This is not a Gap Year or BTEC Course. This is like being on a professional degree course in London.” Guest Teacher
Dear Student,
Welcome to the Emil Dale Academy (EDA) and thank you for your interest in our vocational 2 year 6th form course and Gap Year course.

In Partnership with The Knights Templar School, EDA offers a unique combination of taught classes, master class workshops and career development, alongside theoretical study and performances.

Our course is at the forefront of post-16 performing arts training in the UK, offering more contact hours and intensity than most other colleges, preparing students for progression into the leading drama schools, dance schools and universities.

Students are encouraged to grow into intelligent performers with an aim to make a sustainable living in performing arts. Making choices about your own progression and personal development will prepare you for a future to train at top establishments for the performing arts, as well as forging a career in the industry.

Please read on to find out more about our courses, attend one of our open days and apply for an audition.

We look forward to working with you.

Yours truly,

Emil Dale & The Team at EDA
WHY CHOOSE EMIL DALE?

Our course offers more direct contact hours than any other course at this level in the country like for like.

**30 Hours + every week**

30 Hours of training at EDA means 30 hours of contact time. Some institutions promise 30 hours of training, but don’t mention that some of the hours are free study time. All 30 hours at EDA are contact hours.

**Variety**

Take classes in musical theatre* Song & Dance* Girls Ballet* Boys Ballet* West End Jazz* Song Workshop* Acting Technique* Choral* Contemporary Audition Technique* West End Master Classes* Careers Talks* Body Conditioning* Commercial Dance* Plus many more...

**Welfare**

Student welfare is a top priority, and you will be provided with all the pastoral care you need. Staff have been trained in safeguarding and we have an open door policy, whereby any of our students can come and talk to any member of the faculty about any concerns or worries.

**Facilities**

We operate from our very own 12,000 sq ft, 3 storey building with 5 studios and our very own theatre. The very best sprung floors, air conditioning and mirrors. Not only will you benefit from the facilities at EDA, but you will also be part of Knights Templar School with access to computers and student discount entitlement.

**Talent Agency**

EDA is directly linked to talent agency Dale Hammond Associates. Many members of the BTEC course are represented by DHA and have regular castings for TV, film and theatre work, further preparing them for a career in the competitive and demanding world of performing.

**Teachers**

Teachers on our faculty teach at the schools you are training to go to. You will be trained by teachers from Mountview, Arts Ed, Guildford and more.

**Experience**

Our teachers have a combined experience of over 30 years in the industry and all hold degrees in their respective fields. Our co-principal has spent more than 8 years running BTEC’s through North Herts College and brings this wealth of knowledge the the Emil Dale Academy. We have more West End industry professionals than anywhere else, including choreographer Gareth Walker (Olympics 2012 closing ceremony).

**Equivalent to 3 A-Levels**

Our BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) is the equivalent to 3 A-Levels and is a great alternative to sixth form.

**Streamed Classes**

EDA offer ability streamed dance classes in a number of genres. This allows members to work with people of their own ability, which is proven to produce better results. Similar courses do not offer this.

**Applications**

You will get help writing your personal statement and UCAS/drama school applications. We will provide you with the references where necessary.

**Productions / Our Theatre**

Students will be part of BIGGER shows than anywhere else, accompanied by live West End Musicians (Sometimes up to 12). EDA’s production values, supported by expert staff, ensures the student experience is extremely professional.

**Private 1 to 1**

All Students will benefit from private 1:1 singing lessons and private monologue lessons. These private classes are longer than similar courses elsewhere.

**Location**

Based 20 minutes outside of London, Hitchin is the cultural centre of Hertfordshire. We offer London-calibre training without the expense.

**Want to audition/meet the team?**

Visit: www.emildale.co.uk
THE COURSE

The courses offered at the Emil Dale Academy are full-time, highly intensive Musical Theatre Audition Preparation courses, carefully designed to cater for students aged 16+(BTEC) and 18+(Gap Year). Students take part in hours of additional training to prepare them for the challenges of higher education in the industry.

It is specifically for those wishing to commit to an intensive training programme to fully prepare them to further their performance skills. Students should have a genuine ambition to work in the performing arts industry, and the rigorous programme will provide specialist training in Musical Theatre, Singing, Dancing and Acting.

BTEC: The Qualification

Students training at our vocational sixth form with the Emil Dale Academy will be studying for a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre). The BTEC qualification forms only a part of the training given on a weekly basis with hours of additional training to prepare students for higher education in the industry.

After year one, they will receive a 90-credit diploma (equivalent to 1.5 A-Levels in UCAS points). On completion of the two years, the students will receive a Level 3 Extended Diploma (equivalent to 3 A-Levels in UCAS points).

