



OF PERFORMING ARTS  
3 YEAR MUSICAL THEATRE DIPLOMA



# JOIN THE FAMILY **D&B** ACADEMY

**D&B ACADEMY**  
OF PERFORMING ARTS

Success does come to you,

Since establishing D&B Academy in 1988, we have had the pleasure of nurturing many students through our three year diploma course and into professional work.

Our exciting performing arts school offers a balanced curriculum of professional training to students from the UK and abroad. At the end of the three year full-time course, you will have become a well-balanced, versatile performer able to work equally in TV, Film and Theatre.

With a selected intake every year, our students benefit from intensive training from a dynamic and professional faculty. The small intake enables us to truly nurture our students' strengths and weaknesses, and ensures that every individual will develop their skills in a safe and happy environment. To us, you're an individual, a person. Our support continues through your three years of training and beyond when you move into the full-time profession.

The D&B Diploma in Musical Theatre is endorsed by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre. We are also uniquely placed to offer ample professional opportunities to our students through our extensive industry links and highly acclaimed acting agency, D&B Management.

D&B is our extended family. We expect a lot from you, but in return it enables you to work in the Performing Arts and we will always be there to support, nurture and guide you - throughout your training and beyond.

Donna and Bonnie



**Durone Stokes:** Credits during training include *Dreamgirls* (Original West End Cast), *Grand Hotel* (Southwark Playhouse)

**"There's no place like it. Where you are completely accepted, and the whole faculty work together to help each individual achieve their dreams."**



**"Teachers clearly enjoyed both their subjects and teaching these committed students. There was a collective and individual tuition coupled with honest, relevant and positive feedback, and often excellent advice. A genuine interest in and empathy with each individual student was shown."**

**- Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre Training 2020**

**CDMT**

**Accredited School**



# D&B ACADEMY TRAINING WITH THE PROFESSIONALS

Our teachers are award-winning creative professionals. They are leaders in their respective artistic fields and work as producers, directors and choreographers in TV, Film and Theatre.

And by being a member of a small year group, you are not a face among the crowd to our staff. They know every student by name and give regular personalised, detailed feedback both verbally and in written reports. It certainly helps when it comes to auditioning in the real world that our teachers are often on the other side of the panel.

Our passionate faculty have developed our syllabus with us, constantly tweaking the training to reflect changes in the industry and also to ensure that every year group gets exactly what they need for their futures.

D&B's exceptional vocational training was recognised by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre who awarded the college Full Accreditation Status - one of only 31 Performing Arts Colleges in the country and one of only 14 in London.



"The **passion** of the students is *infectious* and the character they bring to dance is what I love and look for in a performer. I have used many of the students in **professional shows** and workshops including 'The Little Princess' in London as I **know what they can bring** to a show. Of course having such wonderful things on their CV's also massively benefits them when it comes to graduation.

**Jo Goodwin** (Head of Professional Development): Credits include Assistant Director- *Sunset Boulevard* Movie (Curve, Leicester), Associate Choreographer- *Funnygirl* (Theatre Marigny, Paris), Associate Choreographer *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Barnum*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Happy Days- The Musical* (UK Tours)



# EACH JOURNEY IS UNIQUE

**D&B**  
ACADEMY



D&B School of Performing Arts has always welcomed students from all walks of life, with different areas of expertise and backgrounds in training. We are looking for a spark, an energy and an enthusiasm to improve and work hard. With our streamed, small classes we are able to really push those with previous experience and go right back to basics for those that haven't. Our smaller classes mean that it's simply not possible to coast through the course. You will be pushed in every area.

Each student here is an individual, a name and not a number, and therefore we have to understand that every journey is unique. We make no secret of the fact that we want all students to grow in all three areas of Singing, Acting and Dance, but we are acutely aware that our students have different aims and goals for their futures. Our role is to help to prepare our graduates for their dreams whilst also opening their eyes to other areas of the industry that they may not have considered previously. This is clearly reflected in our broad range of graduate destinations.

The performing arts industry is notoriously competitive and we want to ensure that every avenue is explored and we open as many doors as we possibly can for every student. With our broad and thorough training, our graduates are prepared for anything.



