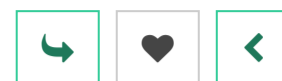


1 2 3

Actor



Actors bring stories and characters to life in film and television, on the stage, in audiobooks, or on the radio.



What you'll do

Your day-to-day activities may include:

- researching, interpreting, and developing your role
- learning your lines and rehearsing alone or with others
- attending fittings for costumes
- preparing for and going to auditions
- contacting actors' agents and finding the next job
- working with other professionals like makeup artists, camera operators, and directors

In smaller theatre companies, you may also be involved in administration, publicity and staging the performance.

You'll often combine performing with another job, for example teaching, community arts or office work.

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

Hours may be irregular as it depends on the type of work you're involved in. For example, most theatre performances take place in the evenings but you may also perform in daytime shows, rehearsals, and auditions. In film and television, the working hours can be very long.

You'll need to travel to jobs and auditions. You may spend long periods away from home if you're touring with a play or filming on location. As there are many actors looking for work, it can be quite competitive so you'll need to be able to handle rejection well and use any feedback you're given to become even better.

Career path and progression

If you can show an agent you have potential they may put you forward for auditions and castings. Agents usually take a fee of about 10% to 25% from your earnings.

You could take further training and move into directing, scriptwriting, drama therapy or teaching.

Skills required

You'll need:

- acting talent and confidence
- creativity to understand and perform different roles
- strong speaking and reading skills as well as good memory
- discipline, determination, and resilience
- ability to balance work and home life

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

You'll usually need to spend time on a training course at a university or drama school. You could take a diploma, foundation degree, degree or postgraduate diploma in drama, or a relevant subject like:

- performance studies
- contemporary theatre and performance
- acting
- musical theatre

The FDS (Federation of Drama Schools) in the UK, NYFA (New York Film Academy) in the United States, and Ds2dio in Dubai have information on approved drama schools and university courses. Approved courses give you the chance to perform in front of agents and casting directors. With luck, experience, and determination you may be able to find work without training.

Acting is a very competitive profession. You'll need to get as much practical experience of acting as you can.

People with disabilities and special learning needs can get extra support from organisations like Shape Arts.

Creative Choices has more information about a career in acting.

Related Know-how guides

Explore Know-how guides related to this career:

- [Example Personal Statement: Drama](#) >
- [Get on the ladder: TV, radio and film production](#) >
- [Sustainable degrees: Performing arts](#) >
- [The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama: What it's really like](#) >

Related university subject profiles

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- [Dance](#) >
- [Drama and Theatre studies](#) >
- [English and Comparative literature](#) >

Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- [Talent agent](#) >
- [Dramatherapist](#) >
- [Dancer](#) >

- [Comedian >](#)

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Dance at uni:

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- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
- [Australasia >](#)
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- [Ireland >](#)

Drama and Theatre studies at uni:

- [USA >](#)
- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
- [Australasia >](#)
- [Middle East and Africa >](#)
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English and Comparative literature at uni:

- [USA >](#)
- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
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- [Ireland >](#)

Apprenticeships:

- [UK >](#)

College / Sixth Form:

- [UK >](#)

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Actor profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

- UK
- USA

Jobs

Artistic, literary and media occupations

342,899

 2,417 in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Surrey	8,868
2	Hackney	8,587
3	Kent	8,466
4	Hertfordshire	8,120
5	Lambeth	7,261

Salaries

Actors, entertainers and presenters

£24,249

Artistic, literary and media occupations

£32,914

📍 **£30,531** in your region of North West

Top 3 regions

1	South East	£35,849
2	London	£34,864
3	North West	£30,531

Growth

2020-2035

Culture, media and sports occupations

+ .2%

↑ 1,593 jobs

📍 **-4.8%** in your region of North West, an decrease of 2,325 jobs

Save to Favourites? 

You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

People also liked...

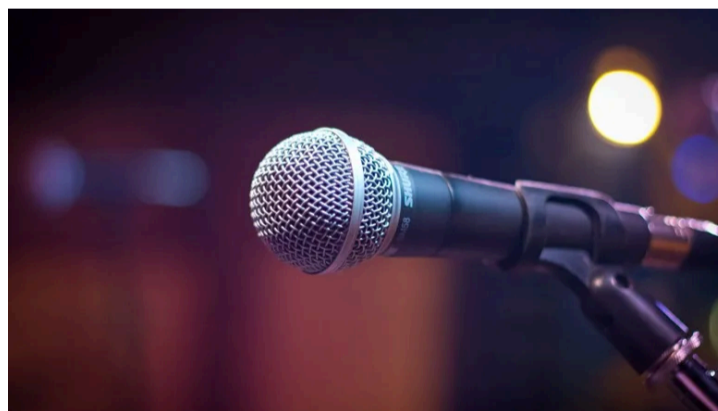
Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



Director (TV or film)

TV and film directors are responsible for the artistic vision of a script. They make key decisions including cast choices and production design.

[Read the profile >](#)



Singer

Singers perform and/or record songs for stage, radio, television, or film.

[Read the profile >](#)



Producer (TV or film)

TV and film producers oversee the a programme or film. This could in budgeting and marketing.

[Read the profile >](#)