



Photo by Peter Teigen

...stretch yourself to the max

Stella
Mann
Stella
of
PERFORMING ARTS
Mann
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of
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Mann
**Stella
Mann
College**
of
PERFORMING ARTS
LIMITED

Welcome to the prospectus for Stella Mann College. This prospectus has been designed to give you an insight into the College and the training we offer.

The most comprehensive information about the College can be found at www.stellamanncollege.co.uk

Founded by Stella Mann, the College began as a dance school in Hampstead in 1946. Mary Breen has been sole Principal and owner since 1989.

The College maintains a strong ethos of encouragement and learning, offering high quality professional training. We endeavour to enable every student to be the best that they can be, not only as a member of our profession, but as a well rounded, young person who has discipline, high standards and the ability to work as part of a team. Stella Mann College also prides itself on the image that students achieve by the time they leave.

Students are offered the opportunity to study for the Stella Mann College Diploma, the Stella Mann College Teaching Diploma, the National Diploma in Professional Dance and the National Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre validated by Trinity College, London. This qualification is a Level 4 within the NQF - the National Qualifications Framework.

Our patrons include Gillian Lynne CBE and Arlene Phillips OBE.



Photo by Peter Teigen

We also offer the opportunity to students with accelerated prior learning to join the College for a one or two-year course, and in some cases to study for the National Diploma. The criteria are available from the College.

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Stella Mann College aims to enable all its students to gain the knowledge, expertise and confidence needed to achieve a rewarding and successful career by:

- aiming to provide an environment of equality;
- endeavouring to enable students to reach their full potential;
- giving each student individual attention;
- providing a well-structured course that readily enables the student to gain both excellent performance training and dance teaching qualifications whilst being aware of, and allowing for, future trends within the curriculum and ethos of the College;
- striving to produce innovative and creative performers and dance teachers who have the skill, imagination and resourcefulness to inspire their audiences or pupils;
- encouraging versatility in students by stretching and challenging them to acquire the skills and knowledge needed in order to survive in their chosen career and to enable them to compete for a wider range of career opportunities;
- being wholly committed to improvement by striving for, and maintaining, the highest possible standards;
- encouraging an atmosphere of security and support within the College, where no-one feels threatened, alone or unsupported.



Photo by Peter Teigen



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Stella Mann College has an equal opportunity policy, which is strongly supported by its mission statement. This is made available to all staff and students.

We will endeavour to accommodate any student or teacher, provided that our training or employment opportunities can be of benefit to the individual concerned. Our usual criteria for both admission of students and employment of staff will be taken into consideration.

Wheelchair users can access the ground floor. Adapted shower, changing and toilet facilities are available.

The First Year

In the first year, a general programme of study is offered, and your timetable will vary depending on your personal route. All students will study Professional Employment Skills, Health and Safety, various dance disciplines, acting and singing. Contextual work takes place throughout the year.

The Second Year

Work will continue on all the subjects that are required for the chosen diploma route. Professional Employment Skills, Health and Safety, and Contextual work is continued and consolidated.

The Third Year

All work is consolidated in readiness for graduation. Additional studies include Audition Classes and Professional Repertoire.

For further information regarding subjects studied, please refer to page 5.



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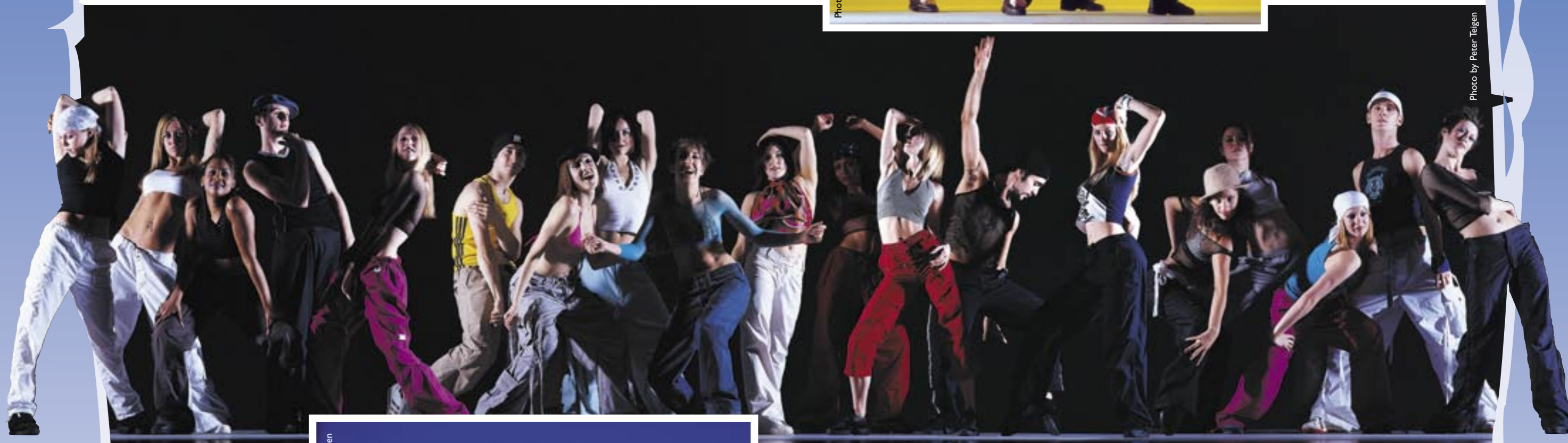