"When I arrived at D&B I had never danced before. I was fortunate to have the most incredible teachers who pushed me and gave me opportunities to test my skills every step of the way whether that was in in-house productions, or in professional workshops. Before I graduated I was offered the part of 1st cover Tony Manero in the UK Tour of Saturday Night Fever. I could never have predicted my journey but there's no doubt that without some serious determination and the **overwhelming support and guidance** I got from D&B, I wouldn't be where I am now"

**Rory Phelan:** Credits include *Heathers* (UK Tour), *Saturday Night Fever* (UK Tour), *Mamma Mia* (West-End), *Grease* (UK Tour), *Club Tropicana* (UK Tour)





# FULFILL YOUR POTENTIAL

D&B Management, our agency is now in its' 28th year and has been successfully securing work for our clients all over the world, from featured TV and film roles right the way to west-end theatre and international tours. We are proud to represent all of our students throughout their training and beyond, carefully submitting them for any jobs that could be of benefit to their training and careers.

This can be anything from filming a few days on a feature film, or being involved in prestigious workshops for musical theatre. We've had students appearing in television dramas, commercials and live TV performances.

We believe that this on-set or on-stage experience offers our students a valuable insight into the industry that they can then bring back and apply to their training. It also helps them to build up their CV's, giving them a competitive edge in this crowded industry.

In the lead up to graduation, we work hard to ensure that we give our students as many auditions and opportunities as we possibly can to try to line up work for them after their graduation.



"D&B students are always well prepared and good to have in auditions. They have great energy and commitment and are full of character"

Debbie O'Brien: Leading UK Casting Director



"Having the opportunity to work whilst in training has taught me how to work in a professional environment and has given me so much more confidence. I was lucky enough to work with Qdos Pantomimes playing Snow White in my 1st year. It was just a small insight into the industry and inspired me so much to come back to college and work harder than ever." Hollie Swain- 2nd Year



"I've had loads of auditions and been lucky enough to work lots while training! I've performed in Children In Need, pantomimes, West End Workshops and corporate events. Being able to work whilst training is a fantastic opportunity because you get to put all the things that you have learnt at college into practice. You also get the benefit of bringing that experience back home to continue your training!" Josh Nkemdilim- 2nd Year



"For 2 years now I have had the opportunity to film on the EastEnders set for the Children in Need special choreographed by Matt Flint, who is our showcase Director. It was an amazing experience that I wouldn't have had if I wasn't training at D&B! Now that I'm approaching graduation I've also had auditions for Wicked and Hamilton!" Chanel Rennie- 3rd Year



"Getting the opportunity to audition while training at D&B put me ahead of the game! I learnt so much on the job and the contacts I made on those jobs such as 'Cradle To Grave' for the BBC, 'Call The Midwife' for ITV and various commercials still help me now. My face was out there before I graduated. Where else not only lets you, but encourages and helps you to do that?" Luke Higgins- Graduate



"I had the best experience filming StageSchool for E4. Every week I was visiting the recording studio and filming music videos! One of my fondest memories was spending time in the recording studio doing what I love!" Lucia Valentino- 2nd Year



"Between accepting my place at the College and starting in that September, D&B Management were able to get me an audition for the television series Grantchester on ITV. I filmed my part during the Summer holidays! I couldn't believe I was working before I'd even started my training!" Ronnie Law- 1st Year



"Working on 'A Little Princess' was such an amazing opportunity for me. It really opened my eyes to what a professional career would be like. Performing at the Royal Festival Hall was nerve-racking, but an extraordinary experience. Also working with Andrew Lipka and Arlene Philips was surreal and I was so honoured to meet them. I am so thankful to our Head of Jazz and D&B for giving me this opportunity." Elle Crees- 3rd Year



# FIRST CLASS FACILITIES

**D&B**  
ACADEMY

D&B Academy houses 7 purpose-built, bright studios over 3 floors encompassed in one building. Our studios are equipped with specialist Harlequin dance flooring, state of the art sound systems, a professional lighting rig and floor to ceiling mirrors in every studio.

The premises are a short commute from London's West End. Our team of professional tutors and industry consultants are able to visit us regularly, and in turn, our students are able to experience the vast number of productions and inspirational performances on their doorstep.

We are also extremely fortunate to hold our annual showcases at both The Shaw Theatre in Central London and The Churchill Theatre, a prestigious No.1 touring venue with over 750 seats. We bring in our own team of exceptionally skilled technicians to supply and operate sound and lights.