Over the last 25 years, BTEC qualifications have helped millions of people develop the skills they need to get on in life. These work-related qualifications are suitable for a wide range of abilities. They provide a practical, real world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory.

BTEC’s give students the skills they need to move on to higher education or go straight into employment. BTEC’s can be taken as well as, or in place of, traditional academic curriculum in schools and colleges. They are valued by schools, colleges and universities, as well as employers, professional bodies and recognised throughout 85 countries worldwide.

"It is very useful to have some experience in vocational Musical Theatre training before you audition for Professional Training courses. A BTEC at EDA would enable you to gain this, as well as the skills and confidence required to achieve a place on a musical Theatre programme like Arts Ed.”

Chris Hocking
Head of Arts Educational London (Andrew Lloyd Webber School) & EDA Patron.

Why choose a Gap Year:

Traditionally, the phrase “Gap Year” meant a period of time out taken by students after leaving college and before starting university. Now, gap years can happen at any stage, by anyone and for varying amounts of time. There are plenty of people who decide after sixth form, or even in their early 20’s, that they do want to train professionally. However they do recognise that they have not had sufficient or specific training to take them on to the top drama colleges in the UK and internationally. The Gap Year course is a one year, highly intensive course, to get students up to speed quickly to be able to audition confidently at higher education schools.

Gaining a qualification is not the priority of higher education performing arts schools - the audition is the key factor in gaining you a place at one of these colleges. The experiences and training that EDA offers gives you applicable and valuable skills to prepare you for auditions for both drama colleges and professional work.

Course Content

EDA’s highly intensive programme includes core modules as well as additional classes that support their training to prepare them for the industry.

Content and Classes include:

- Specialist Audition Preparation Programme
- Full scale performances in our very own theatre, The Factory Playhouse
- Leading industry professionals taking guest master classes and workshops
- Song and Dance Classes
- 3 x 1.5 hour Acting Technique
- 3 x 1.5 hour choral singing with at least 2 different teachers
- 45 Minute body conditioning class daily
- 30 minutes of 1:1 singing weekly
- 3 x 1.5 hour ballet classes a week
- 3 x 1.5 hour jazz classes a week
- Contemporary dance
- Commercial dance
- Acting for TV and Film
- Monologue classes
- Performing arts business
- Historical Context
- Performance workshops/ performance class
Teaching on the course

The Emil Dale Academy offers a faculty of leading industry professionals who have relevant experience in their specialist subjects, as well as teaching experience in the UK’s leading training establishments such as Arts Educational Schools, Bird College, Urdang, London Studio Centre, Mountview Academy, Bodywork and many more.

Our resident team oversees the course and are supported by additional industry professionals who offer real and current industry expectations. Students learn performance skills, advanced training and are encouraged to learn about the industry to prepare them to make a sustainable living within it.

Contact Hours

The Emil Dale Academy courses offer more contact time with teachers than any other course in the UK. We have a minimum of 30 hours contact time Monday - Friday. (This means hours taught by a teacher, not private study time.)

Each lesson is taught by a subject matter specialist, and is selected to ensure the course comprises of a rounded selection of material and complete exposure to the disciplines that make up musical theatre performance.

Where can I progress to?

The highly intensive Musical Theatre Audition Preparation courses are designed to prepare and equip students with the skills to audition at the industry’s top drama and performing arts colleges. Our team not only have trained at these establishments, but have worked with students to ensure they are ready to audition and move on to these schools.

Audition Preparation

We recognise the importance of support during the application process for Drama Schools and Universities. All students will receive tailored guidance in their chosen area of the industry in order to ensure the best possible progression path. Working with excellent tutors who will provide guidance for this process, including choosing the right schools, selecting suitable pieces & selecting pieces set by the schools, you will be fully prepared to audition in front of a panel of professionals at leading institutions.

You will learn about what is required from you at the auditions and how to conduct yourself. Throughout the course, you will take part in mock auditions and will be given guest lectures from people who may be on the panel at professional auditions.

Productions & Rehearsals

Whilst the course is designed to cater for personal, professional development, it is important that students are given opportunities to perform in a professional environment.

All students will take part in full-scale musical productions at The Factory Playhouse within the premises in Hitchin. This is supported by a West End band, professional technical staff and crew and leading industry professionals are invited to attend the performances.

There will be an end of year “Showcase” specifically for full time members, as well as numerous other high profile events ranging from cutting edge avant-garde performances to open mic nights.

Students will be expected to attend all rehearsals, even if outside of timetabled hours.

Academic Enhancement and Student Welfare

The Emil Dale Academy has staff members dedicated to ensuring students are supported both academically and personally during their working week. The EDA team pride themselves on the ‘family’ atmosphere at the school. With this ethos comes an acute awareness of the personal needs of each and every student.