Photo by Peter Teigen



Photo by Peter Teigen

Teacher Training Opportunities

Teacher Training opportunities are available in liaison with recognised bodies. Further information is available from the College.

Assessment

Assessments usually take place at least twice a year and are a vital part of course and student monitoring. All students are required to be assessed as part of the course - not just those who are studying for a National Diploma.

All assessments are graded and the results are given out to the students prior to a one-to-one tutorial.

Subjects that are assessed include Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Contemporary, Singing, Acting and Musical Theatre, although this is always subject to review.

All students who commence the course receive a handbook that explains the whole assessment cycle in detail.

Stella Mann College offers a three-year course for performers, coupled with the opportunity to study ISTD Level 3 FDI (Foundation in Dance Instruction) qualifications. Any student who graduates after completing the three-year course is awarded the Stella Mann College Diploma, and any student who achieves two teaching qualifications whilst studying at the College receives the Stella Mann College Teaching Diploma. In order to study the teaching courses, you are required to pass the related dance examinations so that you may be permitted to enter for the teaching qualifications. This is a requirement of the examining bodies. Please note that teaching qualification choices may be limited by demand.

The National Diploma in Professional Dance and the National Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre, validated by Trinity College, London, are also offered. Students may choose to study for one of the Trinity College qualifications. This is a Further Education qualification offering a Level 4 NQF to successful candidates at the end of the three-year course. The National Diploma is monitored throughout the course, with external assessors from Trinity College making their final judgements in the third year. All students are assessed throughout the year during assessment weeks, which are scheduled at least twice a year.

Dance examinations may be entered at any time during the course in relation to the requirements of the teaching qualifications. Examinations are studied in block lessons for one term in order to focus coaching and minimise disruption to the timetable.

The curriculum is designed to offer a focused, practical programme, which reflects the requirements of the profession.

All students will study:

- Fitness
- Contextual Studies
- Health and Safety, including the following:
 - Nutrition
 - Anatomy
 - Injury Prevention and Management
- Professional Employment Skills, including the following:
 - Insurance for Performers
 - Management of Finances and Self-Assessment
 - Equity
 - Grooming
 - Careers Preparation - CVs, portfolios, agencies etc.
 - Audition Technique

In addition students will select their choice of subjects from the list below, according to their training route. Appropriate time will be allocated to each subject according to the requirements of the individual's choices.

- Jazz
- Classical Ballet
- Contemporary
- Tap
- Musical Theatre
- Singing
- Acting
- Teacher Training
- Partner Work
- Modern - in line with the needs of teacher training

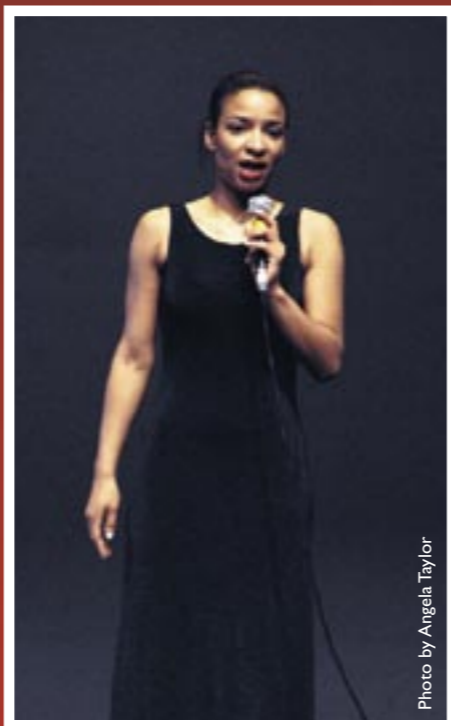


Photo by Angela Taylor



All students are offered a general programme of study from which eventual option choices will be made.

