



peer
productions

**PEER
ACTOR
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME**



Photo from 2023 tour of 'Losing It'.



PEER PRODUCTIONS

Peer Productions is a unique youth arts charity dedicated to transforming young people's lives through theatre.

Our Actor Development Programme has been running since 2007, offering free training and experiential performance opportunities for hundreds of young actors and theatre makers aged 18 - 24 years.

We will support you to take the next steps in your creative career.



PEER ACTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PAD)

Our approach treats every actor as a respected individual. No two actors are the same and that means that there is no singular pathway to success. We get to know each of our actors as individuals and so can provide bespoke advice tailored to your strengths, goals and circumstances. We are not interested in 'breaking you down' but in building you up, starting with the skills and qualities that have led you to be part of Peer Productions. Our advice is radically honest but is also always rooted in kindness, and in our shared goal to get you to where you want to be.



Photo from 2020 digital production of 'Hidden'.

GET TRAINING



Over your year with Peer, you will develop your daily practice and take classes in acting, voice, movement, text and applied theatre-making led by industry professionals from our team as well as masterclasses with visiting artists.

Photo from 2023 tour of 'The Space Between (my Head & Heart)',

GO ON TOUR

Our actors go on tour and perform as part of an award-winning theatre company, reaching up to 16,000 audience members each year.

GET INTO DRAMA SCHOOL

Graduates of our course have gone on to study at LAMDA, RADA, GSA, LIPA, RWCMD, East15, Mountview, Rose Bruford and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, amongst other notable institutions, and many alumni have established illustrious careers.

GET A QUALIFICATION

You will gain a Level 4 RSL Diploma for Creative Practitioners. This vocational qualification will challenge you to examine, experience and develop yourself as a performing artist.





GET TRAINING

PRACTICE, CLASSES AND MASTERCLASSES -

Every morning, all Peer actors warm up together as an ensemble, developing a daily practice to support their development as artists and performers.

You will also have regular classes in acting, voice, movement, text and applied theatre-making. Each year, we invite a range of visiting artists to come and facilitate workshops with Peer actors. These have included puppetry, physical theatre, improvisation, singing, poetry, devising, playwriting and musicality.

GO ON TOUR

Unique to the Peer experience is your opportunity to take our plays on the road, reaching thousands of young people in schools and colleges across the South-East.

Our often hard-hitting, cutting edge plays focus on the important issues which matter most to our young audiences and our tours have a profound impact on them.

The touring experience allows our to actors get a true taste of what it is like to be a working actor: early starts, organising travel, get-ins, performances, get-outs and often two or three shows in a day.

Each play is different and involves working with different artists and using different skills.



Photo from 2022 tour of 'As I See it'.

GET INTO DRAMA SCHOOL

Peer will be here for you to support your next steps as a creative artist. For those who want to go to drama school, Peer has almost twenty years of experience supporting young actors to apply and audition, and we have an in-depth knowledge of the different schools and courses. 83% of our actors who apply to Drama school get there.

APPLYING FOR DRAMA SCHOOL - We provide information, advice and guidance about the different training opportunities available. We help with UCAS, UCAS Conservatoires and drama school applications, helping you to find the language to talk about yourself as an artist in a genuine and convincing voice.



Photo from 2018 podcast recording of 'Forgotten Women'.

CHOOSING MONOLOGUES - We give advice and support on choosing pieces which show your ability and range and also meet the requirements stipulated by each school. We help our actors to craft their material to give them the best chance of success.

SELF TAPES - We provide time and space to work on self tapes, loan equipment as needed and crucially give honest feedback to ensure that your self tape is the strongest it can be.

AUDITION COACHING - As well as helping our actors with monologues, songs and devised pieces, we also provide support with interview and group audition technique.

GET A QUALIFICATION



AUTUMN - You will be asked to reflect upon the events that set you on your path to becoming a performing artist. You are given the opportunity to devise a piece of live performance that reflects the performer you are now. You will also get free headshots and support with developing your creative CV.

SPRING - You will take the feedback and reflection from your Autumn term performance and create an Action Plan that helps you develop your skills as an artist.

SUMMER - You will create a Public Showcase of your work. This might be live or digital or a combination and will also allow you to create your own showreel.



Photo from 2023 PAD showcase.

A group of people, including a person in a blue shirt and another in a black shirt, are holding long wooden sticks in a room with a wooden floor and a window with blinds. They appear to be participating in a theatre or dance activity.