We have an open door policy when it comes to student welfare and endeavour to resolve problems and assist in every way possible with the individual needs of students in a discreet and confidential manner.

We recognise that performers are artists first and foremost, and that developing their talent is naturally their primary concern.

EDA can offer support with the written components of the course to help with assignments, references and college applications.
MEET THE TEAM

All our tutors are trained to degree level and are practicing industry professionals, teaching specialist subjects in their relevant areas. Students will benefit from their expertise, talent and connections.

Management & resident team

Emil Dale
Principal & Founder
Emil trained at Arts Educational School, London.
Emil opened EDSA in 2009, and since then has also opened Dale Hammond Associates Talent Agency, Emil Dale Studio’s and the Emil Dale Academy.

Victoria Hammond
Co-Principal, BTEC Course Leader & Head of Dance.
Vicky trained at London Contemporary School of Dance, graduating with First Class Honours.
Vicky worked as a freelance dancer as well as for two award winning dance companies.
Vicky ran a BTEC for 8 years for NHC, and has taught at colleges across the UK.

Sarah Moore
Operations Manager & Head of Business
Sarah went to the University of Sheffield where she got a degree in History and a masters degree in Arts Management.
Sarah runs business operations, but also uses both her degree studies and corporate experience as a project manager to teach both the Business and Historical Context modules.

Debbie Steer
Company Manager & Head of Welfare
Debbie has first hand experience of young people applying for drama schools as both of her sons have been to professional performing arts schools.
Debbie has worked with children of all ages for several years in school and is a qualified nursery nurse.
Debbie has also worked as Head Chaperone at the Gordon Craig Theatre.

Beatrice Pryor
Head of Acting & General Manager
Beatrice trained at Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts.
Beatrice specialises in Voice and Diction, with a passion for Shakespeare and the classical playwrights.
Beatrice also helps run business operations when she is not teaching.
Laura Gillions
Office Administrator & Vocal Coach
Trained at Hertfordshire Theatre School.

Amy Bird
Head Agent & Musical Theatre Teacher
Rocky Horror International Tour, Footloose, Peter Pan.

Gareth Aled
Acting Teacher
Trained at Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.
War Horse West End & Holland.

Ryan Jenkins
Ballet Teacher
Trained at Bird College.
Finalist in So You Think You Can Dance, features in UK & US Dance Mams.
In Matthew Bourne’s Swan Lake, Wicked & Grease West End.

Peter Mitchell
Head of Singing
BBC2’s The Choir, 42nd Street, Oklahoma, Cinderella, Monteverdi’s Flying Circus.

David Bridges
Jazz Teacher
Trained at Tiffany Theatre College.
Singin in the Rain, My Fair Lady, Me & My Girl, Peter Pan, Beauty & The Beast.

Tim Evans
Singing Teacher & MD
Deputy Head of Music at Arts Educational School, London.
MD for Hayley Westenra, Lee Mead & Rhydian Roberts.
Keys for Matilda West End.

David Beer
Singing Teacher
Musical Director of (West End) Fame, Guys and Dolls, Me & My Girl, Cats; (On Tour) We Will Rock You, Aspects of Love, Scrooge, Jesus Christ Superstar and Joseph. He was Director of Music at the Brit School and has taught at Arts Ed, Italia Conti, GSA, Guildhall and RADA.

Davina Dewrance
Acting Teacher
Trained at Hertfordshire Theatre School.
Dancy in “Fit”, various role play & TV adverts.

Gareth Walker
Jazz, Ballet & Commercial Teacher
Choreographer for the London 2012 Olympics, Take That, Steps.

Aimee Gray
Singing Teacher
MA in Practice of Voice & Singing at Guildford School of Acting.
Teaches at Arts Ed, Sylvia Young & American School London.

Michael Williams
Musical Theatre Teacher
Musical director/Conductor on tours of Cats, The Secret Garden and Joseph (New Zealand and Asia), Mamma Mia (Melbourne), and Fiddler on the Roof. Michael has also composed scores for productions including Under Milk Wood, The American Pilot, Uncle Vanya, The Great Gatsby, A View from the Bridge and Roger Hall pantomimes.

Want to audition/meet the team?
Visit: www.emildale.co.uk
Guest Teachers

All tutors are trained to degree level and are practicing industry professionals, teaching specialist subjects in their relevant areas. Students will benefit from their expertise, talent and connections.

Neil Rutherford
Neil Rutherford is an international director, casting director, writer & composer. Neil spent 15 successful years working in the West End and gave up performing in 2000 and joined the English National Opera Production Department. In 2002 he joined the Ambassador Theatre Group as Production Associate and Head of Casting.