Throughout the year the timetable is continually monitored and adjusted to meet the needs of the students and to be of the greatest benefit to their studies.

Additional workshops and lectures are arranged on a regular basis to broaden the students' knowledge.

Many of the teachers are active in the profession and bring first-hand knowledge to the College. Other teachers have years of teaching experience and this mix provides the widest range of teaching methodology. Guest teachers often visit the College.

In order to remain on the Trinity College course, students are required to meet the necessary standards throughout their training.

Please note that the College reserves the right to alter and amend the course at its own discretion.

Boys

The College has a special interest in the training of males and there are a number of Stella Mann College male tuition scholarships available.

The age range is from 16 - 23 and you do not need to have trained from an early age. We will assess your potential at audition. Further information is available from the College.

Supported Learning

Any student in need of learning support should inform the office. You should not feel inhibited and afraid to let us know, and you will not be the only student in need of help or support.



Photo by Peter Teigen

The building is on three floors, with the ground floor housing three dance studios, the library, lockers and changing facilities, showers and toilets.

The library is 15' x 19'9"

Studio 1 is 35'6" x 14'9"

Studio 2 is 30' x 31'6"

Studio 3 is 31'3" x 30'

The first floor houses two further dance studios, an IT room, offices, and common rooms.

Studio 4 is 31'6" x 30'

Studio 5 is 31'3" x 46'

All the studios have dance flooring, pianos and mirrors.

The second floor houses a lecture space, a music room, the staff room and a rest room.

Library and TV/Video Resources

The College has its own audio and visual library. Resources include reference books and journals, videos, tapes and CDs, sheet music and DVDs. Televisions, video recorders, and tape/CD players are available to the students. Students may also use a video camera under supervision and on the premises.

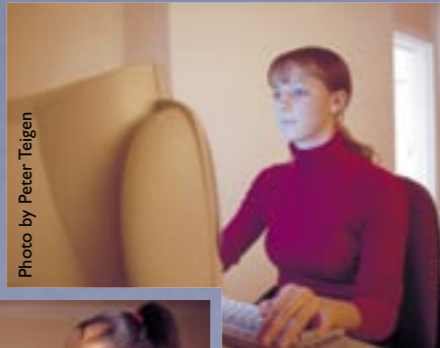


Photo by Peter Teigen



Photo by Peter Teigen

The IT Room

There are five computers in the IT suite on the first floor, and all of them are connected to the Internet. Four of the computers have a DVD facility.

