

AMDA COLLEGE

of the Performing Arts

NEW YORK CITY • LOS ANGELES

Dream
Learn
Achieve

Guidebook

“I left AMDA with a working résumé that was absolutely valid for the time. I knew exactly how to audition, how to go about becoming a professional...

I left school ready to work, and I have been ever since.”

— Mamie Parris

AMDA alumna and Broadway star of
Cats and *School of Rock – The Musical*

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History

AMDA opened in New York City in 1964 as The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, one of the first institutions of higher education dedicated solely to theatre training and offering unique multidisciplinary programs in acting, musical theatre and dance. Following the success of this innovative learning structure, AMDA's Los Angeles campus opened in the center of Hollywood in 2003.

In 2020, AMDA was ranked No. 1 on Niche.com's Best Colleges for Performing Arts in America. AMDA has consistently ranked in the top five on Playbill's annual list of colleges with the most alumni appearing on Broadway in a season.

As one of the only performing arts institutions offering professional conservatory certificates and undergraduate and graduate degrees in theatre, AMDA continues to build a reputation as a world-class performing arts institution and launching pad for some of the most successful careers in the industry.



Mission

AMDA provides rigorous, performance-based training and an industry-focused education experience; one that inspires excellence and prepares artists with an appreciation for the universal power of transformation through art. AMDA's educational philosophy is based on close collegial interaction between instructors and students — in class, in production and through active mentorship.

AMDA is committed to providing an unsurpassed performing arts education to a diverse community of creative artists. AMDA serves as both school and stage, where students are given the support and opportunity to define their own personal objectives and to develop and refine their own distinctive artistic voices.

AMDA strives to create an environment for students to develop the skills, confidence, imagination and power to contribute to their community as artists, entrepreneurs, visionaries, lifelong learners and conscientious citizens of the world. Above all, AMDA wants to teach students that commitment and passion are the hallmarks of a successful and joyous career.

Diversity

AMDA is committed to dismantling existing structures that historically exclude and oppress minoritized groups. This commitment requires each of us to take responsibility to actively grow and preserve AMDA's diverse community and culture. As such, AMDA will actively elevate and prioritize equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in our curriculum, creative productions, services, and administration. Most crucially, we will continue to work towards the recruitment, retention, and advancement of students, faculty, and staff from underrepresented populations in higher education and the performing arts.

For more information about AMDA Diversity policies and our full Diversity Statement, please visit amda.edu/dei.

Why Students Choose AMDA

Campus Locations

Study in the heart of New York City, Los Angeles — or both!

Program Choices

Undergraduate degree, graduate degree and certificate programs with numerous areas of focus provide options for multiple paths of study at both campus locations.

Intensive Training

Multidisciplinary immersion within performance training.

Diverse Community

AMDA's vibrant community of artists includes students and alumni who represent more than 70 countries.

Accomplished Faculty

Our faculty comprises accomplished performers, actors, directors, musicians and choreographers currently working in the arts and entertainment fields.

Individual Attention

Classes are designed to nurture your growth and success as an artist.



Programs & Locations

AMDA's wide range of programs offer unparalleled options for tailoring immersive training in the performing arts. With locations in Los Angeles and New York City, AMDA provides students with unique opportunities to live, study and train in the two artistic capitals of the world. AMDA's degree and professional certificate programs are designed to meet the needs of today's budding creatives and performing artists.

AMDA Los Angeles

Undergraduate Degree Programs

Associate of Occupational Studies Degrees

- Acting
- Acting for Camera
- Musical Theatre
- Dance Theatre

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degrees

- Acting
- Music Theatre
- Dance Theatre
- Performing Arts

Bachelor of Arts Degree

- Theatre Arts

Graduate Degree Programs

Master of Arts Degree

- Theatre

Master of Fine Arts Degree

- Writing for Theatre and Media

AMDA New York City

Conservatory Certificate Programs

- The Studio Conservatory (Acting for Stage, Film and Television)
- Acting For Camera

- The Integrated Conservatory (Acting, Musical Theatre, Dance)

- The Dance Theatre Conservatory (Dance, Acting and Musical Theatre)

Los Angeles Campus



AMDA's campus reflects the allure of Hollywood, buzzing with excitement right outside our gates. Movies and television shows film on surrounding streets. Our neighbors are the people and companies driving much of the global entertainment industry.

