In addition to our full-time, three-year Performer’s Diploma Course, Stella Mann College also offers one-year and two-year Certificates, as well a BA (Hons) Degree in Performing Arts, undertaken via an HND in Performing Arts in partnership with Bedford College and a Top-Up Degree course in partnership with The University of Northampton, and the Trinity College London Diplomas in Professional Dance or Musical Theatre. We are happy to provide guidance prior to the audition day about which courses would suit students best.

The College is very proud to have as its patrons both Dame Gillian Lynne DBE and Arlene Phillips CBE, who between them have choreographed some of the most spectacular and groundbreaking musicals of all time. Both have attended College performances and are most supportive of the College.
All courses at Stella Mann College are designed to create versatile professional performers of the highest quality, who will have a wide knowledge of the business they will be entering and a strong base of transferable skills, vital for managing a career in the performing arts.

All the different pathways that the College offers are underpinned by the Stella Mann College Performer’s Diploma, which will be gained upon completion of three years of study at the College. Throughout this course students will receive training in all the following disciplines:

- Jazz
- Commercial Jazz (Hip Hop, Street, House, Waacking etc.)
- Classical Ballet
- Contemporary
- Tap
- Musical Theatre
- Singing
- Acting
- Contact or Partner Work
- Body Conditioning
- Weight Training

Throughout the course students will receive training in all these areas of study, with some subjects being streamed by ability and experience in order to maximise individual development. Students who undertake external qualifications such as the Trinity College Diplomas and BA (Hons Degree) will elect some of these subjects to be assessed for these qualifications, allowing them to follow certain specialisms and career ambitions.

In addition to these practical disciplines students will also receive Integrated Professional Studies (IPS) classes throughout their course. These classes will cover Musical Theatre and Dance history and analysis, health and safety, including the importance of diet and exercise and injury prevention and management, and important skills and areas of knowledge such as agents, CVs, tax, Equity and audition technique.

The College has a strong emphasis on fitness throughout the training, with all male students receiving weights sessions from a qualified personal trainer every week and female students receiving body conditioning classes in a recently refurbished Fitness Suite, in addition to the strength and stamina components of most classes.
Qualifications Offered

In addition to the three-year Diploma course, the College offers one-year or two-year Certificates, which can be tailor-made to suit different requirements, whether this be as foundation or gap-year training or intensive training designed to focus on performance skills and entry to the profession after significant training in another establishment.

The College also offers the following externally validated qualifications:

- HNC in Performing Arts validated by Pearson UK (1 Year)
- HND in Performing Arts validated by Pearson UK (2 Year)
- BA (Hons) Degree in Performing Arts (Top-Up) validated by The University of Northampton (to be taken in 3rd Year after completion of HND)
- Diploma in Professional Dance validated by Trinity College London (3 Years)
- Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre validated by Trinity College London (3 Years)

These external qualifications are not compulsory and entry onto them is at the discretion of the College. The course of study for each qualification is in line with the College's own one-year, two-year and three-year courses, with the additional written work linked to the IPS strand.

Assessments

Practical assessments are carried out twice-yearly, usually in November and May, or in the Christmas and Easter Shows, and are a vital part of the course to direct learning and give students quantifiable results and development throughout their course. Assessments are tied into the college’s Feedback and Individual Learning Plan systems, which give the students one-on-one support, guidance and advice throughout their course. Research work and transferable skills linked to the external qualifications are assessed throughout the year.

Supported Learning

The College has a strong ethos of supporting every student in every aspect of their work. Several members of staff have training with an external company focusing on supporting students with dyslexia and additional support is always provided for any student with special learning requirements. Learning support sessions are timetabled weekly with the College’s Course Leader so that any student can book extra time to discuss their work.

Funding

Students who undertake the HNC/HND and BA (Hons) Degree Top Up courses can access Higher Education Students Loans to be put towards the total College fees. To access this funding, students must be resident in the UK or EU and be at least 18 years old when starting the course. Students may not be able to get this loan if they have already accessed HE loans for a previous course. There are also means-tested maintenance loans and grants for UK-resident students taking these Higher Education courses.