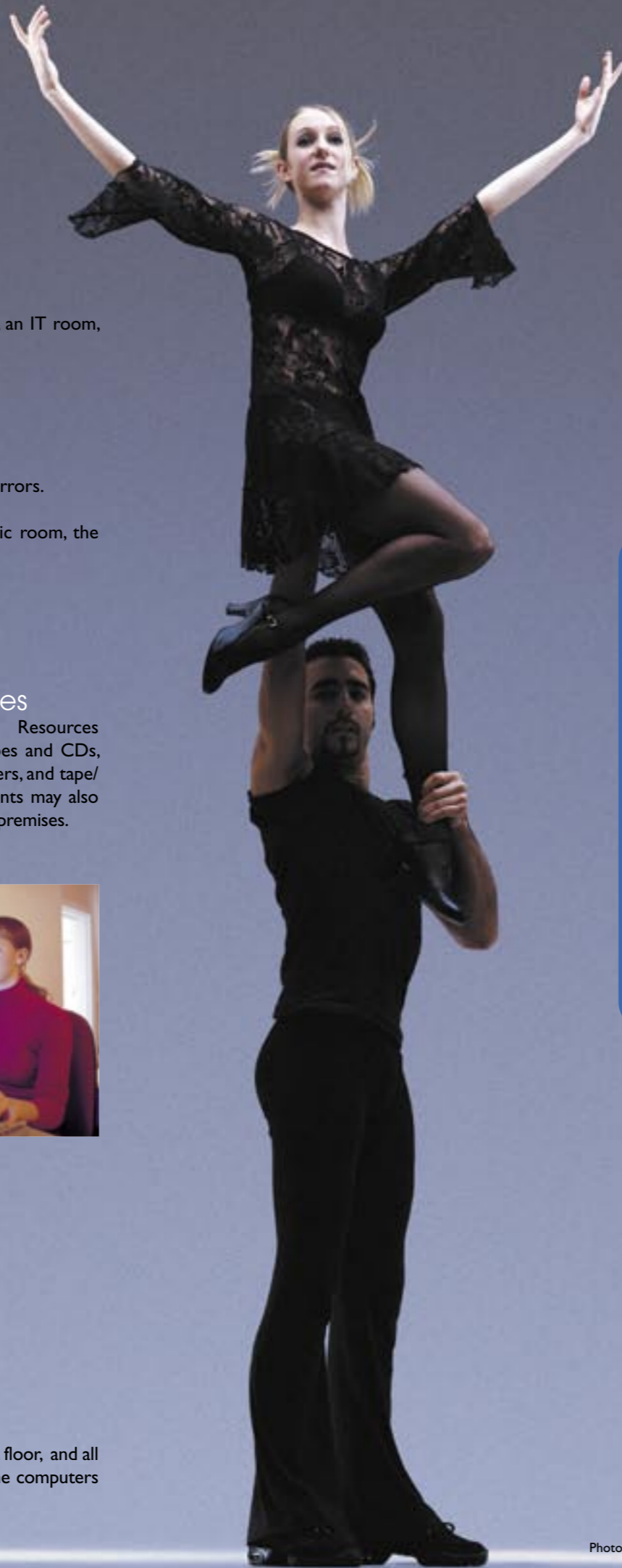


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Photo by Andrew Wildman

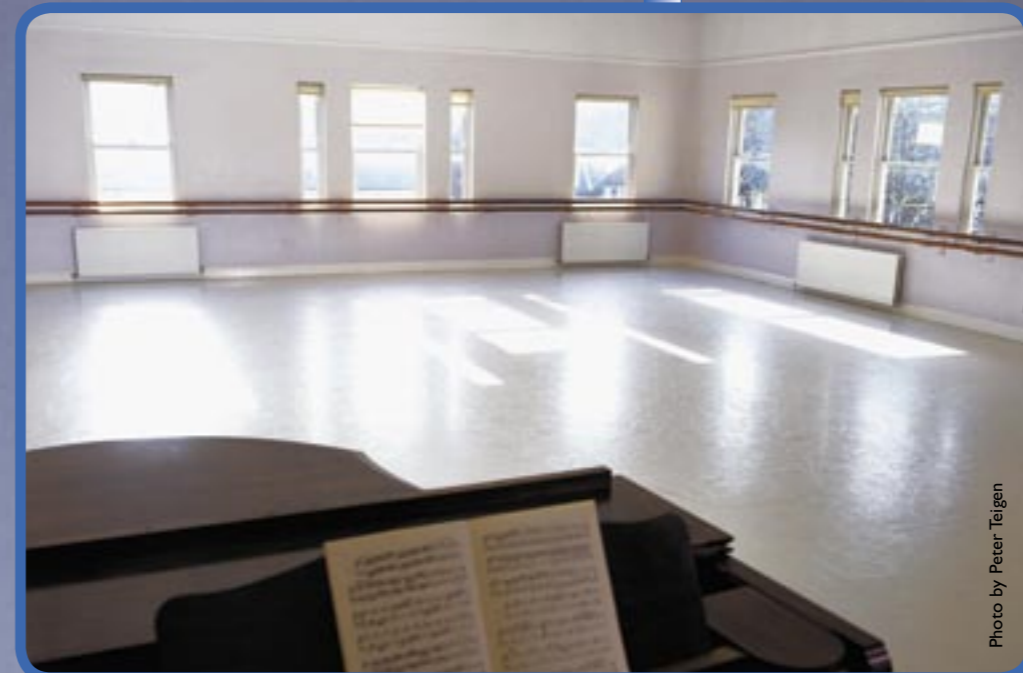


Photo by Peter Teigen



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Every year, the College creates as many performance opportunities as possible. The Summer production is held at a commercial theatre and the whole College transfers to the theatre for the show week so that students may gain the experience of working in a professional theatre. This production usually has a theme, and every student gets the opportunity to appear in both the matinée and the evening show. The third-year graduation and diploma ceremony is usually held between the matinée and evening performance.

