

THE REP COLLEGE

Prospectus

The Rep College
17 St Mary's Avenue, Purley-on-Thames
Reading, Berkshire RG8 8BJ

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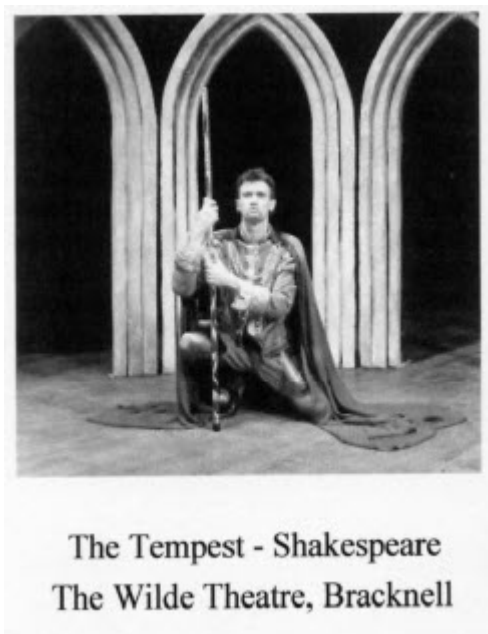
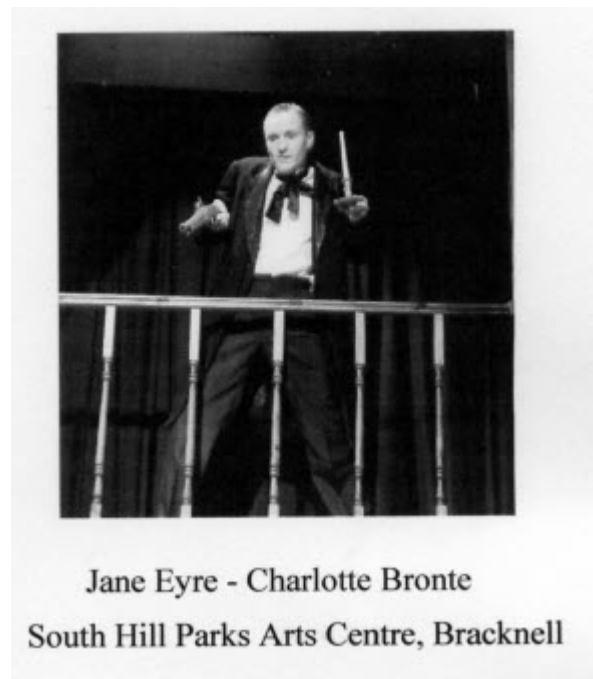
Patrons: Colin Baker
Tracy Edwards MBE
Anthony Marriott
Directors: David Tudor
Elizabeth Lane

LEARN BY EXPERIENCE

The Rep College is the world's first and only fully practical course for the training of actors, directors, designers and technicians for the theatre.

Traditional methods of training for the theatre have been centred mainly on theoretical and classroom based instruction with very little opportunity for performance experience particularly to a paying public.

Most professional actors and backstage artists agree that they learned more of their art once they began to work in performance situations than they ever learned at drama college.



For many years actors left college to join one of the hundreds of small repertory companies scattered throughout the country. Sadly such repertory companies are now almost non-existent and there is little opportunity for an actor to learn his craft in this way.

In the average drama college students spend many hours each week learning movement, voice, stage fighting, improvisation, mime, acting technique, dance, singing and text

study as separate (and usually unrelated) subjects. If a student has no ability or interest in any of these areas they must still attend those classes or fail the course.



Time and the Conways - Priestley

Woodley Theatre, Reading

All you need to learn about voice, stage fighting, mime, and text study can be taught in no more than an hour. Movement is largely a matter of observation.

Improvisation, acting technique and text study are best learned in practical situations. All subjects benefit more from practice in performance rather than theory and limited classroom application.

Similar truths apply to directors, designers and technicians. You may read the most expertly written theories of lighting, set and costume design, stage management, and direction but more may be learned in one practical presentation than many months of study.

The College is based at The Rising Sun Arts Centre in the centre of Reading and presents 14 shows in a one year course to a paying audience at several theatres in Berkshire and the surrounding areas. As particular skills are required they are taught as part of the rehearsal process and are directly related to rehearsal and performance challenges.

