



Leeds Actors in Training

2023 - 2024

Credit: Kerry Maule



"LAIT has allowed me to grow not only as an artist but as a person too."
Tash Hudson, LAIT 2022-23



What is LAIT?

LAIT is a practical skills-building course for 18-25 year olds who are serious about an acting career, which takes place during term-time (from Autumn to Summer). LAIT is based at Leeds Grand Theatre Studio and is designed to develop participating artists vocally, physically, and imaginatively, encouraging an independent and in-depth approach to the work.

Who will I work with?

LAIT is run by freelance director and theatremaker, Lizi Patch, alongside industry professionals, some local, some from further afield - all of whom are highly skilled, approachable and passionate about actor training.

Previous guest artists have included Sam Kenyon (Voice), James Lewis-Knight (Clowning), Ben Tagoe (Screenwriting), Rachel Austin (Voiceover), Megan Parkinson (Audition Technique) and Dawn Holgate (Laban).

Is LAIT right for me?

Are you:

- Keen to develop, share and deepen your skills working with a company of likeminded actors and alongside professional mentors who have time, experience and connections to share with you?
- Interested in the honest exchange of ideas, knowledge and creative inspiration with likeminded young artists?
- Curious, open and ready to challenge your own habits and preconceptions?
- Looking for support in building strategies for self-discipline and stress management?
- Keen to develop your artistic courage, curiosity, integrity and originality - all vital in the journey to discovering your strengths and weaknesses as a performer?

...Then yes, LAIT is for you!

Credit: Chris Coote





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What will the LAIT year look like?

Term One

Autumn 2023: October - December

The Actor

Your voice, body and imagination are your tools. This first term will start from where you are NOW as an artist. You will build, broaden and deepen your vocal and physical skills with an emphasis on good practice, flexibility, spontaneity, curiosity and a generous approach to yourself and your fellow actors. We need rules and structure to be free and this term will include a good dose of improvisation and play.

At LAIT we regularly bring in industry professionals based on the current cohort. Masterclasses range from voice acting to clowning. In recent years, our LAIT cohorts have had the chance to work with industry professionals with a focus on audition technique, writing for stage and screen and casting.

Term Two

Spring 2024: January - March

The Actor, the Text and the Audition

Text: Working on several contrasting texts, we will apply the skills worked on in Term One doing a deep dive into the different ways we can approach a text, sharing experience and experimenting.

Audition: Finding good material for auditions is always a challenge. Walking into a room containing strangers about to judge you is equally challenging. We will spend time sharing with each other what has and has not worked for us. Guest masterclasses will be run by industry professionals on audition dos and don'ts, from preparing to getting through the door and using every moment once we're in the room.



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Term Three

Summer 2024: April - July

The Actor and the Shop Window

Time to choose, rehearse and film showreel material and capture some pictures that show the profession who you are.

This term we will work with a professional videographer and photographer who we know and trust to deliver material which shows you in your best light - literally and metaphorically. The material we produce together will be perfect to add to your all-important showreel.

Practicalities

LAIT is a year-long, three-term and predominantly once-weekly course. Since places are limited, please ensure to the best of your knowledge that you can commit to the course before applying.

Key dates: Summer - Autumn 2023

Mon 5th July: Applications open

Fri 22nd September: Applications close

Wed 27th September: Group audition for shortlisted candidates

Wed 4th October - Wed 13th December: 10 Autumn term sessions

Spring and Summer dates will follow.

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TIMES

6-9pm in Leeds Grand Theatre's basement studio unless otherwise advised. (If a guest artist is travelling from far, we will move the session to the afternoon and give notice).

COSTS

£150 a term (£450 for the full year-long course, approx. £15 a session).

This can be paid upfront or in three termly instalments of £150.

Bursary places are available upon application.

I'm ready to apply

- Fill out the [LAIT Expression of Interest Form and Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#) by Friday 22nd September, 11:59pm.
- If you would prefer, you can record or film your responses to the questions below and send us a link to your media file via WeTransfer to learning@leedsheritagetheatres.com by Friday 22nd September, 11:59pm.

1. What is it about the LAIT course that appeals to you and why do you feel now is the right time for you to join?
2. How would you make the most of your time with LAIT if you secured a place?
3. Please tell us about any relevant experience you have. This can include amateur experience, formal training, qualifications or other.

Should you need any assistance or require the forms in an alternative format, please contact us via learning@leedsheritagetheatres.com.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a group audition workshop on Wed 27th September. No preparation will be required in advance but please ensure you are available to attend on this date before applying.