Beyond the glitz and glamour, Los Angeles boasts a rich arts culture that includes renowned performance

venues and museums, a thriving theatre scene and the booming digital media industry.

AMDA Los Angeles is in the heart of Hollywood, with primary facilities located at the historic intersection of Yucca and Vine streets. The iconic Yucca Tower is surrounded by historic student residences, all steeped in the history and lore of Hollywood.



New York City Campus



For generations, New York City has been an essential destination for artists seeking to expand their minds, broaden their talents and launch their careers. The city and its cultural foundations are as exciting now as they were when AMDA was founded here in 1964.

AMDA New York City students immerse themselves in the cultural

fusions and vibrancy of America's largest city, getting firsthand exposure in the fabled performing arts scenes all around them.

The campus is located on Manhattan's Upper West Side, with Lincoln Center, Central Park, Hudson River Greenway, Times Square and Broadway all within walking distance.





Acting Programs

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Acting

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting Degree Program offers a wide range of performance training for stage, film and television. The intense eight-semester curriculum combines performance-based immersion in craft and technique with well-rounded and engaging academic studies.

Students are provided with numerous opportunities for onstage

production and performance experience throughout the program, with an original showcase opportunity in the final semester. Looking ahead to the current competitive demands of the industry, courses in career building, networking, audition techniques and creating original content help prepare students for an exciting transition into the professional performing arts industry.



Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in Acting

The Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in Acting

Program prepares students for working in theatre, television and film. This immersive four-semester program is built on performance-based courses in acting, voice and movement to help actors develop a strong connected physical presence while creating characters with rich, imaginative inner lives.

Classwork explores diverse techniques and styles as applied for use on stage and screen, as well as professional career preparation. Voice production and speech coursework, as well as specialized training in improvisation, stage combat and other movement-based skills, provide a wide range of tools for creating three-dimensional, fully realized characters. As part of their program completion and career launch strategy, students perform in a special culminating showcase in their final semester.





Studio Conservatory Certificate Program

(Acting for Stage, Film and Television)

The Studio Conservatory Certificate Program (Acting for Stage, Film and Television) is a rigorous four-semester practice-driven curriculum designed to prepare students for careers as working actors.

Students learn the essential concepts and techniques of effective movement, vocal control and character development. Training begins with a focus

on the actor's imagination and an exploration of their inner resources as they relate to the external demands of the craft. Students are then quickly challenged to apply learned techniques — such as composing a visual and vocal score — to portray rich, believable characters. In the final semester, coursework is focused on industry and career preparation, including an original showcase production.

Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in Acting for Camera

The Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in Acting for Camera Program is specifically designed for performers interested in careers in acting for film, television and new media. Students also develop skill sets for creating original content for current and emerging platforms.

A broad range of historical contexts are studied to enhance students' understanding of contemporary

film and new media industries.

Training leads to a variety of practical applications of skills and culminating opportunities for performance, including the creation of a sample performance reel, a mock panel audition assessment, a short film project and a multimedia production. AMDA's Acting for Camera Program prepares students for the competitive demands of professional film, television and digital performance industries.





Acting for Camera Conservatory Certificate Program

The Acting for Camera Conservatory Certificate

Program is specifically designed for performers interested in careers in acting for film, television and new media. Students also develop skill sets for creating original content for current and emerging platforms.

A broad range of historical contexts are studied to enhance students' understanding of contemporary film and new media industries. Training leads to a variety of practical applications of skills and culminating opportunities for performance, including the creation of a sample performance reel, a mock panel audition assessment, a short film project and a multimedia production. AMDA's Acting for Camera Program prepares students for the competitive demands of professional film, television and digital performance industries.

A young woman with long dark hair is singing passionately into a vintage-style microphone. She is wearing a black and white checkered button-down shirt. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The text 'Musical Theatre Programs' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Musical Theatre Programs

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Music Theatre

The Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Music Theatre Program

offers an essential blend of music, acting and dance training for the aspiring music theatre artist. This immersive performance-based degree program provides the tools necessary for a career in contemporary music theatre performance blended with a dynamic range of academic studies resulting in a well-rounded and vibrant theatre arts education.

Fundamental curriculum includes individual voice instruction, piano and sightsinging to help establish a strong musical foundation.