The College can also allocate Dance and Drama Awards. Recipients of DaDA awards must be aged between 16 and 23 upon commencement of the course and must undertake one of the Trinity College London Diplomas. These awards are means tested and it is important for prospective students to check their eligibility for these awards on the national scale.

For more information about these qualifications and the available loans and top-up fees please see the College website.
Our Facilities

The College is housed in a large, privately-owned building with five purpose-built dance studios, the largest being 31'3" x 46', three others being 31'6" x 30', and the smallest being 35'6" x 14'9". All studios have excellent sprung dance flooring, good pianos (including an excellent grand piano in the largest studio) mirrors, ballet barres and amply-powered music systems with mp3 player connectivity. All have high ceilings and are well heated and lit. Students may use any free studios throughout the day for private practice. All studios have large Smart TVs with Internet access. The largest studio has recently been converted into a studio theatre space, with purpose built black drapes, three lighting bars and specially designed programmable lighting system, in which the college stages some of its performances.

There are excellent changing facilities for all students, with secure lockers and comfortable, spacious common-room areas with kitchen facilities. The library is well-stocked with dance and theatre books and a wide range of dance performances and musicals on DVD. There is also an IT Suite with six up-to-date computers with Internet access, and one of the common rooms has DVD playback facilities.

The Fitness Suite has a range of weights and gym equipment for the male students' strength-training classes and the female students' body conditioning classes.

Having moved from a split-site campus in Hampstead to this single building in 2003, all College users thoroughly enjoy the sense of close community that everyone being under one roof creates.

All visitors to the College note what a friendly, comfortable but hard-working and energetic atmosphere there is in this building, and with the College's ethos of teamwork and equality this really can be a home from home for all students.

“I joined the team at Stella Mann in 2001 and have watched the College expand and update with the ever-changing industry. The facilities available at the College are outstanding, faculty second to none. Why go anywhere else? #MannUp”

Craig Scott, Tutor
"We now have a great body conditioning studio, with Pilates machines, exercise equipment and weights. If I don’t leave here with an amazing body then something isn’t right. We've been taught how to use the equipment properly and safely and now we can use this room any time we’re free."

Kaitlin Morbey, Student
In the event of injury we recommend dance-specific chartered physiotherapists practising in the area, and can refer cases to a London consultant. We also have a physiotherapist who attends the College weekly. Regular visits from nutritionists, sports therapists and physiotherapists enable staff and students to keep abreast of current trends and developments and to maintain safe practice within all aspects of the training.

The College also has a designated Pastoral Care Officer with whom time can be booked each week to discuss any problems a student may have. If a problem needs referring to an external practitioner of any kind, the College has many contacts and sources of this kind of support.
Bedford is a lively and friendly riverside town. There is a vibrant student life with students from the University of Bedfordshire and Bedford College mixing with those from Stella Mann College. As the College and student accommodation are located near the town centre, students have easy access to the wide range of pubs, clubs, bars and restaurants that the town has to offer, as well as the excellent range of High Street shops. At the moment a huge amount of renovation and rejuvenation of the town centre is taking place, with a new VUE cinema and restaurant complex on the river bank, as well as a completely regenerated bus station.

Being out of London, Bedford has a much more affordable cost of living, ideal for students, and there are plenty of opportunities for students to find part-time work in the town to help support themselves if they wish.

Bedford has excellent transport links, being close to both the M1 and A1 roads, only 35 minutes from Central London by train, having a direct train link to Eurostar at St. Pancras International and also being close to Luton and Stansted Airports. Milton Keynes is only 20 minutes by car or bus and has one of the biggest shopping centres in the country, a large theatre that receives an excellent range of musicals and dance shows, and the fantastic Xscape Centre, which has facilities for skiing, sky-diving, climbing and bowling as well as a multi-screen cinema.

Bedford itself has lovely parks and a beautiful embankment area, which often hosts festivals, fun-fairs and circuses. There are excellent sports centres and gyms within walking distance of the town centre.

