



Performing Arts students' outstanding success

Fifteen performing arts students who enrolled onto the BTEC National Certificate course at the College have all exceeded expectations by achieving the National Diploma with the addition of at least one other Level 3 qualification. Along with their fantastic results, every student rated all aspects of the Performing Arts course as good or excellent. Here is their story....

"I feel that these past two years have been the best learning experience of my life... I feel like I've developed and grown as an actress and a person," said student Porscha Bennett-Skepple, who achieved two distinctions and a merit on the performing arts course. Porscha, who is working for a year as a theatre technician at the College before progressing to university to continue her performing arts studies, added: *"The tutors gave us the independence to work on our own and gave us the help and guidance when we needed it. They were brilliant. We were always learning something new so we never lost interest."*

These views are reflected time and again by many of the students who felt the course nurtured and developed their potential to its maximum, providing a stimulating and challenging environment that was fun and interesting.

The amazing success of the course has resulted in 10 of the 15 students achieving a triple distinction in the National Diploma with two being accepted at the highly regarded Royal Holloway, University of London.

Twelve of the 15 students are progressing directly to Higher Education for dance and drama studies within the performing arts field, with one progressing into Media Arts, one into Sports Coaching and one hoping to progress into German/Psychology.

During the course, the group performed extracts from a number of plays, including Peter Barnes' *The Ruling Class*, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Artaud's *A Spurt of Blood*, Sarah Kane's *Crave*, and they directed, choreographed, produced and performed the whole of *Little Shop of Horrors* themselves, as well as various other performances devised by themselves.

Student, Dannielle Henderson, who achieved a triple distinction and is progressing to the Urdang Academy, said: *"I really enjoyed this course. The teachers were good and there was never a boring moment. We weren't spoon-fed, we were tested a lot of the time to see if we could do it on our own which is what we needed."*

Triple distinction student, Zoe Frost, who is going to Roehampton University for the BA Dance & Drama Combined Honours, said: *"The course has exceeded my expectations. I have learned so much through completing each unit and now I feel I can utilise these skills*

in my future education. A lot of the course was independent or group learning; however, help was always at hand when we needed it. I recommend this course to anyone with a passion for performing."

Alex Middleton, also a triple distinction student, who is progressing to Royal Holloway, University of London to study for a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies, said: *"The dance and drama course was more than excellent. The tutors nurtured and developed any potential. Every single part of the acting challenged and pushed me to the best performances. The activities and workshops were brilliant – they were fun and never boring."*

Thomas Woodards, who gained a triple distinction and is studying for a BA in World Performance at the University of Essex, said: *"The teachers were excellent. I wanted to have a challenge and it certainly was at times. The course has been so helpful for me to make it to drama school."*

Laura Mitchell, who gained a triple distinction and is studying for a BSc in Sports Coaching at Brighton University, said: *"There was always something new to challenge our ability and keep us interested. I felt that the tutors were helpful and understanding through the course."*

Triple distinction student Lee Hatch, who is studying for a BA in Drama at Manchester Metropolitan University, said: *"The knowledge I received was amazing! Thanks to the tutors I am now confident in my abilities. I loved the course and loved the teaching."*

The overall attendance on the course was 97% and the students all rated their experience on the course as 'good' or 'excellent' in categories such as 'meeting expectations', 'challenge and stimulation', 'structure, quality/variety of learning activities', 'level of support' and 'quality of teaching'.