When necessary outside staff such as Stage Fighting experts are brought in. Working to a tight schedule in varying performance situations to a paying public teaches more skills in a shorter period of time and is of greater lasting value.

At the college all students have the opportunity to develop their performance or technical skills in front of audiences who have a higher expectation than family, fellow students or friends.

There is no better way to learn.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Another unique feature of the college is the encouragement of the students to participate in the financial success of productions. All Box Office Sales from whatever source are shared among the students on a pro rata basis. The only qualification for a share is the sale of at least two tickets for each show. The benefit of this to the student, apart from the financial one, is an active interest in the betterment of themselves, the production and the college, and an awareness of sales and marketing strategies including poster and leaflet design with which students may choose to be involved.



On The Razzle - Stoppard
Progress Theatre, Reading

A student selling just two tickets per week may expect to receive a share of between £610 and £1100 pa (based upon average attendance). Shares are paid monthly and could be as much as £2000 pa but it must be remembered that *a student's share may be higher or lower depending upon sales made by other students and by the college.*



GUARANTEED PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

All students who complete the one year course are guaranteed a professional engagement after their final production. Employed at Equity minimum rates applicable at the time of the production the student thus qualifies for immediate Equity membership.

At the time of writing this will result in approximate earnings of between £574 and £861.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

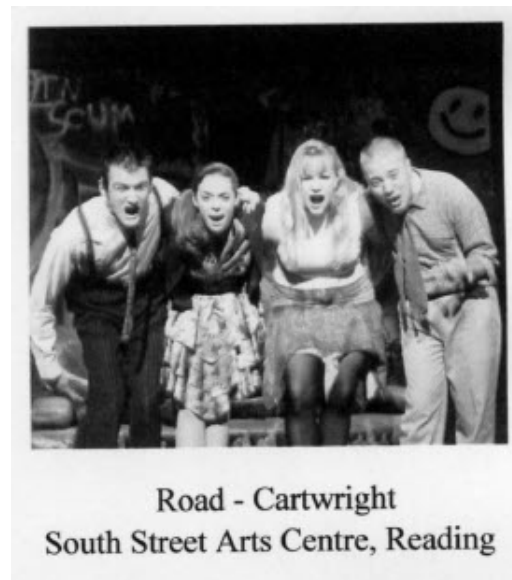
Students may commence the course at the beginning of any of the 14 productions.

Holidays are limited to five weeks throughout the year and plays are rehearsed and performed on average every three and a half weeks.

Plays are drawn from Greek, Roman, Medieval, Elizabethan, Restoration and 19th and 20th Century Theatre.

Types of production include Comedy, Tragedy, Farce, Epic and Musical. Examples of Theatre from China, Eastern Europe, America, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Russia, Scandinavia and Ireland will also form part of the programme.

Students should be aware that the course is intense and will require commitment and hard work but that the rewards are high. Students who do not complete a full year may not be offered a professional engagement..



THE COURSES

The Acting Course - Full Year

For the first seven productions casting is on a rota basis enabling students to play a variety of leading and minor roles. For the remaining seven productions casting is competitive preparing students for the realities of the profession and giving them a thorough experience of audition practices and techniques. Every student is given practical help on preparing for auditions which are conducted by guest directors, students on the directing course or the resident directors.



Wyrd Sisters - Pratchett
The Wokingham Theatre

Each play during the year is approached in a different way using improvisation, Stanislavsky, method acting, pure acting technique, stylised acting, realistic or documentary style approaches etc. and it is expected that upon entering the profession all students will have a solid background of the various methods used in play presentation.

The Acting Course - 18 weeks and 32 weeks

18 weeks - all casting is decided by the College. Students perform in 5 shows.

32 weeks - students perform in 9 shows. First seven shows casting decided by the college. Next 2 shows casting by audition.

Places on the acting course are limited to twenty.

The Directing Course

From the first production students will work as an assistant director but may also be expected for the first three productions to act, assist the Stage Manager, assist the lighting technician, and become involved in design, costume, set and prop making.

For the next six productions they may opt for one of these areas in which to assist whilst working as an assistant director and as a supervised director.

For the final five productions students concentrate solely on directing, making all decisions on auditions, designs, rehearsal methods and final production.



Cabaret - Masterhoff, Kander & Ebb
Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke

In all students will have complete responsibility for at least three productions. Students on the Directing Course will usually finish up to an hour after other students each day in order that some theoretical work and appraisal may be undertaken.