**SHAW**  
THEATRE



**BROMLEY**  
**CHURCHILL THEATRE**



Alison Pollard (Artistic Advisor): Resident Director for Sonia Friedman Productions- Book of Mormon, Dreamgirls

"I love the college. I love the size of the college as every student gets such personal attention. The growth is extraordinary because from the moment they get here, they get a thorough training in the Performing Arts. It's been incredible to watch the growth of these students through regular assessments where I'm able to give each student my own personal feedback. Through my work I've been able to have my pick of the students to work professionally in pantomimes that I've directed and in the shows that I direct in the West End. The showcase is a highlight of the year and I love bringing along casting directors and producers that I've worked with to see the graduates first hand. And they love coming along so that they can get their hands on them early!"



# D&B ACADEMY SKILLS FOR LIFE

We are exceptionally proud of our students, not just because of their incredible talent in the performing arts, but also because of their supportive, kind and confident natures that we carefully nurture under our care.

In the second year of training, we are proud to offer not one, but two teacher qualification options to our students. Students are able to take teachers examinations in Street Dance following the UDO syllabus and/or Acting with the London College of Music. We are proud to boast a 100% pass rate in these exams, giving our students the opportunity to teach either alongside their training, or indeed to take teaching as a career when they graduate. There is also the option to study teaching qualifications with the ISTD and teaching singing with the LCM. With our huge part time theatre school here at the academy, there is no shortage of opportunities to get teaching experience.

Training in Musical Theatre and particularly with our emphasis on acting for TV and Film, our students are continually encouraged to be confident and to develop excellent communication skills that they can take with them.

Whilst we are enormously proud of our graduates who have excelled in performing since their graduation, we also love to catch up with our graduates who are now head teachers of their own performing arts schools across the country, or others that have gone into casting and work in top agencies.



LCM  
EXAMS

UDO  
UNITED DANCE ORGANISATION

ISTD



# A SHOWCASE FOR ALL

**D&B**  
ACADEMY



"Throughout my time at D&B, I had the chance to build up some *incredible credits* through the agency, D&B Management. This gave me an amazing step-up into the industry before I'd even graduated; I will forever be grateful to D&B for the opportunities and their **unwavering support** throughout my training and beyond."

**Rachel Rawlinson:** Credits include *Six* (West End), *Heathers* (West End), *Priscilla Queen of the Dessert* (NCL), *Mary Poppins* (West End), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (West End), *Billy Elliot* (West End)

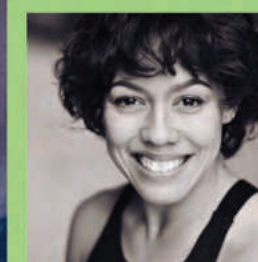
We have extensive links and contacts reaching to every corner of the performing arts industry.

A majority of our college faculty and advisors are currently active in the profession as choreographers, directors, producers and performers in Theatre, TV and Film and commercial music.

During our annual Showcase, all year groups perform for an invited audience of leading industry professionals - including casting directors and agents.

These industry links act as a direct connection into the profession and many members of staff are instrumental in gaining our graduates and students professional experience and their first step on the career ladder.

Our students are all involved in our annual graduation showcase. From the first year, they will be involved and will appear in more and more featured roles as they progress through the college. Our show is not double or triple cast. All students are clearly identifiable to agents and appear in every performance so it does not matter which performance an agent attends- our students will be onstage.



"I loved the **focussed attention** and care that I was given by my tutors. I always felt totally **supported** throughout my time at college and since graduating."

**Jayme-Lee Zanoncelli:** Credits include *Tina* (Aldwych Theatre), *Motown- Dance Captain*, (Shaftesbury Theatre), *Bat Out of Hell- Dance Captain*, (UK Tour) *West Side Story* (The RSC)



# D&B ACADEMY LIVING THE DREAM

Our academy destinations speak for themselves and are a testament to the success of the course. It's worth noting that many of our graduates go on to play leads in their respective shows. From one year group alone, graduates were simultaneously playing 'Penny Pingleton' in the UK tour of 'Hairspray', 'CC.White' in the Original West End cast of 'Dreamgirls', and the youngest ever 'Elder Price' in 'The Book of Mormon' in the West End.



Justin Thomas: Currently in *Back to the Future* (West End), *Fiyero* in *Wicked*, *Kasim* in *Aladdin* (both West End), *Sky* in *Mamma Mia* (World Tour), *Dirty Dancing*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Grease*

"D&B provided me with every tool I needed to pursue a career in the West End."