Agents and casting directors are invited to the performance, and the Trinity College assessors also attend to make their final judgements on the participating third-year students.

There are also performances at the end of the Autumn and Spring terms. These performances are usually held at local theatres such as the Radlett Centre, which houses a purpose-built theatre.

Examples of student work include SM:TV Live, the Discovery Channel, and galas at the Landmark and Wembley Plaza hotels. The College was also invited to appear at the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Beck Theatre, the Fire-Fighters Benevolent Fund-Raiser at the Albert Hall, and on a pop video for Cherry Falls.



Photo by Peter Teigen



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There is an Agency attached to the College, which is primarily aimed at helping the third-years obtain work on graduation, and also past students. All students are invited to join and there is no joining fee. The usual rates of commission are charged if a student gains employment through the Agency. Students are also encouraged to seek other representation, and guidance and advice is given.

The College has access to a private medical scheme for schools, which is available to students under 18 years of age.

We recommend dance specific chartered physiotherapists practising in the area, and we also can refer cases to a London consultant.

Regular visits from nutritionists, Dance UK, sports therapists and physiotherapists enable staff and students to keep abreast of current trends and developments.



Photo by Peter Teigen

Most students rent flats and houses in the area, and the College has forged links with local estate agents in order to make ample provision. Some students commute by train to Bedford Mainline Station, which is a five-minute walk from the College, or travel by car. There is parking at the college.

Once students have registered, accommodation details are forwarded.

The College helps students from overseas with the organisation of their accommodation.



Photo by Peter Teigen



Photo by Peter Teigen

The College has two designated Welfare Officers, who are always on hand to discuss any problems a student may have. If a problem needs referring to a practitioner of any kind, the College has many contacts and sources.



Photo by Peter Teigen



Photo by Sheila Burnett

Kara Poole
graduate

The personal attention offered to the students at Stella Mann has meant that my technique in dance has come on a long way and I have gained a confidence previously undreamt of both on and off the stage. Through the performance element of the course I have had the opportunity to perform in major theatres, charity galas and on television.



Photo by J K Photography

Adrian Stokes
2007 graduate

First contract - 'We Will Rock You' Zurich and Vienna 2007/2008

I enjoyed my three years at Stella Mann College very much. I feel that the first two years really helped my technique and during the third year, I feel that I developed professionally. The teachers helped me develop in many different ways. I thank them all.



Photo by J K Photography

Michael Peters
2007 graduate

First contract - 'Thad' in the Original West End cast of 'Hairspray' 2007

When I was thirteen I started taking dance classes in commercial street jazz. From there on I did two years of acting and at that point hated musical theatre. Once I started Stella Mann College it broadened my horizons and studying musical theatre gave me an insight to a subject that perhaps I did not hate! Not only did I enjoy but I learnt new skills from that genre too. My training and hard work has enabled me to reach a level that has been the key to the West End. I would like to thank all the staff at Stella Mann College who encouraged and supported me.



Emma Woolston
graduate

Stella Mann is an excellent environment to work in. The support of teachers and students can only encourage focused work which helps you to achieve those hard-earned goals. My confidence has increased 100% - and with my aspirations to perform now in sight, my goals are rapidly becoming a reality.



Photo by Derek Lee

Hannah April
graduate

Being at Stella Mann College was the best three years of my life. It was definitely the college for me, and it lived up to all my dreams of being at stage school. I gained and learned so much from every member of staff, walking away with three teaching qualifications, the National Diploma in Dance and both the Stella Mann College diplomas.

I gained experience in every field of the performing world, which has helped me a lot now I have left.

The College was like being a member of a family - everyone knew each other and was supportive. Without being given the encouragement and opportunity by Mary Breen and the rest of the staff, I wouldn't be as confident and happy as I am today. THANK YOU!!



Photo by Derek Lee

Stella Mann College assesses potential and suitability for the courses we run at audition, as well as the requirements listed below. This enables the College to accept students who may not have received as comprehensive a grounding as others, in the knowledge that the course will provide the training they require to meet the needs of the profession.

Therefore the following criteria are a guideline, and the College reserves the right to use discretion when accepting candidates.

Vocal ability

All Musical Theatre candidates will be required to sing at audition. Pitch, range, clarity, technique and interpretation will be assessed.

Acting ability

Candidates who are interested in the dance course may choose to perform a monologue at audition rather than a song. Musical Theatre candidates are required to perform both. Diction, projection, characterisation, and presence will all be taken into consideration.