AN INCLUSIVE COMPANY

We are proud to be an inclusive theatre company. Alongside the Peer Actor Development Programme we also run the Peer Employment Pathway, which is our course specifically targeted at young adults with learning disabilities. The two programmes work in the same building. Three days per week the two cohorts warm up together and some specific projects involve actors from both cohorts. Aside from this, the courses are taught separately.

All our PAD actors say that working with the PEP actors has been a really rewarding and enriching experience.




TESTIMONIES

A group of diverse young people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are sitting in a circle on a light-colored wooden floor. They appear to be in a casual, indoor setting, possibly a community center or a school. The lighting is soft and natural, creating a warm atmosphere. The people are dressed in casual clothing like hoodies, t-shirts, and sweaters. Some are looking towards the camera, while others are looking at each other, suggesting an active discussion or listening session.

“Peer gave me the opportunity to feel pushed, and work with a variety of people, without ever feeling out of my depth.”

“The most important thing I have discovered about myself as an artist during this experience is how important and unique my creative voice is. I also think finding this value in the importance and uniqueness of my creative voice has inspired and motivated me more to create my own work.”

“I learned that I am an artist and that the concept of creating art or being an artist is not above me, it is me.”



“Spending a year at Peer has allowed me to view myself more objectively in a creative sense. Thanks to Peer I can be far more unbiased about my work, which allows me a lot more creative freedom to take risks and make better work. I now see myself as a capable performer who has a future within the industry.”

“It’s an incredible experience for a course that is free since it’s a charity, better than most courses I’ve paid to be on. You can’t get the experience of touring and being a working actor from many places out there but you get it at Peer!”

“Thanks to my time at Peer, I am able to see myself more fully and acknowledge my achievements and good ideas. I am able to assess myself more objectively, which has really helped me in a rehearsal room as well.”

“Peer gave me the ability to change and grow as a performer.”

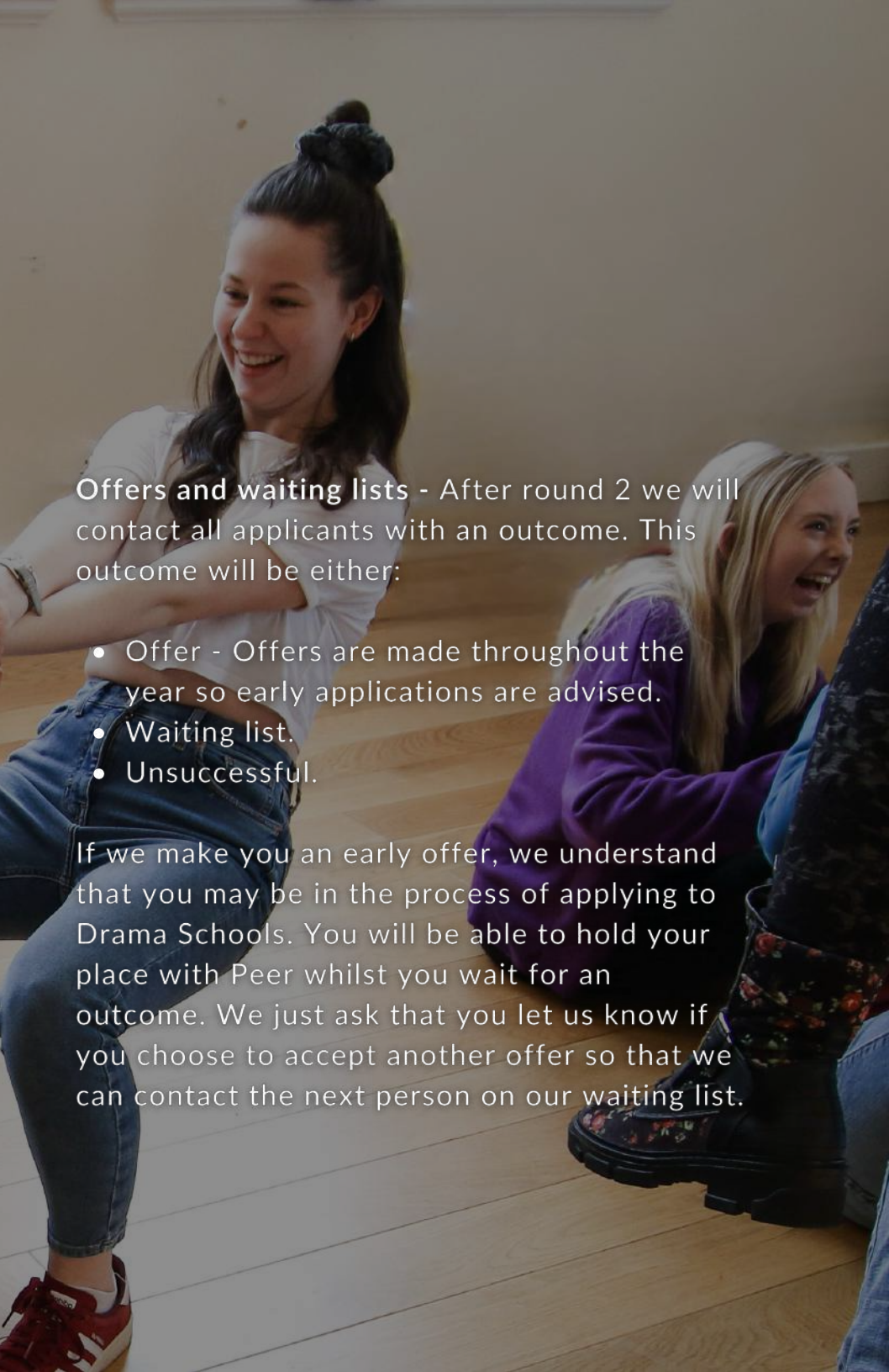
APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are open throughout the year and are made via our website.

