

Job of The Week

Actor

Key Skills

- Knowledge of the fine arts
- To be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device
- The ability to work well with others
- persistence and determination
- The ability to use your initiative
- A good memory
- To be flexible and open to change
- Knowledge of English language
- Knowledge of media production and communication

Salary
Variable

Working hours
37 – 47 hours irregular
Evening/ weekends/
bank holidays
Away from home

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Actor

University

You could do a foundation degree, degree or postgraduate diploma in a subject such as:

- Drama
- Performance Studies
- Contemporary Theatre and Performance
- Acting
- Musical Theatre

You could join your university drama or theatre society to develop a network of contacts and get performance experience.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need to pass an audition. At least 1 A level, or equivalent, for a foundation degree, 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree, or a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study

College

There is no set entry route to become an actor but it may be useful to do a course like:

- Level 2 Certificate in Performing Arts
- Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts - Acting
- A level in Drama and Theatre
- Level 4 Diploma in Speech and Drama

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3, or equivalent, for a level 2 course.

4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 3 course or 1 or 2 A levels, a level 3 diploma or relevant experience for a level 4 or level 5 course.

Other Routes

You can study with a **Private Drama School** or **Conservatoire**. You can choose from full time courses, short courses and summer schools.

You'll need to **pass an audition to get into a drama school**. You could also take graded exams in acting, musical theatre and performance art at:

- [Trinity College London](#)
- [University of West London](#)
- [London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art \(LAMDA\)](#)

Career path and progression

Many dancers combine their performance work with part time teaching or behind the scenes work in the arts. With experience, you could become a choreographer or become self employed and set up your own dance school.

With further training, you could go into community arts development or dance therapy.



Day to Day tasks:

You could:

- prepare for and go to auditions
- research roles
- work with an agent to find new roles and opportunities
- learn lines and attend rehearsals
- attend fittings for costumes
- support back stage activities such as costume or prop management
- work as a voice over artist or as an extra