AMDA's clearly defined approach to vocal performance emphasizes a genuine union of music with lyrics, allowing students to explore a variety of genres.

Acting techniques, scene study, acting for the camera, music for the individual artist and voice production and speech courses provide essential skills necessary for creating transcendent performances on stage, screen and in the recording studio.





Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in Musical Theatre

The Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in Musical Theatre Program offers interdisciplinary arts training for the emerging musical theatre performer. With a balanced emphasis on music, acting and dance, this curriculum integrates musical theatre styles, vocal techniques, scene study and dance styles into coursework. The program emphasizes professional

rehearsal and performance principles such as commitment, teamwork and collaboration within diverse creative processes.

Audition technique and career preparation courses help prepare students to pursue work in the uniquely demanding and fulfilling performing arts industry. In their final semester, students perform in a showcase exhibition.



Integrated Conservatory Certificate Program

(Acting, Musical Theatre and Dance)



The Integrated Conservatory Certificate Program (Acting, Musical Theatre and Dance) provides comprehensive training in vocal technique, acting and theatrical dance performance. This intensive four-semester program develops skilled performing artists prepared for work within musical theatre performance. Students are immersed in multiarts training from the very start of their program.



A specified fixed curriculum helps develop strong foundations in a variety of musical styles, dance genres and acting techniques. Training begins with an emphasis on each individual artist's development, while subsequent courses provide opportunities to explore duets, trios and working in ensembles. Throughout the program, individual voice training helps support the breadth of courses provided each semester.



A photograph of a woman with short, wavy blonde hair, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved top. She is captured in a dynamic, expressive pose, leaning forward with her head tilted back and eyes closed. The entire image is overlaid with a solid blue color, creating a monochromatic effect. The text 'Dance Theatre Programs' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Dance Theatre Programs



Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance Theatre

The Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance Theatre Program

provides a rigorous course of physical study that prepares pre-professional dancers for career opportunities in dance companies, on Broadway and throughout the film and television industries. A multitude of dance styles are explored, including Contemporary, Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Tap, Commercial Jazz and Broadway.

By working with some of the industry's most sought-after choreographers, dancers learn to blend precise technical choreography with interpretive storytelling, enhancing their ability to meet the demands of a competitive industry. Additional courses in acting, singing, kinetic storytelling and content creation cultivate skills for diverse casting and employment opportunities within the performing arts.

Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in Dance Theatre

The Associate of Occupational Studies Degree in Dance Theatre Program embraces interdisciplinary artistic development with an emphasis on communication and storytelling through kinetic expression. Coursework builds on classical foundations in Ballet, Jazz and Modern with explorations of contemporary, commercial and cultural styles such as Hip-Hop, Contemporary, Jazz/Funk, Broadway, Heels, Contemporary, Latin Fusion and others.

Additional courses provide opportunity for practical applications of theory, choreography and acting and dance for the camera. Dance productions and other theatrical performance opportunities expose students to a wide range of choreographers and choreographic processes. Supplemental coursework in scene study and musical theatre contribute to this uniquely demanding program.



Dance Theatre Conservatory Certificate Program

(Dance, Acting and Musical Theatre)

The Dance Theatre Conservatory Certificate Program (Dance, Acting and Musical Theatre) is based on the interwoven demands of dance and theatre, offering focused preparation for a career in theatrical dance performance. Building on a solid foundation of classical technique, training continues to expand the dancer's repertoire with a palette of disciplines relevant to today's theatrical productions.

Students grow to perform choreography with accuracy and interpretive passion within ensemble and solo contexts. In addition to dance technique courses, the Dance Theatre Conservatory Program includes focused study in singing, musical theatre and acting. In the final semester, coursework is focused on industry and career preparation, including an original showcase production.





Performing Arts Programs

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Performing Arts

The Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Performing Arts Program is designed for students who want to explore multiple performance disciplines. The intensive performance-based training is blended with a range of academic studies with a wide array of performance opportunities enhancing the scope of the program. Students in the BFA Degree in Performing Arts Program first select a discipline

(Acting, Music Theatre, Dance Theatre) for their first three semesters. They may then opt to enter our innovative Creative Content Development curriculum in their discipline or to pursue a combination of advanced studies and courses suited to their discipline and individual interests. Advanced courses emphasize career preparation, networking, audition techniques and cultivating an entrepreneurial spirit.