The College has a relationship with the estate agents at Jayne Beard Associates in order to ensure that all our students have access to good, affordable accommodation within walking distance of the College.
Audition Process

Admission is by audition only. All auditions follow guidance on good practice in audition procedures produced by the Council for Dance Education and Training. Candidates must submit an application form, which can be found as a download on our website. Stella Mann College promotes individuality and difference, and welcomes applications from people from under-represented groups. All applicants are invited to audition.

The Audition

The audition lasts from 10.00am until approximately 4.00pm, depending on the number of applicants. For all applicants the day generally includes:

- Tour of the College
- Introduction to the course and Q&A session
- Ballet and Jazz classes
- Physical examination by qualified physiotherapist
- Musical Theatre candidates must then provide a solo song from Musical Theatre or Pop repertoire and a monologue from a musical or a play (time limit of 1½ minutes each)
- Dance candidates must then provide a dance solo in the candidate’s chosen style (time limit of 1½ minutes) and an optional song as described above
- Interview with the Principal or Course Leader.

Audition Criteria

All applicants are seen by an audition panel consisting of the Principal, Course Leader, a Ballet Tutor and a Jazz Tutor. Stella Mann College looks for potential and raw talent as well as prior training. For Musical Theatre applicants the College looks for a key strength in singing; for Dance applicants the College expects capability or potential in two dance styles.

Audition for Students Living Outside the UK

In the case of overseas applicants, an audition by DVD accompanied by a letter of recommendation from their dance teacher is acceptable. Please see our website: www.stellamanncollege.co.uk for details.

Any applicant who cannot attend an audition in person but wants to be considered for one of the external qualifications may also be required to have an interview over Skype and may be asked to submit examples of written work to assess suitability for these qualifications.

Application for Higher Education Courses

For the HNC and HND courses students must apply to both Stella Mann College and Bedford College. The application to Stella Mann College is as above and the audition requirements are the same, although students must show that they will have completed suitable Level 3 study before commencing this course. In order to access the Student Finance HE loan system students must also apply to Bedford College via the UCAS system at the same time as applying to Stella Mann College.

Students who have completed the HND at Stella Mann College will not have to reapply to Stella Mann College to progress onto the Degree Top-Up Course and will be assessed for suitability for this course during their training, but will need to register with The University of Northampton in order to maintain access to the Student Finance. Students who have completed an HND at a different institution will need to apply to both Stella Mann College directly and The University of Northampton via UCAS, and attend an audition, as outlined above. More information about these processes can be found on the College website.
Our Team

Stella Mann College is extremely proud of its team of tutors, many of whom are still active at the highest level in the profession, or have recently been so, and bring a wealth of first-hand knowledge to the College. Other tutors have many years of teaching experience and are able to bring invaluable perspectives on training from other academic, musical or theatrical backgrounds.

Guest teachers from hugely diverse fields, such as Commercial Dance and Musical Theatre, often visit the College. Additional workshops and lectures are arranged to broaden the students’ knowledge and experience.

Our tutors include:

Mary Breen [Principal, Ballet] - Has been teaching at the college since 1981 and became Principal in 1985. She specialises in Classical Ballet and is a Fellow of the Imperial Society of Teachers and Dancing.

Jonathan Rees [Course Leader, Singing, Musical Theatre, IPS] - Musical Direction credits include Honk!, Cabaret, Personals, Smokey Joe's Café, Fame, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, Crazy for You, 42nd Street and The Wedding Singer. Jonathan completed a PhD in Musicology in 2012 and is a qualified Personal Trainer and Sports Massage Therapist.

Laura Gibson [Contemporary] - Danced with Two Thirds Sky and the Richard Alston Dance Company at many venues throughout the UK, including the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and The Lowry, Manchester. She has worked with Henri Oguike and Ace Dance as the Principal Artist of Bedfordshire Youth Dance.