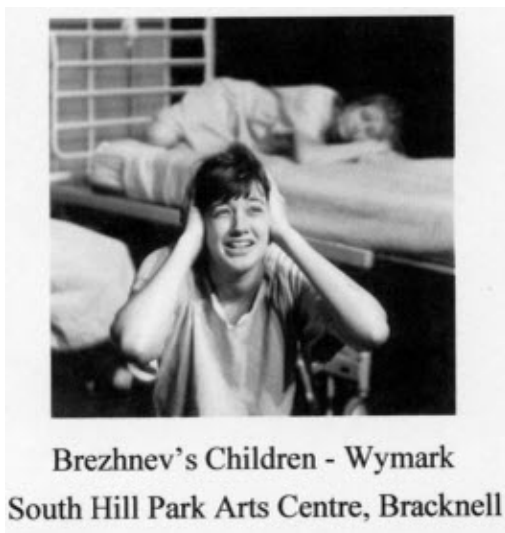
Places on the directors course are limited to two.

The Design Course

Students are expected for the first three productions to learn by practical experience all aspects of stage, costume and lighting design with reference to acknowledged designers of the past and present. Different styles of design will be used including fragmented, stylised, realistic, suggested and complex. For the next four to seven productions students will specialise in one area though they may be required to assist in other areas from time to time.

During the final seven productions students will be responsible for making all decisions with the director in their chosen area of design on at least four full productions.

Places on the design course are limited to four.



Waltz of the Toreadors - Anouilh
Progress Theatre, Reading

The Technical Course

Every aspect of stage management is explored practically by students: Set Construction, Propmaking/borrowing/ hiring, technical skills such as basic lighting, assistant, deputy and stage manager duties and a basic knowledge of company management. It is essential that a successful stage manager is a diplomat and basic psychology is taught in practical situations throughout the course.

For the first three productions students will be expected to assist with some costume making or hiring alongside their stage management duties.

From the fourth production students may specialise in specific areas of stage management or sound and lighting and may also optionally work as an acting ASM.

For the final eight productions students will be fully responsible as Stage Manager or Chief Technician on at least three productions or may opt to work in other areas of their choice.

Places on the technical course are limited to six.



Childrens Day - Waterhouse & Hall
South Hill Park Arts Centre, Reading

THE DIRECTORS

David Tudor

Qualified as a Drama Teacher in 1972 at Reading University he has worked as a professional director, producer and actor for 32 years. He has nine years experience as an Artistic Director in Repertory Theatre and for four years was Artistic Director at The Kings Theatre, Southsea.

In the West End he has directed and produced at The Arts Theatre and he has also produced at The Vaudeville Theatre, The Haymarket, The Albery, The Criterion, The Apollo and The Playhouse.

Nationally he has produced and directed many tours visiting most of the country's theatres and he has worked extensively as a guest director at a number of other drama colleges.

His acting experience has covered all areas including repertory, West End, film and television.

Elizabeth Lane

Trained as an actress at The Guildford School of Acting she has had a wide experience of all areas of performance in this country and in Canada, in repertory theatre, on tour, in the West End and on television. She has also worked as an assistant to her husband, David Tudor, in repertory, on tour and in the West End.

Guest Directors and Actors

The nature of the college's work enables a wide choice of directors and actors as guests. Apart from usual guest directors many star names have the desire to direct but are usually unable to commit themselves due to their own tight schedules. Since the college presents shows every on average three weeks, many directors and actors who would have otherwise been unable to undertake such work have the opportunity to be guests. Students are able to benefit from the first hand experience of such guest professional directors and actors.



Hay Fever - Coward
Woodley Theatre, Reading

Anthony Marriott, author of "No Sex Please, We're British", thirty other highly successful plays, and a well known and respected producer and director occasionally takes master classes outside the normal rehearsal period.



SUCCESS RATES

Established in 1998 the college has an unparalleled success rate in helping graduating students. As at January 2006, 83% of past students have agents and 64% are working in professional theatre. (The national average number of working actors is about 3%).

AUDITIONS

The College holds auditions for small groups of applicants every six to eight weeks. Auditions last for approximately three and a half hours and all who attend have the opportunity to meet existing students who are happy to answer any questions either openly or in private.