Creative Content Development Focus

The Creative Content Development focus of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Performing Arts Program allows students to further sharpen their performance skills while learning to develop and produce original works. Productions and performances enhance the program's offerings and provide opportunities to bring artistic projects to life. Throughout the program, students engage and collaborate

with artists from multiple disciplines and backgrounds. This community-based approach creates an environment rich with diverse, global perspectives that inspire creativity and learning. In preparation for careers such as performers, content creators, directors and producers, students develop an entrepreneurial mindset, advanced collaboration skills and an acute understanding of contemporary media.

A person is holding a book, and the entire image is covered with a warm orange overlay. The text 'Liberal Arts Programs' is written in large white letters across the middle of the image.

Liberal Arts Programs

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre Arts

The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre Arts Program is designed for students interested in pursuing a full range of academic study alongside their intensive exploration of theatre arts. This eight-semester degree program begins with foundational theatre training and a focus on acquiring knowledge in the areas of arts, humanities and natural and social sciences.

As students progress through the program, they advance in their understanding of communications, theatre analysis and critical thinking. AMDA's BA Degree in Theatre Arts provides a diverse educational experience, helping students emerge as educated and thoughtful citizens prepared to contribute to the global community.



Graduate Degree Programs

The Graduate Programs at AMDA offer students the opportunity to create and study in a thriving and diverse community of performing artists. Graduate level programs at AMDA include a **Master of Fine Arts Degree in Writing for Theatre and Media** and a **Master of Arts Degree in Theatre**. Graduate students live, study and create among the vibrance and passion of

our community, drawing inspiration to produce impactful creative pieces and original scholarship.

With opportunities to collaborate across the institution built into each program, graduate students work alongside other writers, scholars and performers to develop content that is relevant, contemporary and powerful.



Performance Opportunities

An important component of AMDA training is the multiple and diverse performance opportunities offered to our students. The “curtain goes up” more than 150 times a year — from plays to musicals, dance concerts, showcases, workshops, readings, class presentations and student-created works.

Each semester, AMDA mounts professionally produced BFA productions in each of our three disciplines: acting, musical theatre and dance theatre. Recent shows have included *Aida*, *Anna in the Tropics*, *The Lady from the Sea*, *Trifles*, *Big Love* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

In addition to mainstage productions, AMDA produces short narrative films, curated selections of performed scenes, contemporary music concerts and screen-dance films.

AMDA’s performance programs culminate in a showcase production experience. AMDA showcases are

designed to provide students in their final semester of training an original, fully staged production experience. Each showcase is crafted based on the individual cast members with the goal of showcasing their unique gifts and talents to the AMDA community and setting the path toward entering the professional performing arts industry.

In addition to fostering committed, well-trained performers, AMDA supports and nurtures students who wish to explore and define their own artistic vision. Through various classes, workshops and performance platforms focused on original content creation, students have the opportunity to develop their own creative voices as writers, directors, choreographers, filmmakers and producers.

Performance on stage and screen is vital to AMDA’s mission and is an integral part of our educational curriculum, artistic training and the overall AMDA experience.

The AMDA Audition

It all starts with the audition.

AMDA's curriculum is challenging, diverse and career preparatory in nature. An audition is required for acceptance and admission to our programs to determine the best pathway for you. Whether you are a beginner or a more experienced applicant, our selection committee is looking for dedicated students who are committed to learning their craft and applying themselves as professional artists. You are encouraged to select audition pieces that showcase you and the type of creative you envision becoming. If

you would like assistance preparing for your audition, our Admissions team is here to guide and support you through the process. Each discipline has a unique set of audition requirements that can be found below. AMDA offers a robust calendar of auditions including:

National Auditions: Audition in a city near you.

On-Campus Auditions: Visit our campus and audition on the same day.

Live Virtual Auditions: Audition live from home with an AMDA faculty member via Zoom.



At each audition event, you will be engaging and working with a member of the AMDA faculty who will coach you through your audition to get the best performances possible. Understanding and taking direction is a major component to becoming a successful artist and you may be asked to make adjustments during your audition. This is our opportunity to better understand your ability and uncover your true potential. Above all, we want you to have fun! This is your moment to shine and show us what you want to share with the world. Enjoy it!

To schedule an audition, find out more about audition options, and for more audition preparation information, visit amda.edu/auditions.