Craig Scott [Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre] - Performed in West End productions including Starlight Express, 42nd Street, Chicago, The Beautiful and the Damned, Tap Dogs, On the Town, Sinatra, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

Marina Abdeen [Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Musical Theatre] - Performed in West End productions including Bombay Dreams, The Far Pavilions, Mamma Mia and Chicago and the world tour of Batman Live. Danced for films and TV programmes such as Saturday Night Takeaway, Tonight's the Night, Graham Norton and Disney's Beauty and the Beast (2017).


Adam Scott [Jazz Technique] - Adam’s West End credits include Beauty and the Beast and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Other theatrical credits include Mamma Mia! on board Royal Caribbean Cruise lines, pantomimes Sleeping Beauty and Snow White and Matt Flint’s 42nd Street for West End Heroes (Dominion Theatre).

Phil Gostelow [Singing] - Musical Director for UK tour of Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and West End keys for Blood Brothers, Tonight’s the Night and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

Nick Banks [Acting] - TV and Film credits include 20th Century Fox’s Kingsman: The Secret Service (2014) and Sony Pictures’ Synced (2017), BBC’s Pramface and ITV’s Law and Order. Theatre credits include RSC’s Julius Caesar at the Barbican, UK tours Punk Rock and The Shawshank Redemption.
Erna Kuenan [Ballet] - Performed with the Bach Ballet Group, Atmozphier Dance Co, and the Night and Day Ballet. She has also danced and choreographed for the Judy Delme Dancers for television and was Co-Director of the Youth Dance Theatre for three years.


Rudi Chaplin [Physiotherapist] - Registered with The British Association of Sport Rehabilitators and Trainers, Rudi Specialises in exercise and injury rehabilitation, manual and mobilisation therapy, postural and movement screening, soft tissues therapy and sports injuries.

Jennifer Tierney - West End credits include Mamma Mia, Wicked, Carousel, Lord of the Rings The Musical and Live from The London Palladium. UK tours or performances of Jerry Springer The Opera and Godspell.

Ashton Sands - Performing credits include Kylie Minogue, Louisa Johnson, Liam Payne, Fifth Harmony and TV shows X Factor and Britain’s Got Talent.


Albey Brookes - Credits include original West End cast of Aladdin, Dirty Dancing (UK Tour); Singin’ in The Rain (UK tour), Grease (UK Tour), George (Original Cast) and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (London Palladium); Young Astaire in Tribute to Fred Astaire (London Palladium); Young Scrooge in A Christmas Carol (Royal Festival Hall); David in Rags (Guildhall); Nipper/ Workhouse Boy in Olivet (London Palladium)


Mandy Montanez - Performed for Duffy, Cheryl, Florence and the Machine, Rolling Stones, Rihanna and Coldplay. Other credits include film and TV work: Walking on Sunshine, Worlds End, Cuban Fury, Legend, Beauty and the Beast, Peaky Blinders, Mr Selfridges, X Factor, Pineapple Dance Studios, Brit Awards and So You Think You Can Dance.

Jaron Johnson - Our graduate Jaron dances for Little Mix, Fleur East, Kylie and on TV shows such as X Factor and Britain’s Got Talent.

Wolfgang Mowanje - Credits include Little Mix, Rita Ora, Take That, Ellie Goulding, Coca-Cola, Nike, Britain's Got Talent, X Factor, Pixie Lott, Rihanna, Adidas and Renault. Teaches at Studio 68.
Charlotte Bazeley - Our graduate Charlotte's credits include: Thriller Live, UK/Europe and China Tours. Charlotte has worked as a commercial model, booking Alternative Hairshow at the Royal Albert Hall, Firetrap 'Deadly Denim', Stella McCartney Addidas Launch, Schwazkopf, Dune and Marks and Spencer's. Dance contracts at The Venetian Resort in Macau, dancing for 'Ventian' presents Bruno Mars, The Rolling Stones and Gold Boxing Championships. TV Commercials for MTV, Uniglo and Dune. Performed at The Brits for Robbie Williams.