Round 1 - There's a short form to fill in on our website and we will also ask you for a google drive link to a self tape of you performing a two minute monologue of your choice.

Round 2 - After we have reviewed your tape we will contact you to let you know if we would like to progress your application. Round 2 will be an in-person workshop audition at our base in Woking.

Everyone who attends a round 2 audition will receive written feedback about their self tape and their in person audition.

A photograph of two young women sitting on a light-colored wooden floor. The woman on the left has her hair in a bun and is wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. The woman on the right has long blonde hair and is wearing a purple hoodie and patterned boots. Both are smiling and laughing. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Offers and waiting lists - After round 2 we will contact all applicants with an outcome. This outcome will be either:

- Offer - Offers are made throughout the year so early applications are advised.
- Waiting list.
- Unsuccessful.

If we make you an early offer, we understand that you may be in the process of applying to Drama Schools. You will be able to hold your place with Peer whilst you wait for an outcome. We just ask that you let us know if you choose to accept another offer so that we can contact the next person on our waiting list.


FAQS

HOW MUCH DOES THE COURSE COST?

It's FREE! There are no fees for this programme. All materials and out of pocket expenses are also covered by Peer. You will, however, need to fund your own transport to Peer Place, as well as food and living expenses.

HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO OFFER THIS COURSE FOR FREE?

We are a registered charity, founded by a working class theatre-maker and playwright and we believe that everyone has the right to high quality arts education. For actors who join us before their 19th birthdays we receive funding from our college partner, JACE Training. As we want all our actors to access Peer for free, training for those over 19 is subsidised by a range of trusts and foundations and from earned income from our touring and outreach work. All materials, touring costs, masterclasses and theatre trips are fully funded. There are no hidden course costs!



WHERE ARE YOU BASED?

We're in Woking, Surrey: 25 mins from Waterloo.

DOES PEER HAVE ANY ACCOMMODATION?

No. Our actors rent privately in Woking or other surrounding towns and often live with other Peer actors.

IS THIS PROGRAMME ELIGIBLE FOR A STUDENT LOAN?

No. This is not a degree and is not eligible for student finance.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH ACTING EXPERIENCE. CAN I STILL APPLY?

We are looking for raw talent and potential. Previous experience is useful but we base our decisions on how you perform in audition and interview.

WHAT ARE THE HOURS?

Our core hours are 10am - 5pm Monday to Friday. When touring, hours can vary with early starts compensated with early finishes.



© PEER PRODUCTIONS

Peer Productions is a registered charity.

Charity number: 1151156

Company number: 05898510

Registered address: Peer Place, Ypod Centre,
Chobham Road, Woking, GU21 6JD



Phone

01483 921473



Website

www.peerproductions.co.uk

Photo from 2023 tour of 'Masking'.