

Top 10 careers by Yr. 11

No.9: Drama and Acting

The work

Actors work on TV, theatre, film and radio productions. Other areas include working on computer games, advertisements and training videos. There's also work in club/cruise ship entertainment, doing voice-overs, presenting etc.

As well as memorising lines and movements, actors may have to research and practise accents and different postures. Actors have to work to strict schedules and, come what may, must be ready when the 'curtain goes up'.

Education and training

Most professional actors train at drama schools that offer courses leading to diplomas, degrees and postgraduate qualifications. Degree courses at universities may focus more on theory than on practical acting skills.

What it takes

A high degree of responsibility towards fellow performers and to the production is essential. Actors must be skilled and talented, dedicated and have plenty of stamina. Hours are long and unsocial, and much time can be spent away from home. Actors need to be prepared for some rejection in their career.

Prospects

Most actors will experience long periods of unemployment (or periods when they need to earn their money in other ways). Some move into directing, producing or writing.

Pay

Many actors don't make sufficient money to live on just by acting. Minimum pay rates are negotiated by Equity.

For further information

Federation of Drama Schools - a newly launched federation of 20 drama schools that offer practical, conservatoire-based vocational training. For information and links to member schools, see:

www.federationofdramaschools.co.uk

Trinity College London - tel: 020 7820 6100. See website for information about the College's qualifications in drama and related subjects.

www.trinitycollege.com

Creative & Cultural Skills - tel: 020 7015 1800. The skills body for the creative and cultural industries. Click on 'Careers Advice' for job profiles, industry insights etc, at:

www.ccskills.org.uk/careers

National Association of Youth Theatres:

www.nayt.org.uk

For information about the **National Youth Theatre**, see:

www.nyt.org.uk

Equity - tel: 020 7379 6000.

www.equity.org.uk

Spotlight - tel: 020 7437 7631. Spotlight connects performers with roles in theatre, television and film productions. Joining Spotlight as a young performer, graduate or adult is a way to market yourself for professional work. For more information, see:

www.spotlight.com

Spotlight's *Contacts* database lists organisations involved in TV, stage, film etc, including agents, casting directors and other contacts. You can search the *Contacts* database at:

www.spotlight.com/contacts

The Stage - app or weekly newspaper available on subscription or from newsagents.

Features job vacancies and news from the performing industry. Lots of information, including a link to details about castings, is also available at:

www.thestage.co.uk