

Jordan Thomas

MA Theatre Lab graduate 2014

'It makes you feel more confident when you walk into an audition. I feel that anything they may throw at me, I've already done'

Before coming to RADA I studied Directing and Editing at Salford University. I did a lot behind the camera and video editing as well as acting alongside the course - doing a few jobs in adverts and television. So I was a practicing actor, but not really working in theatre. I watched myself in Coronation Street and thought that there was a lot of room for improvement which I didn't know how to go about rectifying, so I decided to retrain.

The MA training was more demanding than I'd expected, even though I'd been warned at interviews and at the audition; it was both physically and emotionally demanding.

Physically: Twice a week we had to run up and down the five flights of stairs at RADA; we started off at three times and slowly moved up to eleven times - this was to build up stamina, bring about physical exhaustion, and create a ground level at which to start real work.

'Physical theatre is the language that is most used in the course, in that respect it is very primal.'

Emotionally: The central aim of the exercise is to get rid of any ego and simply be yourself at all times. Some students wept when they found something new in themselves. This course introduces you to a new way of looking at, thinking about and interpreting within a theatre context.

Intellectually: My vision broadened throughout the course. The historical contextual studies, looking at Ancient Greece, the Romans, Mystery Plays right through to contemporary theatre, generated some amazing discussions.



Raft of the Medusa. Photo by: Linda Carter

One of the best experiences I had on the MA was at ancient Messene in Greece where we took part in an annual theatre festival. It was a revelation! To look up into that setting with the mountains from an excavated amphitheatre with an audience of 200 people, it was just mind-blowing. RADA covered the flight expenses and the festival organisers provided accommodation and food.

RADA training is a good thing to have on the CV. It makes you feel more confident when you walk into an audition. I feel that anything they may throw at me, I've already done on my MA Theatre Lab training and that I am ready for anything

I had an audition immediately after I graduated. I was handed a script and asked to interpret it in different ways including using no words and in a jazz style - it was like the auditioners had been on the MA course themselves and I got the part.

I went on to teach a Youth Theatre. I felt so well prepared because during the MA we would take turns to direct each other. This gave me the experience and confidence to lead a group of creative people.

It's such a rounded course and in just one year we had a range of people directing us, and teaching us and this has made us all into highly flexible performers.