Actors

A full morning is spent with prospective students working together with the directors.

Approximately 30 minutes is spent on warm up exercises to "break the ice" and for auditionees to get to know each other and the directors. The major part of the morning is spent working on an extract from a theatre script which is directed by the college directors or prospective student directors.

No student is asked to perform prepared speeches and much time is devoted to reaction and inter-reaction between students and directors.

Selected applicants are invited to a further interview on the same day

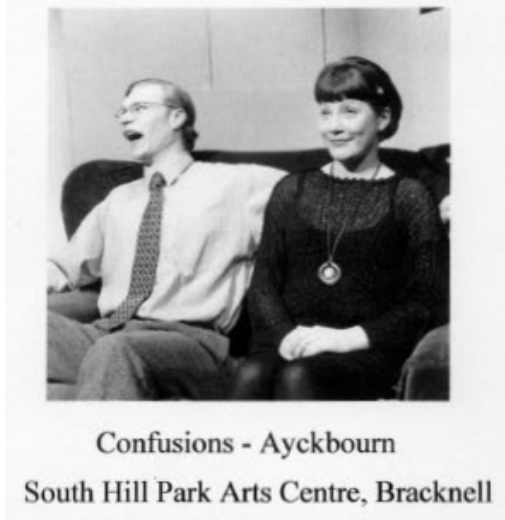


Directors

Prospective Directors are sent a script in advance and asked to prepare a two to three page extract in order to direct acting applicants. They are asked to participate in the movement and improvisation exercises

after which they will direct a small group of two or three prospective actors.

All applicants will be interviewed later the same day.



Designers

Design applicants are invited to interview. If they have any previous experience it is advisable to bring any portfolio or supporting material. Other examples of artistic ability are welcomed.

Technicians

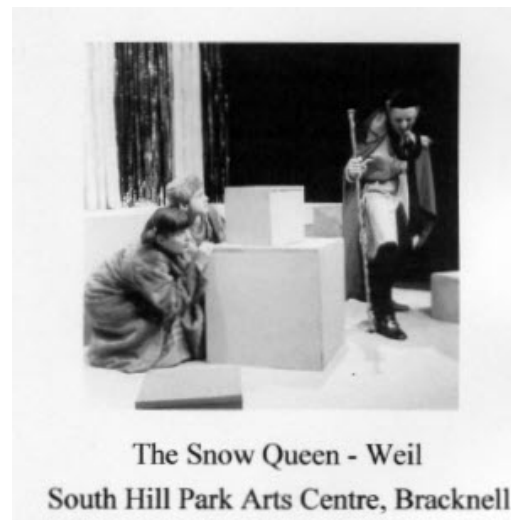
Prospective technicians are invited to audition along with actors and directors. They are not judged on their acting ability but upon their ability to relate to others - an essential attribute for all back stage teams.

All applicants will be invited to interview later the same day.

Overseas Students

Overseas students may either attend auditions in the normal way or may submit a video tape of approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Actors should spend about 5 minutes talking about themselves, their ambitions, and where they see their future. The tape should also include a rehearsed and learned extract from a play or plays lasting about 10 minutes. The extract(s) may be solo speeches or duologue(s) performed with other actors.

Directors, Designers and Technicians may also attend in the normal way or may submit a tape of approximately 10 minutes talking about themselves together with any other supporting material.



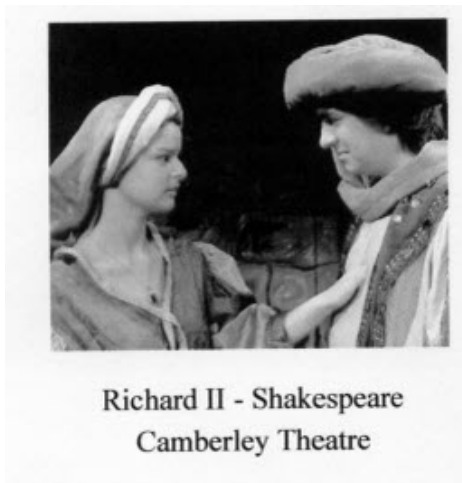
CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

In order that a full professional engagement can be offered students must be over eighteen by the end of the course. There is no upper age limit.

There is a non-refundable audition fee of £10

Upon acceptance a deposit of £245 is payable (£490 for overseas students). This deposit is refundable in full subject to no other monies being outstanding to the college upon completion of the chosen course.

