

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 GFCA 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 creative individuals – 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 and Industry during the final two terms. During the final term, as well as advanced-level classes, students may join the Spotlight Casting Graduate scheme; scenes are filmed for showreel, there are Industry events, and a range of further performance opportunities. These 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, Helen McCrory, Tara Fitzgerald, Lambert Wilson, Paul Bettany, Anne Marie Duff, Michael Fassbender, Gwendoline Christie 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, with a fifth-term option. We offer it to only a small number of talented individuals each year.

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GILES FOREMAN CENTRE FOR ACTING [Caravanserai Productions Ltd t/a]

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 original Drama Centre worldwide as a centre for acting excellence; honouring the man who launched the Drama Centre, Christopher Fettes. It is taught by 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 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. Everyone is coached for the Associate of Trinity College London Acting Diploma examination.

Rehearsal scenes and showings are built around both classical repertoire and contemporary film and theatre texts, and they 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.



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 further screen and stage productions (below, Arthur Kopit alumni–play in rehearsal with Dannie Lu Carr, May 2016).

We have already had huge successes, and 60 – 70% of our acting alumni are regularly acting. Graduate successes include:

- Title role in award-winning feature film **Scott & Sid**.
- Series-regular role in **Emily in Paris**, USA TV drama series with Lily Collins, being filmed in France 2020.
- Guest-lead in Schutzlos (Tatort Luzern).
- 5 episodes in the first series of hit ITV costume-drama **Victoria**.
- Featured role in the short film [Stutterer](#), winner of the [Oscar](#) for ‘Best live-action short’ at the 2016 [Academy Awards](#).
- Featured role in the award-winning short film [La Femme et le TGV](#), (a main role opposite Jane Birkin) Oscar-nominated in the 2017 [Academy Awards](#).
- Best Actor award 2020, Winter Film festival in New York City, for the lead role in feature-film **Schemers**.

Our acting Graduates are represented by the following agents, amongst others:

United Agents 42 Hamilton Hoddell A and J Management Rebecca Blond Identity Agentur Samir Osman Agentur Danilo	Troika Independent Talent Waring and McKenna Paula Farino Middleweek Newton Connor Management Act One Paris	Patrick Hambleton Management Conway Van Gelder Sally Hope Associates RBM Stopford Dee Boss Management A LeightHouse, Madrid
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Many other agents regularly attend our performances and industry events, including:

Julian Belfrage Associates Johnson Mathers Sharkey and Trigg Curtis Brown	Macfarlane Chard Natasha Stephenson Narrow Road
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Casting Directors who visit GFCA include, amongst others:

Irene Cotton Iris Baumuller Paul de Freitas Swan Pham The Hubbards Leoni Kibbey Kate Bone	Jeremy Zimmerman Tonucha Vidal Leo Davis Lucy Rands Des Hamilton Gail Stevens
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Production stills are from **Amphitryon** and **The Bacchae**, directed by Giles Foreman: Teatro Technis

Finances

For 2020 entry, the four-term Acting route (16-month programme) fee is still **£12,200**, payable termly – that is, £9150 per year – for our intensive taught curriculum, this is an incredibly advantageous rate, and considerably less expensive than other institutions with much larger groups and fewer contact-hours.

We also offer a **fifth-term top-up programme** each Spring.



The actor-director strand within PGIP provides an additional unit of bespoke Directing Tutorial guidance plus extra play-direction opportunities. The fee for this route is £12,600.

We normally ask for fees to be paid termly in advance, but can also offer a payment option by monthly bank transfer.

We offer one half-[scholarship](#) each year, PLUS other bursaries where possible.

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 December 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 – we work with you on the pieces, providing opportunities for exploration and for feedback. There are no stressful group-audition sessions, or impersonal results lists – 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.

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, New York and Los Angeles.

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. He 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, in its day. 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 protegee 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**, which was published by GFCA in 2015, and it is at the core of our teaching of the work – 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**.

Members of our team of coaches include:

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.

LINDSAY RICHARDSON (Deputy Director, GFCA. Singing & voice tutor, coach)

Lindsay is a professional singer and actor, who trained classically at Trinity College of Music, London and in musical theatre and acting. 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 run many vocal and performance workshops; has directed opera productions; and provides individual vocal coaching for presenters, singers, actors and individuals in public life who are preparing for specific projects.

Lindsay coordinates the work of GFCA London and GFCA Paris, leads the London Foundation Diploma Course, coaches, teaches singing/ voice/text on the Advanced Intensive Programme in London and at GFCA Paris. Directing projects include 'Fear & Misery of the Third Reich' and plays devised for and with Advanced actors: The Ascent of Woman , Refugee, Exist Other Wise, Ego & the Hero's Journey, and as a joint production with GFCA Paris, Les Liens Qui Unissent.

Please check the website for a full list of our coaches in specific subjects, We invite in specialist workshop leaders for particular projects such as mask work and Fight-Skills - and external directors for productions.