Jacqueline Jossa: Won Best Newcomer NTA for her portrayal of *Lauren Branning* in *EastEnders* (BBC) before being crowned *Queen of the Jungle* in 'I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here' (ITV)

"The training and support I got from D&B helped me to get to where I am today. I'm so thankful for the opportunities that they gave me."



Clockwise from top left- Dan Walter (Youngest Ever 'Elder Price', *The Book of Mormon*), Jacob McIntosh (Cover *Lola*, *Kinky Boots*), Jayme-Lee Zanoncelli (Assistant Dance Captain, *Motown*), Shannon Crouch (*Oz*, *We Will Rock You*)



# REACHING OUT **D&B** ACADEMY



Lauren Bowry  
2nd Year

"Being part of the **D&B family** is something I'm really proud of. I was awarded the Marvin Humes Scholarship which was an incredible start to begin my 3 years at D&B. During my first year and a half at D&B, I have **achieved so much** and worked alongside some fantastic people. I was lucky enough to be a dancer in the EastEnders 'Children in Need' piece, I danced in the London New Year's Day Parade, I was a part of a workshop of 'A Little Princess' at the Royal Festival Hall working with Andrew Lipka and Arlene Phillips and I was also in the ensemble of Selladoor's very first pantomime of Aladdin. Having achieved all this in my first year and a half has given me an **amazing start to my career** and that's all thanks to my teachers at D&B. We are lucky enough to have staff that have **strong industry links** who give us a great understanding and idea of what it will be like when we graduate. The care I receive from D&B is second to none and having Donna, Bonnie and Nikki by my side all the time is like having 3 extra Mums! I hope that once my training is complete, I will achieve my goals and be in a musical and make my D&B family proud. D&B will always have a **special place in my heart** as I have grown here into the young woman I am today!"

We believe you should be able to pursue a career in the performing arts regardless of your background.

We are equally excited by a spark of raw talent as we are by someone with years of previous training. We are confident that our outstanding tuition and care will get you where you want to be.

Our fees are hugely competitive compared to other accredited colleges in London. Beyond that, with our bursaries and scholarships, we are able to make training affordable to students from across the UK and beyond. By choosing to offer an alternative to a degree with a carefully planned timetable, our students are able to work part time in order to graduate without being saddled with debt. Wherever possible, D&B Management will procure working opportunities throughout students' training which also helps to support them. Ultimately a degree is not a necessity in this field of performing arts.

If you have the drive, enthusiasm and commitment to succeed we don't believe that financial circumstances should stop you.

We are also big believers that when you visit any school, you will know straight away whether you could make yourself at home and thrive there. We thoroughly recommend that all applicants attend an open day where you will be treated as an individual and given personal care and attention. Similarly our audition process is friendly, personal and an enjoyable experience. We think that by putting you at ease, you will be able to give the best performance you can.

"When I arrived at D&B for the open day I was blown away by the photos on the wall of the graduate successes. I was **warmly greeted** by a confident, happy 3rd year student who instantly made me feel at ease. I toured the facilities and watched all of the classes, I was **particularly impressed** with the singing and acting (acting being my passion). The staff made me feel **welcome** and I knew the minute I met the course coordinator Nikki that D&B was the right place for me. I had previously attended a much larger performing arts college, where I personally felt lost; I knew that with the small intake of students I would feel nurtured in a safe environment. 6 months into my training, I know everyone in the college which is a lovely feeling. I **no longer feel lost**! Donna and Bonnie (who are fantastic principals!) have an open door policy which therefore makes you feel at home. I am now a proud member of the college and **D&B is my home** for the next 3 years. I cannot wait for the exciting opportunities the college will bring me! "



Sophie Moore  
1st Year



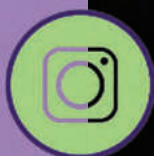
Marvin Humes: Patron, Radio DJ, TV Presenter and former member of JLS. Whilst at D&B as a teen, Marvin also appeared in the West End as well as on TV in Holby City through D&B Management.

"The **care** that Donna and Bonnie give to every pupil is **second to none** and what they did for me as a youngster was **priceless**. I'm so excited to be able to support a student through their training with the help of the **Marvin Humes Scholarship**"



Keep up to date and get a look at our students in action by following us on social media for regular updates and performance footage.

@dandbperforming



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