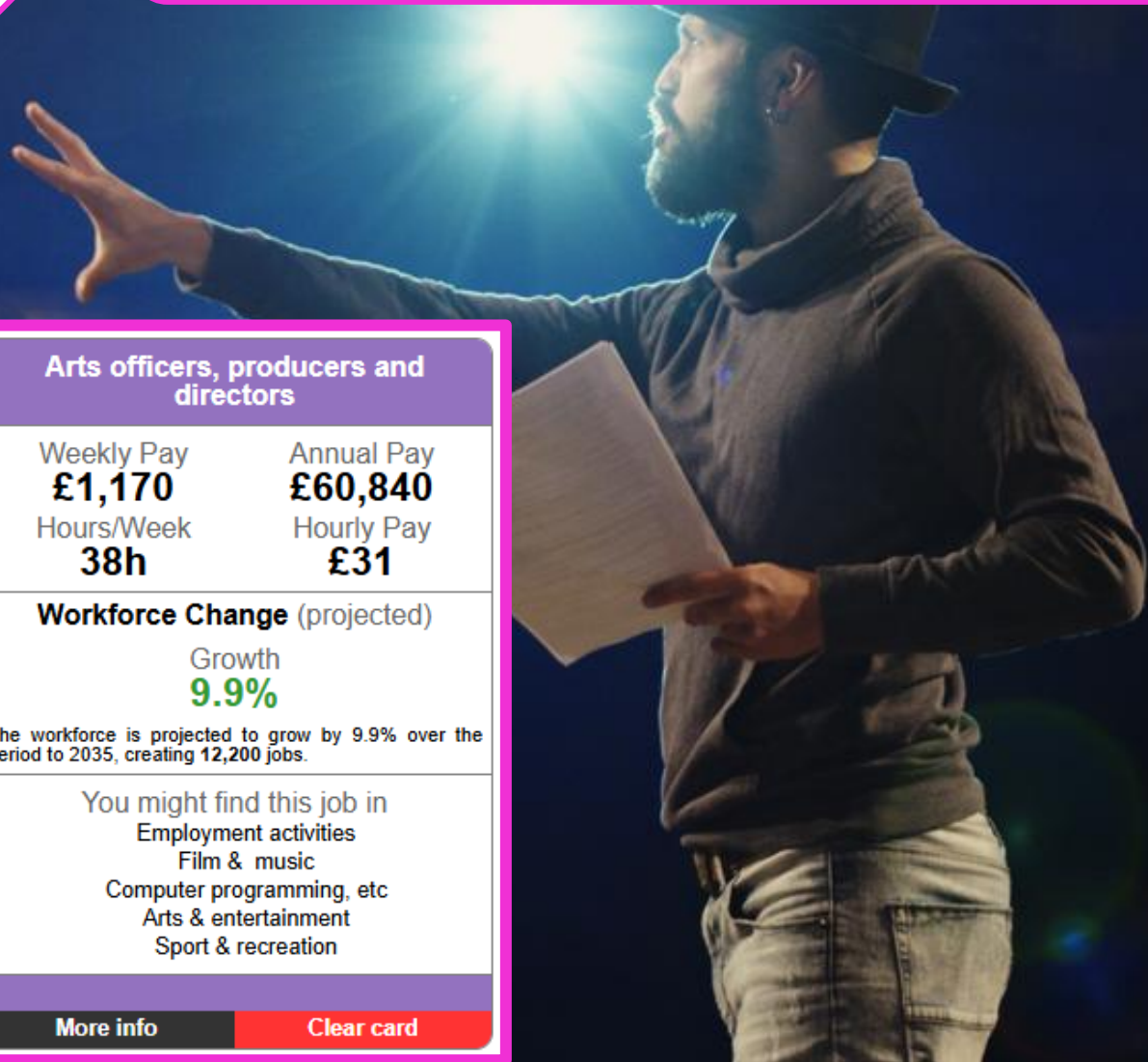
Working conditions

You could work in a theatre, on a film set or at a recording studio.

Your working environment may be physically and emotionally demanding and you may spend nights away from home.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Actors, entertainers and presenters

Weekly Pay £1,680	Annual Pay £87,360
Hours/Week 32h	Hourly Pay £53

Workforce Change (projected)
Growth
9.9%

The workforce is projected to grow by 9.9% over the period to 2035, creating 4,400 jobs.

- You might find this job in
- Employment activities
 - Arts & entertainment
 - Sport & recreation
 - Film & music
 - Broadcasting

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Arts officers, producers and directors

Weekly Pay £1,170	Annual Pay £60,840
Hours/Week 38h	Hourly Pay £31

Workforce Change (projected)
Growth
9.9%

The workforce is projected to grow by 9.9% over the period to 2035, creating 12,200 jobs.

- You might find this job in
- Employment activities
 - Film & music
 - Computer programming, etc
 - Arts & entertainment
 - Sport & recreation

[More info](#)

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Labour Market Information



Actors, entertainers and presenters

Actors, entertainers and presenters sing, portray roles in dramatic productions, perform comedy routines, gymnastic feats and tricks of illusion, train animals to perform and perform with them, and introduce and present radio and television programmes.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies script, play or book and prepares and rehearses interpretation
- assumes character created by a playwright or author and communicates this to an audience
- performs singing, comedy, acrobatic, illusion and conjuring routines
- trains animals to perform entertaining routines and may perform with them

Back

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Arts officers, producers and directors

Arts officers, producers and directors assume creative, financial and organisational responsibilities in the production and direction of television and radio programmes, films, stage presentations, content for other media, and the promotion and exhibition of other creative activities.

Common tasks in this job:

- chooses writers, scripts, technical staff and performers, and assumes overall responsibility for completion of project on time and within budget
- directs actors, designers, camera team, sound crew and other production and technical staff to achieve desired effects
- breaks script into scenes and formulates a shooting schedule that will be most economical in terms of time, location and sets
- prepares rehearsal and production schedule for main events, design of sets and costumes, technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals

Back

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

NCS: Actor – Wilf’s Story



Get Career Confident: Meet Tobias Menzies



Behind the brands with BBC Young Reporter



How to prepare for a drama school recall audition FAST



Useful Websites

[Get Into Theatre](#)

[Find your perfect role in the creative industries - Creative Careers \(discovercreative.careers\)](#)

[The 16 Drama Schools all UK Actors Should Know](#)

[Partner Schools - Federation of Drama Schools](#)

[Actor | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

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