Tobias Mead - Our graduate Tobias was a finalist in Britain's Got Talent (2010) and winner of Sky's 'Got to Dance' as part of duo 'Duplic8'. Tobias has also been a commercial backing dancer for Cheryl, Taylor Swift, Coldplay, Kaiser Chiefs, Lou Lou, Take That, Tinie Tempah, Anastasia, Chaka Khan, Lily Allen. Tobias has been a featured performer on the Ellen De'generas show.

Gianni Arancio - Dance Captain for Thriller Live UK and European Tour, Cinderella (London Palladium), The Bodyguard China Tour and John Barrowman 'You Raise Me Up' UK Tour. Rae Morris 'Cold' Music Video and Puma Fashion Show.

Johnny White - Our graduate Johnny has worked in every aspect of the industry from MT to Cruise Ships to Corporate work and finally as a commercial dancer, dancing for artists such as Kylie, Rihanna, One Direction, Cheryl, Take That, Little Mix, Florence and the Machine and Pixie Lott. Tourd with and was Dance Captain on the Girls Aloud Ten Tour, X Factor Live Tours 2010-2012 and The Saturdays All Fired Up and Greatest Hits Tour.

Simeon Campbell - Credits include X Factor, Whitney Houston, Alexandra Burke, Rita Ora and Beyonce 'I am Sasha Fierce' tour.

Michael Peters - Our graduate's West End credits include: Hairspray, Ghost the Musical and The Book of Mormon. UK tours: A Chorus Line and Guys and Dolls. Other credits include: X Factor, Take That and Little Mix.

Colette Coleman - Performed in West End Shows Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and UK tour of Cats.

Garry Noakes - Garry has worked as Assistant and Resident Director on West End Shows such as Fame, Saturday Night Fever, Chicago, We Will Rock You, Starlight Express and Daddy Cool. He has also choreographed for films and commercials.
Every year, the College creates a variety of performance opportunities for its students:

The Christmas Performance contains both work created for the first- and second-year students by their tutors and also work that third-year students have created and choreographed themselves.

The Easter Performance is based on Musical Theatre and may be a whole musical or extended extracts from a selection of musicals. This gives the whole College the opportunity to work together and have the experience of being in a musical.

In the Summer Performance every student in the College is featured in a wide range of pieces, demonstrating the skills they have honed throughout the year.

In addition to these performances we also engage in a number of external performances, which allow us to take groups of students to a variety of venues to gain an even more diverse experience of performing to different audiences. The most prestigious of these include Move It, in which we have performed for over ten years, the Make A Wish Foundation Valentine's Ball at The Dorchester Hotel, London, and the Ideal Home main show and Christmas show at Olympia.
Graduate Work

Cabarets, Events and Fashion
Many of our graduates have the opportunity to travel and perform, securing contracts across the world at various venues or for a range of events/brands. These include but are not limited to cabarets and show girl roles at ‘La Nouvelle Eve’ in Paris, The London Cabaret Club, The Gatsby Girls, contracts at venues such as Illusion Doha, La Folie Douce, The Venetian Macao and in various other resorts in the Mediterranean and further afield.

Graduates also secure dance contracts at fashion events for Skin London Agency in a range of catwalk shows at Canary Wharf, performing at the ‘Fashion Theatre’ at the Birmingham NEC Clothes Show Live and for brands including but not limited to Dolce & Gabbana, Agent Provocateur, Wella and Pepe Jeans.

Music Videos
Some of our graduates secure work as featured dancers, models or actors and part of ensemble dancers in music videos for a variety of artists. These jobs are often secured through a plethora of casting agencies such as (BMA Models, AJK Agency, W Model Management, Dancers Inc., BAME, S.O.S Agency, AMCK and Skin London to name but a few).


TV and Film Industry
The Film and TV industry provides work for our graduates across a variety of roles. These have been but are not limited to: featured dancer, dance ensemble, actor/lead, extras, choreographer, wardrobe assistant, hair & make up and body double/stunt performer.