Dance ability

Candidates are assessed for potential as well as prior training. A lack of experience in a dance genre does not preclude entry to the course.

Sense of performance and artistry

Confident performance and artistic interpretation of different styles and genre are assessed throughout the audition. The college is always interested in 'performers' who show flair and individuality.

Accessibility

Stella Mann College will do whatever it can to accommodate the access arrangements and support needed by any disabled candidate who is accepted onto the courses on offer. The College is fully accessible on the ground floor, and houses adapted facilities. There are several studios in the remainder of the building which are not accessible to wheelchair/scooter users or those with mobility impairments.

Stella Mann College promotes individuality and difference and welcomes applications from people from under-represented groups.

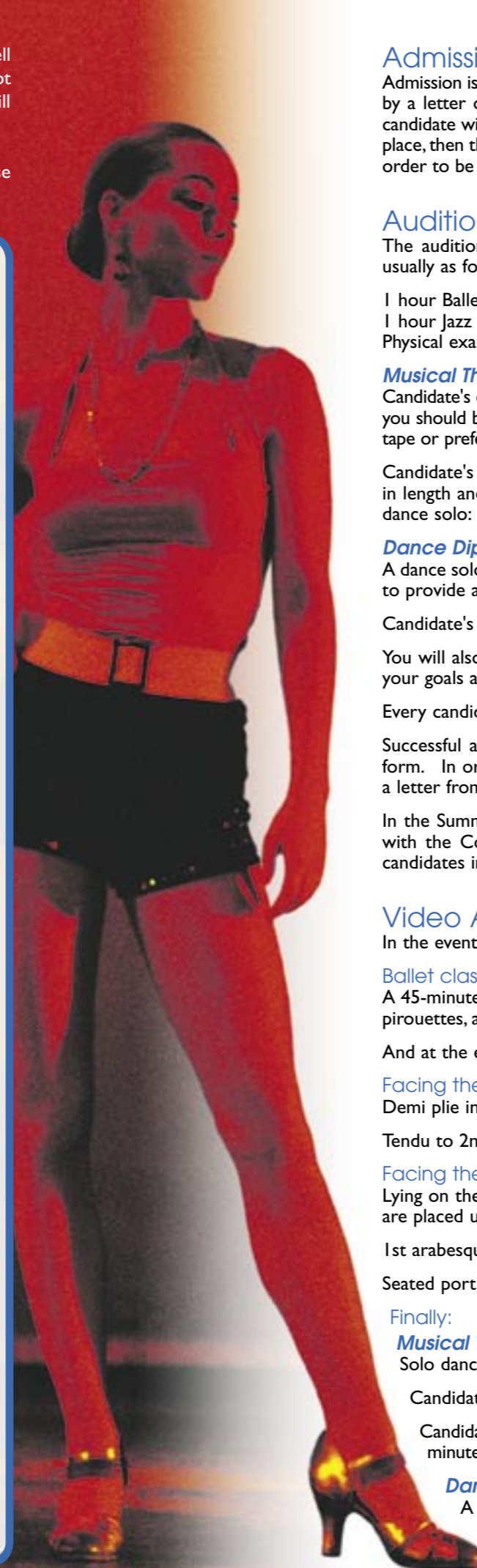


Photo by Angela Taylor

Admission

Admission is by audition only. In the case of overseas applicants, a video audition accompanied by a letter of recommendation from your dance teacher is acceptable. If a successful EU candidate wishes to register in order to be considered for a Dance and Drama Award funded place, then they will need to attend the funding audition in the Summer term at the College in order to be assessed by our specialist panel and to ensure equality of opportunity.

Audition Procedure

The audition lasts from approximately 10.00am. until 6.00pm. and the arrangements are usually as follows:

1 hour Ballet class;
1 hour Jazz class;
Physical examination.

Musical Theatre Diploma candidates:

Candidate's choice of song: this should be from current Musical Theatre or Pop repertoire and you should bring the sheet music with you. If this is impossible, then you may bring a backing tape or preferably a CD, provided that it has only the accompaniment on it and no voice.

Candidate's choice of monologue, either from a musical or a play, no more than 5 minutes in length and preferably from 20th or 21st century repertoire. You should also prepare a dance solo: the briefing is below.

Dance Diploma candidates:

A dance solo in candidate's chosen genre, which is no longer than 1½ minutes. You will need to provide a CD of the music.

