



Performing Arts

Career Pathways & Local Opportunities — Liverpool & Merseyside

For students in Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form

Why Choose a Career in Performing Arts?

- Liverpool is one of the UK's most creative cities — and a UNESCO City of Music. Opportunities here are brilliant.
- Performing arts trains transferable skills — communication, confidence, creativity — valued in every industry.
- You don't have to be a performer! There are hundreds of roles behind the scenes.
- The creative industries contribute over £100 billion to the UK economy each year.
- Liverpool's arts scene is growing — the Everyman, Empire, Royal Court and new Shakespeare North Playhouse all need talented people.

Skills and Personal Qualities Needed

- Confidence and the ability to perform in front of others
- Creativity and imagination
- Resilience — you need to handle feedback and keep going
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Communication skills — verbal, physical, and emotional
- Dedication and a strong work ethic
- Adaptability and the ability to take direction
- Self-discipline and time management




Useful School Subjects

- Drama / Performing Arts — the most relevant subject; builds practical skills
- Music — understanding of rhythm, performance and composition
- English Language and Literature — supports script work, communication and storytelling
- Art & Design — useful for set design, costume and visual theatre
- Media Studies — helpful for screen performance and production
- PE / Dance — physical skills, body awareness and movement are all valuable




Local Courses — Entry Level to Level 3

All courses below are FREE for students aged 16–18. Always confirm current entry requirements directly with the college, as details may change.



[Entry Level 3 / Level 1] Foundation/Introductory Performing Arts

-  **Provider:** City of Liverpool College — contact admissions for current Entry/L1 provision
-  **Entry Requirements:** No formal qualifications required. Enthusiasm and commitment expected. Interview/workshop may apply.
-  **Leads to:** Level 2 Performing Arts or other vocational programmes




[Level 2] Performing & Production Arts (UAL) Diploma

-  **Provider:** City of Liverpool College, Myrtle Street, Liverpool City Centre
-  **Entry Requirements:** 2 GCSEs at grade D/3 or above. Group workshop and audition required. FREE for 16–18s.
-  **Leads to:** Level 3 Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre or Production Arts at City of Liverpool College




[Level 2] Performing & Production Arts (UAL) Diploma

-  **Provider:** Knowsley Community College, Rupert Road, Huyton
-  **Entry Requirements:** No specific GCSE requirement — audition/interview based. Great if you haven't studied Drama. FREE for 16–18s.
-  **Leads to:** Level 3 Performing & Production Arts (UAL) at Knowsley CC — with Shakespeare North Playhouse partnership!




[Level 3 – Sixth Form] UAL Extended Diploma — Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre, Music, Technical Theatre or Design

-  **Provider:** LIPA Sixth Form College, Mount Street, Liverpool City Centre
-  **Entry Requirements:** 5 GCSEs grade 4/C or above. Audition or portfolio required. Equivalent to 3 A-Levels. COMPLETELY FREE (government-funded free school). Talent and potential matter most — no formal training is needed.
-  **Leads to:** LIPA University, conservatoires (Guildhall, Bristol Old Vic, Leeds), university drama programmes or direct employment




[Level 3 – Sixth Form] Performing & Production Arts (UAL) Extended Diploma

-  **Provider:** City of Liverpool College, Myrtle Street, Liverpool City Centre
-  **Entry Requirements:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4–9 including English or Maths. Audition required. FREE for 16–18s and 19–23s without a Level 3.
-  **Leads to:** Higher education, drama school, LIPA, or employment in creative industries. UCAS tariff points earned.

[Level 3 – Sixth Form] Performing & Production Arts (UAL) Extended Diploma

-  **Provider:** Knowsley Community College, Rupert Road, Huyton
-  **Entry Requirements:** GCSE English grade 4–5 (Maths helpful but not essential). Audition plus initial Level 2 assessment. Some performance experience expected.
-  **Leads to:** University, conservatoire, drama school or direct industry employment. West End performance opportunities available!

[Level 3 – A-Level] Drama & Theatre — A-Level

-  **Provider:** Knowsley Community College, Rupert Road, Huyton
-  **Entry Requirements:** 5 GCSEs at grade 4+, including English. Can be combined with other A-Levels.
-  **Leads to:** University Drama/Theatre degrees, teaching, performing arts higher education













Apprenticeships and Training

- Creative & Cultural Apprenticeships — available in technical theatre, stage management, costume and production
- Cultural Learning and Participation Officer — apprenticeship with arts organisations
- Live Events Technician Apprenticeship — sound, lighting and AV for live performances
- Check www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk for current vacancies in Liverpool and Merseyside

- Many arts organisations in Liverpool (Everyman & Playhouse, Empire, LIPA) offer work placements and paid trainee roles
- Equity — the performing arts union — offers resources and advice for those entering the industry at: www.equity.org.uk

Jobs, Volunteering and Experience

Careers you could work towards:










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|  Actor / Performer |  Lighting & Sound Designer |  TV & Film Production |
|  Dancer / Choreographer |  Set / Costume Designer |  Presenter / Broadcaster |
|  Musician / Singer / Composer |  Arts Administrator / Manager |  Community Arts Worker |
|  Director / Producer |  Drama Teacher / Coach |  Playwright / Scriptwriter |

Local volunteering & experience opportunities:

- Young Everyman Playhouse (YEP) — FREE weekly theatre group, ages 14–17, Thursdays 5–7pm. No experience needed. everymanplayhouse.com/yep
- 20 Stories High — Liverpool theatre company for ages 14–21. Bold, creative devised work mixing dance, spoken word and music. 20storieshigh.org.uk
- Royal Court Youth Theatre — write and perform your own plays at one of Liverpool's best-loved theatres. liverpoolsroyalcourt.com
- Liverpool Empire Youth Musical Theatre & Dance Company — ages 15–21. Perform in a real West End-scale venue. liverpoolempiretrust.co.uk
- Theatre on Foot — weekly drama sessions and productions in unique Merseyside locations. theatreonfoot.co.uk
- KCC Live Radio (Knowsley CC) — community radio broadcasting at 99.8FM, open to young people aged 10–24. knowsleycollege.ac.uk

Next Steps and Contact Information

- Speak to your careers adviser or drama teacher about which course is the right fit for you
- Attend open days — City of Liverpool College, Knowsley CC and LIPA Sixth Form all hold regular events
- Join a local youth group NOW — experience at interview matters more than grades
- Research careers on www.eclips-online.co.uk | Password: koemno93
- Find further information and resources at www.tags.careers

<p>City of Liverpool College</p> <p> 0151 252 3000</p> <p> enquiry@liv-coll.ac.uk</p> <p> www.liv-coll.ac.uk</p>	<p>Knowsley Community College</p> <p> 0151 477 5850</p> <p> info@knowsleycollege.ac.uk</p> <p> www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk</p>	<p>LIPA Sixth Form College</p> <p> 0151 330 3232</p> <p> admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org</p> <p> www.lipasixthformcollege.org</p>
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