Here are a selection of Film and TV Credits:

Artists
Commercial work or supporting and touring with an artist or band as a backing dancer, has been a particular area where our students have experienced success. Graduates have danced for: Kylie Minogue, Robbie Williams, Katy Perry, Justin Bieber, Ed Sheeran, One Republic, Olly Murs, Robin Thicke, Little Mix, Fleur East, Bruno Mars, The Rolling Stones, Cheryl, Taylor Swift, Coldplay, Kaiser Chiefs, Lou Lou, Take That, Tinie Tempah, Anastasia, Chaka Khan, Lily Allen, One Direction, Rihanna, Florence and the Machine, Pixie Lott, Girls Aloud and The Saturdays.
Cruise lines and contracts
Many of our talented graduates are working on board cruise ships, sailing the seas all over the world and are fortunate to be able to travel and explore the world whilst performing. Our graduates are on board or have worked for the following cruise liners: Carnival Cruises, Costa Cruises, Fred Olsen Cruises, P&O Cruises, Thompson Cruises, Princess Cruises and Celebrity Cruises to name but a selection!

TV Entertainment Shows
Graduates have worked on various TV entertainment programs both in the UK and abroad. These include but are not limited to: X Factor, Strictly Come Dancing, Britain’s Got Talent, Dance, Dance, Dance, Lip Sync Battle, Sky’s Got to Dance and The Voice.

TV Commercials and Modelling
TV advertising and modelling via a plethora of casting agencies (such as BMA Models, AJK Agency, W Model Management, BAME, S.O.S Agency, AMCK and Skin London to name but a few) enable graduates to book TV adverts in a variety of roles: featured dancer, dance ensemble, actor/lead, extras or body double/stunt performer and have modelled for a variety of brands.

Here are a selection of TV Commercial and modelling credits: The Kooples, Schweppes, Virgin, VO5, Swatch, Sky, M&S, Smirnoff Vodka, Honda, HTC, GoCompare, Nokia, Pepsi, I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here (TV Spot), Airtel, Adidas, HSBC, Ford, Marie Claire, H&M, New Look, X Factor (TV Spot), BGT (TV Spot), Nintendo, Harvey Nichols, Sony, Very.co.uk, Nivea, Barclaycard, Schwarzkopf, MTV, Uniqlo, O2 Priority (Ed Sheeran) TV spot, Firetrap ‘Deadly Denim’, Halifax, Walkers, Stella McCartney, Dolce & Gabbana, Harvey Nichols, Baccardi and Christian Louboutin.

‘My 3 years at Stella Mann College not only prepared me for auditions but for the industry as a whole! The faculty have created an environment which made me feel free to develop my craft but pushes me to a level where I would hopefully book professional work. I wouldn’t change a thing and had the best 3 years of my life at Stella Mann College!!’
Thomas Brackley, Graduate
Theatre Graduate West End and theatrical touring credits include: Thriller Live, The Book of Mormon, Hairspray The Musical, Guys and Dolls, Starlight Express, Gypsy, Ghost: The Musical, Oh! What a Night, Annie The Musical, Oliver!, Hello,Dolly! and Lord of the Dance, Spirit of the Dance, Ireland’s Call, Essence of Ireland.

91% of recent graduates employed in the industry within 6 months.
Stella Mann College has a rigorous Equal Opportunity Policy, which 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.

Equality of Opportunity and Disability

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Contact Details

The College telephone number is 01234 213 331
The website: www.stellamanncollege.co.uk
The email address: info@stellamanncollege.co.uk
Postal address: 10 Linden Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK40 2DA
Directions to the College can be found on the website.
This brochure is for information only and does not form any contract between the student, or parent and the College. This is because the brochure has necessarily been prepared well in advance of entry of a student to the College and, inevitably, there may be subsequent alterations. See the College website for the most up-to-date information.

See the Following for Exciting Updates

Website - www.stellamanncollege.co.uk
Facebook - www.facebook.com/StellaMannCollegeOfPerformingArts
Twitter - www.twitter.com/dancesingactsmc
Instagram - www.instagram.com/stellamanncollege
YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UC6dbVS9aGlK4jQR1oE5QsaA