Neil has just returned from Australia where he premiered his own production following a revival of South Pacific at the Sydney Opera House.

Patron
Amy Ross
Amy trained at Arts Educational School, London and since then has been in: Mamma Mia (West End), Hairspray (West End), Legally Blonde (UK Tour - undercover for Elle), Jesus Christ Superstar (International Tour), Sunny Afternoon (Original West End Cast) & currently playing Nicola in Kinky Boots (West End)

Julie Atherton
Julie Atherton trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts and has made an impressive West End career, working on Avenue Q, Sister Act, Lift and Made in Dagenham.

Julie released her first solo album in October 2006, a second album in 2010 and her latest album in 2014.

Ben Harris
Ben is currently in the tour of Dance 'Til Dawn (with Vincent Simone & Flavia Cacace).

Ben has also performed in Aida, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Saturday Night Fever, Grease, Footloose, Never Forget, Dirty Dancing and Anything Goes.

Gavin Spokes
Gavin has made a successful career in TV, film & Theatre. TV & film credits include: Made of Honour, Holby City, Hollyoaks, The Bill, Obsessed & Utopia. Theatre credits include: Guys and Dolls, Nineteen Eighty Four, One Man Two Guvnors, Laurel & Hardy, Wind in the Willows and Noises Off.

Adam Gillen
Adam graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) in 2007, which was followed by a nomination for a TMA Award for his performance in A Taste of Honey.

Adam is known for his long-running role as Liam in the hit TV series Benidorm. He has also been in Just William, Fresh Meat, Prisoners Wives, Way to Go and Love Matters.

Ian Carlyle
Ian has been in Notre Dame De Paris, Showboat, Lion King & We Will Rock You.

Ian boasts an impressive vocal range and passion for training.
THE VENUE

The Emil Dale Academy operates out of our own 12,000 square foot building, dedicated to the performing arts.

With five studios, three 1:1 rooms, a cafe, a full time office, a theatre and bar, Emil Dale studios is a centre of excellence for students and the general public alike.

Within the building on Wilbury Way, EDSA & EDA has it's own fringe theatre venue. Students perform their productions within this venue that has been built specifically for their needs. The theatre offers students an opportunity to not only perform in the space but work alongside industry professionals including crew, technical and designers.

Visit: www.factoryplayhouse.com

West Side Story at the Factory Playhouse, Hitchin.

Our first production in the Factory Playhouse was also our debut performance with the Emil Dale Academy students - West Side Story in May 2015.

Our students worked with professionals and delivered an outstanding performance that was open to the public. Reviews were remarkable for a course of this level.

West Side Story/Factory Playhouse Reviews

"Stunningly intense, faultless performances, completely blown away by the raw talent and maturity of the outstanding cast. Emil and all the team huge congratulations on creating the coolest theatre in Hertfordshire."

"WOW! Undoubtedly the best live performance of West Side Story that I've seen. Far exceeding my expectations ... an outstanding, emotional and unbelievably energetic performance by a brilliant cast, supported by a wonderful band at a wonderful venue. Can't wait for the next show."

"Had an amazing evening at Factory Playhouse. Lovely atmosphere. Such talented performers who conveyed energy and passion to make this a really memorable and moving show. Loved every minute and would definitely recommend it - can't wait for the next show already!"

"An amazing performance of West Side Story, every single minute of it was fantastic... from start to finish I was mesmerized. Well done and good luck for the future. Really didn't expect it to be so good and on the doorstep too. I've seen West End Performances which wouldn't even come close."

Visit: www.factoryplayhouse.com
SUCCESS STORIES

Many of The Emil Dale Academy Students have progressed onto further education at some of the UK’s finest schools.

Jack Churms  
Full Scholarship to Arts Educational Schools, London. (Attending)

Emily Hammond  
Bird College (Attending)  
Also offered: Laine Theatre Arts, Bodywork, Urdang Academy, Performers College.

Nichola Seymour  
Bird College (Attending)  
Also offered: Laine Theatre Arts, Urdang Academy.

Luke Makins  
Offered Bird College, Laine Theatre Arts, Urdang Academy.

Lana Freeman  
Offered Urdang Academy, Performers College

Seyi Omooba  
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (Attending)

Keturah Chambers  
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (Attending)

Jack Taylor  
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (Attending)

Sophie Kirkham  
Laine Theatre Arts (now graduated from), Offered Urdang Academy, Performers College

Jacob Pollock  
Bird College (Attending)

Maddie Hill  
Performers College (Attending)

Stephen Loriot  
Urdang Academy (now graduated from)

Gaby Curtis  
Urdang Academy (now graduated from)

Jessica Crawley  
London College of Music (Attending)