Program Audition Requirements

Acting/Acting on Camera/

Studio: Please prepare two contrasting monologues that are each 60 to 90 seconds in length. These may be sourced from published plays or screenplays.

Musical Theatre/Integrated:

Please prepare 60 to 90 seconds (or 32 bars) of a song from the musical theatre repertoire and a 60 to 90 second monologue from a published play or screenplay.

Dance: Please prepare two contrasting dance solos (each solo approximately 60 seconds in length). Styles may include Ballet, Contemporary Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Tap, Ballroom, Hip-Hop, Theatre Dance, World Dance or Contemporary.

BA in Theatre Arts does not require an audition.

Alumni

“I went to AMDA to make sure that every aspect of performance was mastered as best as possible.” — Jason Derulo



Jason Derulo

Hometown: Miramar, Florida

Multiplatinum-selling recording artist, singer, dancer, songwriter, and actor. Derulo has sold over 50 million singles worldwide and racked up over 2 billion views on YouTube and 1 billion plays on Spotify. Derulo's career includes 11 platinum hits including “Whatcha Say,” “Wiggle,” “Trumpets” and “Talk Dirty.” He made his cinematic debut as Rum Tum Tugger in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical film *Cats*.

Madeline Brewer

Hometown: Pitman, New Jersey

Emmy-nominated actress and classically trained singer. Brewer stars as Janine in Hulu's Emmy-winning “*The Handmaid's Tale*.” She earned critical acclaim as Tricia Miller on “*Orange Is the New Black*” and has played dark roles on some of television's hottest shows, including “*Hemlock Grove*,” “*Grimm*” and “*Black Mirror*.” She has starred in several feature films including *Cam*, *Hedgehog*, *Hustlers*, *Captive State* and *The Ultimate Playlist of Noise*.



Janeeva Pettway

Hometown: Los Angeles, California.

Dancer and social media star. Pettway has performed alongside high-profile recording artists including **Kanye West**, **Justin Bieber**, **Megan Trainor**, **Quavo**, **Meek Mill** and **Torey Lanez**, and has garnered more than 346.5K followers on TikTok. She is a main dancer on tour with American rapper **Saweetie** and fellow AMDA alumnus **Jason Derulo**. Pettway's star-studded credentials include several nationally televised performances on **BET**, **NBC** and **ABC**, popular music videos and highly successful world concert tours.

Caissie Levy

Hometown: Hamilton, Ontario

Originated the role of Elsa in Broadway's *Frozen*. Levy recreated the iconic role of Fantine in the 2014 revival of *Les Misérables* on Broadway and is known to New York and London audiences for originating the roles of Molly in *Ghost* and Sheila in the Tony Award-winning revival of *Hair*. Her other Broadway credits include Rose Stopnick Gellman in *Caroline, or Change*, Elphaba in *Wicked* and Penny in *Hairspray*.



“AMDA was a really great launching pad... it immersed me in the world of New York theatre right away.” — Caissie Levy



Anthony Ramos

Hometown: New York, New York

Starred as John Laurens/Philip Hamilton in Broadway's *Hamilton*. Ramos' film and television credits include *Disney's Hamilton*, *In the Heights*, *A Star Is Born*, *The Bad Guys*, *Honest Thief*, *Trolls World Tour*, *Monsters and Men*, "In Treatment," "She's Gotta Have It" and "Will & Grace." He has released two solo albums with Republic Records, *The Good & The Bad* and *Love and Lies*.

Zhailon Levingston

Hometown: Shreveport, Louisiana

Made history as the youngest Black director on Broadway, directing the transfer of Douglas Lyons' new comedy *Chicken and Biscuits*. Levingston made his Broadway debut as associate director of *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*. He is a cofounder, board member and creative director of the Broadway Advocacy Coalition, a Tony Award-winning organization uniting artists, experts, students and community leaders to use storytelling and artistry to combat systemic racism.



Scholarships & Financial Aid

At AMDA, we believe that finances should not stand in the way of you sharing your talent with the world. Each year, we award millions of dollars in scholarships to students based on their audition, academic achievements and the results of their financial aid applications.

Our dedicated Financial Aid team will assist you and your family in navigating the many federal, institutional and private funding options available to you as you prepare for your studies.

For information on financial aid options, visit amda.edu/finaid or scan the code below.









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