Candidate's choice of either a song or a monologue as described above.

You will also be asked to fill in a short questionnaire which will give us some indication of your goals and aspirations.

Every candidate will also have a short interview.

Successful audition candidates are sent an acceptance letter together with a registration form. In order to enrol, the completed registration form must be returned together with a letter from their GP to confirm fitness for purpose, and the registration fee.

In the Summer term, accepted candidates who have registered are invited to spend a day with the College. This is the funding audition day and the faculty panel will assess all candidates in order to allocate the funding.

Video Audition

In the event of an applicant only being able to audition by video, the following are required:

Ballet class:

A 45-minute ballet class, demonstrating barre work, centre practise, port de bras and adage, pirouettes, allegro and pointe work if applicable.

And at the end of the class, the following:

Facing the camera:

Demi plie in 1st position;

Tendu to 2nd from 1st position with both feet;

Facing the side:

Lying on the back in the frog position to demonstrate turnout, making sure that the hands are placed under the middle of the back to prevent arching of the back;

1st arabesque en l'air on both legs;

Seated port de bras forward over the legs to demonstrate mobility of the spine.

Finally:

Musical Theatre Diploma candidates:

Solo dance of candidate's choice in any dance discipline (time limit of 1½ minutes).

Candidate's choice of song from current Musical Theatre or Pop repertoire.

Candidate's choice of monologue, either from a musical or a play, no more than 5 minutes in length and preferably from 20th or 21st century repertoire.

Dance Diploma candidates:

A dance solo in the candidate's chosen genre, which is no longer than 1½ minutes.

Candidate's choice of either a song or a monologue as described above.



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If you wish to contact or visit us you have the following options:

Email: info@stellamanncollege.co.uk

Web: www.stellamanncollege.co.uk

Post: Stella Mann College
10 Linden Road
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK40 2DA

Phone: 01234 213331

Fax: 01234 217284

Road: *From the NORTH WEST*

Leave the M1 at Junction 14 and take the A509 towards Newport Pagnell. Follow the signs to Bedford on the A422, followed by the A428. On entering Bedford, pass over railway bridge, straight over next double mini-roundabout then left into Dynevor Road and left again into Linden Road.

From the NORTH EAST

From the A1, take the A421 towards Bedford. Follow the A428 towards Bedford. Keep on the A428. The road names change from Goldington Road to St. Peter's Street to Dame Alice Street to Bromham Road. They are all still the A428. After crossing the junction with Greyfriars on the left and Union Street on the right, take the right turn into Dynevor Road and then left into Linden Road.

From the SOUTH WEST

Leave the M1 at Junction 13 and take the A421 towards Bedford. Turn left at the roundabout at Woburn Road Industrial Estate, passing Kempston Police HQ. At the next roundabout turn left. Turn right at the following roundabout. Keep on this road, passing the Southwing Hospital, and stay in the left lane. Through the traffic lights, take the left lane over railway bridge. Turn left at roundabout into Prebend Street, crossing the river. Take the second exit at next roundabout, and follow Ashburnham Road, passing the railway station. Turn right at next double mini-roundabout into Bromham Road, then turn left into Dynevor Road and left again into Linden Road.

From the SOUTH EAST

From the A1, take the A603 towards Bedford, then the A6 towards the town centre. Once you cross the river, turn left into St. Paul's Square and follow the one-way system into River Street. At the roundabout take the first exit into Greyfriars and then turn left into Bromham Road. Turn right into Dynevor Road and then left into Linden Road.

Rail: Regular commuter services are operated by British Rail to and from London and the Midlands at the station on Ashburnham Road in Bedford.

A full timetable of services is available from British Rail on 0345 484950.

The railway station is less than 10 minutes' walk from the College. Turn left out of the station. Turn right at next double mini-roundabout into Bromham Road. Then turn left into Dynevor Road and left again into Linden Road.

Alternatively there are usually taxis available from the rank immediately outside the station.

Bus: National Express Coach Service provides transportation to Bedford bus station from most major towns and cities in the UK.

For further information telephone 0990 808080.

Regular bus services are operated by United Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd. to Bedford bus station from most surrounding villages and towns in Bedfordshire. They also include services from Cambridge, Luton, Northampton, Peterborough and Rushden.

For further information telephone 01604 20077.

Air: Luton airport is 19 miles from Linden Road.

Call +44 (0) 8706 082608 for bus services from the airport.