and tenacity – and you are ready to hone your skills on a challenging, industrially-relevant intensive full-time programme – this course could be exactly right for you.**

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## Biographies – in brief

(Photos and full biographies are on the website)

**GILES FOREMAN** is one of the leading acting coaches in the UK and throughout Europe, and is a specialist in the Methodological approach to acting.



Giles has worked as an acting coach at the Drama Centre, London; Deutsche Schauspiel Akademie, Berlin; The Forum for Filmschauspiel, Berlin; Creative Education, The City Lit; NODA; Stage Center – Jerusalem, the Pula International Festival of Theatre, Croatia; the International Festival of Making Theater, Athens; Trixter and Eicar in Paris; FOCAL in Switzerland; GFCa in Luxembourg; at the Centro del Actor in Madrid; First Take Schauspielschule in Koln, and Munich's Acting Atelier.

He has run workshops all over the world and coached on many movies. He also coaches many actors from all over Europe privately, preparing them for a range of film and TV roles.

Giles has extensive theatre-directing experience, and has also directed two short films: Job's Dinner, starring Maureen Lipman and Philip Franks, and Oleander. He produced La Femme et Le TGV and cast Jane Birkin in the title role. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short film, Oscars 2017.

He is a specialist in realism for stage and screen and also the leading exponent of the **Character Analysis / Movement Psychology** work of Yat Malmgren, introducing the work to a new generation of actors in London, Zurich, Berlin, Paris, Munich, Madrid, Rome and New York.

**CHRISTOPHER FETTES** (Tutor Emeritus) is one of the great theatre and actor pedagogues of the UK, and in fact world theatre and the cinema industry. He started as an actor, working with the legendary East London Theatre Company – Theatre Workshop under Joan Littlewood. He went on to join the ensemble at the Royal Court theatre in London during its heyday in the fifties with George Devine and Tony Richardson.

After meeting Yat Malmgren, Christopher developed a career as an educator, and as a theatre director of some renown. He directed a number of famous productions – notably his seminal interpretation of Marlowe's Dr Faustus and Schnitzler's The Lonely Road with two of his acting students, Anthony Hopkins and Colin Firth – introduced the work of Calderon de la Barca to the British stage – and created a fascination with the work of Thomas Bernhard.

Christopher's great contribution came with his joint founding with Yat Malmgren in 1963 of the Drama Centre London, an acting conservatoire that changed the face of training in the UK and around the world. He introduced the Method to the UK, initially with the great UK method actor Harold Lang teaching at the centre, and then by inviting Uta Hagen's protege Doreen Cannon to head the acting department. Later, an assistant of Lee Strasberg, Reuven Adiv took over the department. Christopher's innovation was to combine the American developments of Stanislavski with the great European Classical tradition, and the Laban Jungian system of 'Character Analysis' as developed by Yat Malmgren. There are huge numbers of recognised British actors who owe their training to Yat and Christopher; other graduates run National Theatres all over the world, while others head drama schools based on the Drama Centre model.

To honour and preserve the work of Yat Malmgren (who died in 2002), in his retirement Christopher has written a book **A Peopled Labyrinth**, published by GFCa in 2015 – it is the only body of work that deals comprehensively with 'The Histrionic Sense' or the Law of Expression, known generally as **Character Analysis / Movement Psychology**.

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### Members of our team of coaches include:

**SUE DUNDERDALE** (Actor/Director leader) Alongside her working life as a Director of theatre, television and film, Sue has continuously been employed in running workshops with fellow artists, (directors, actors and writers) and in training students. From 2004–2014 she was Head of the MA in Directing and the MA in Text and Performance at RADA. In 2010 she developed a new MA in training actors at RADA, MA Theatre Lab and was the Head of that Course from 2011–2013.

**LIANA NYQUIST** (Movement) studied at the Drama Centre and then became the assistant to the founder of the Drama Centre Dr Yat Malmgren, in the Laban analysis of character movement. Liana studied classical ballet at the Royal Academy in Sweden and the Martha Graham Technique at the London School of Contemporary Dance (The Place). She is a vanguard figure of physical theatre, having performed with various dance theatre/physical theatre companies all over Europe. While living in Brazil, she devised and gave workshops, worked for the British Council, the universities of Sao Paulo and Campinas and performed with Brazil's leading dance company Cisne Negro. She gives workshops in Movement and Analysis of Movement all over Europe and beyond. (UK, Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Brazil, Russia, Israel to name a few.) As a Movement Director in the theatre she has extensive experience working with numerous directors in a varied repertoire: classical, contemporary, farce and beyond. As a Movement Specialist, she coaches actors in both TV and Film.

**JANET AMSDEN** (Movement Psychology) trained in the Art and Science of Movement at Nonington College of Physical Education for three years, before going to Drama Centre. She then became Yat's movement assistant before leaving for a career as an actress which has spanned forty years in theatre, radio, film and TV and is still ongoing. She has also directed over fifty plays, ranging from the Soho Community Panto through drama school projects and graduating plays, to The Winters Tale for Manchester Youth Theatre at the Library Theatre (Best Special Entertainment Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards 1998). Also, Jazz Goes to the Movies and Guitars Galore – music concerts at Taplow Court, for UNICEF.

**LAURENCE MITCHELL** (Acting) trained at Drama Centre London and has been working as an actor in the UK for over 17 years. Theatre work includes National Theatre, Young Vic, Old Vic, Almeida Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Soho Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith, Royal Exchange Manchester, among many others. His TV credits include Kavanagh QC, Spooks, Summerhill, Never Better, Heartbeat and Pompidou. He has taught at Central School of Speech and Drama, Drama Centre London, ALRA, Central St Martins and The Actors Centre London. He is a visiting tutor at the Copenhagen International School of the Performing Arts (CISPA).

**LINDSAY RICHARDSON** (Singing/voice tutor) is a professional singer and actor, who trained classically at Trinity College of Music, London and later in musical theatre. She has performed as a soloist at many of Britain's major venues and festivals, recorded both on CD and DVD, toured and performed across Europe. Radio broadcasts include Radio 3's In Tune, Danish Radio, and Radio 4's Woman's Hour. She has directed opera; and devised, coached and staged modern musical drama. She provides individual vocal coaching for singers, actors and those in public life, and runs performance workshops.

Lindsay coordinates the work of GFCA London for Giles Foreman, leads the Foundation Diploma Course and teaches text and singing voice for the Advanced Intensive Programme. Recent projects include plays devised for and with PG actors: The Ascent of Woman; Refugee: Exist Other Wise.

Please check the website for a full list of our coaches in specific subjects, such as Dannie Lu Carr – Meisner Technique; Glen Snowden – Ballet and period dance; Colin Tierney, Stuart Laing, Alex Israel & Dylan Brown – Acting/Directing.

We invite in specialist workshop leaders for particular projects such as mask work and Fight-Skills – and external directors for productions.

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