There are no restrictions as to academic qualification, age (other than the above condition), sex, colour, nationality, disability or religion.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships covering up to half of the tuition fees are awarded in competition and prospective students should indicate if they wish to be considered when making their application.

At the present time scholarships may only be awarded to British Citizens.

ANNUAL, PRODUCTION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES

(All fees are payable in advance)

Acting Course	£9680 (Full year)
	£6300 (32 weeks)
	£3600 (18 weeks)

In advance deduct 8% (Full year)

or four equal instalments of £2420

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Audition Fee £FREE
2. Deposit on acceptance and registration for entry

- a) UK Students £245
- b) Overseas Students £490

Subject to there being no sums of money owing to the college deposits will be refunded in full on completion of the chosen course.



WHAT THE PAPERS HAVE SAID ABOUT PAST PRODUCTIONS

THE GIANTS OF ALBION - *'..the cast..are all so convincing and delightful...it made a very good evening's entertainment'*
Reading Evening Post - November 2003

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT - *'Cast 22 parts across a team of nine players and somebody is always going to get something right. However, to getting it spot on across the whole calvacade of disparate beings was a testament to the hard work of all concerned. Big parts are easy. Where this cast added value was in the vignettes with few lines, fewer moves and stunning accuracy.'*

Newbury Weekly News - January 2004

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE - *'presented with pacey panache....filled with humour and elegance'.*

Reading Chronicle - May 2004

THE WAKEFIELD MYSTERY PLAYS - *'..an entertaining evening, well up to their usual high standards.....all powerful stuff...a most impressive performance.'* Reading Chronicle - June 2004

THE FIFTEEN STREETS - *'The Rep College brilliantly interpreted the powerful emotions of the slum dwellers ...in this powerful and memorable theatrical production'.*

Reading Chronicle - November 2004

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS - *'an extremely vibrant and entertaining evening...all the performances were strong'*

BBC Berkshire - December 2004

AFTER MIDNIGHT BEFORE DAWN - *'they provided an interesting and entertaining evening'*

Newbury Weekly News - January 2005

THE VISIT - *'The Rep College celebrated their 100th production with a fine presentation....a fine, thoughtful production which boasted both past and present students among its large cast the large cast handled the darkly comic material well'*

Reading Evening Post - May 2005

'This clever script was given a sensitive expression of poetic writing by the talented young people in an evening of theatrical originality....the large cast were welded with dramatic insight by their talented director David Tudor'

Reading Chronicle - June 2005

IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT - *'..held the entire audience on the verge of hysteria throughout a laughter filled evening. I am so thrilled with the wide variety of opportunity offered the students and delighted with their high standards of achievement.'* Reading Chronicle - September 2005

JANE EYRE - *'This was a dramatically atmospheric production.....The high standards expected of the students were maintained by the large cast, in this stylish and emotive presentation.'*

Reading Chronicle - September 2005

ALBERT MAKE US LAUGH - *'the students of the Rep College surpassed themselves in this, their 110th production....this was a production of the highest quality'.* Reading Chronicle - January 2006

MAD FOREST - *'Directed with sensitive insight by David Tudor this dramatically powerful group of students worked with such empathy that the magnetism of their acting proved mesmerising. I wish the talented cast a fruitful future in the theatre.'*

Reading Chronicle - February 2006

THE BAD LAD OF READING GAOL - *'students of The Rep College gave a perceptive insight into the ignorance and intolerance of the era The cast again impressed'* Reading Chronicle - March 2006

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK - *'The acting was superb and extremely professional'*

Reading Chronicle - April 2006

ADAM BEDE - *'..their 115th production, which in itself is quited an achievement.....an engaging performance....sensitively played...most moving...an ensemble production with huge potential'*

Newbury Weekly News - May 2006

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST - *'..talented portrayals....a delightful afternoon's entertainment'*

Reading Chronicle - July 2006

THE SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL - *'..strong performances....versatile and talented cast'*

Newbury Weekly News - September 2006

The Rep College

Name of Candidate:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Date of Birth:

Nationality:

Name of Next of Kin:

Address of Next of Kin:

I should like to join the _____ course
during _____ (month) _____ (year).

Signed _____

Date _____

(Applicants must be aged 18 or over on leaving the course)

Please post this form with your cheque to:

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