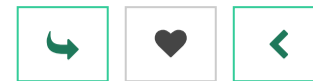


1 2 3

Actor



Actors bring stories and characters to life in film and television, on the stage, in audiobooks, or on the radio



What you'll do

Your day-to-day activities may include:

- researching, interpreting, and developing your role
- learning your lines and rehearsing alone or with others
- attending fittings for costumes
- preparing for and going to auditions
- contacting actors' agents and finding the next job
- working with other professionals like makeup artists, camera operators, and directors

In smaller theatre companies, you may also be involved in administration, publicity, and staging the performance.

You'll often combine performing with another job, for example teaching, community arts, or office work.

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

Hours may be irregular as it depends on the type of work you're involved in. For example, most theatre performances take place in the evenings but you may also perform in daytime shows, rehearsals, and auditions. In film and television, the working hours can be very long. You'll need to travel for jobs and auditions. You may also spend long periods away from home if you're touring with a play or filming on location.

You will likely be self-employed. See our guide '[How to become self-employed](#)' for information on the advantages and disadvantages of being self-employed.

As there are many actors looking for work, it can be quite competitive so you'll need to be able to handle rejection well and use any feedback you're given to become even better.

You'll spend time backstage during performances and in rehearsal rooms. If you're part of a touring company, you'll often travel and work at different venues.

Career path and progression

If you can show an agent you have potential they may put you forward for auditions and castings. Agents usually take a fee of about 10% to 25% from your earnings.

You could take further training and move into directing, scriptwriting, drama therapy or teaching.

Skills required

You'll need:

- acting talent and confidence
- creativity to understand and perform different roles
- strong speaking and reading skills as well as a good memory
- discipline, determination, and resilience
- ability to balance work and home life

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

You'll need to be talented to succeed. You can hone your talent and skills (and learn new ones!) on training courses at college, university, or drama school.

While you don't **need** formal qualifications, they can help. You could take a diploma, foundation degree, degree or postgraduate diploma in drama, or a relevant subject like:

- acting
- performance studies
- contemporary theatre and performance
- musical theatre

You'll most likely need to audition to get onto a course. You should try to get on to an approved course – they'll give you the chance to perform in front of agents and casting directors. With luck, experience, and determination you may be able to find work without training.

Acting is a very competitive profession. You'll need to get as much practical experience of acting as you can.

People with disabilities and additional learning needs can get extra support from organisations like Shape Arts.

Related know-how guides

Explore know-how guides related to this career:

- [Get on the ladder: TV, radio and film production](#) >
- [Employer profile: Royal Ballet and Opera \(RBO\)](#) >

Related university subjects

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- [Dance](#) >
- [Drama and Theatre studies](#) >
- [English and Comparative literature](#) >

Related careers

You may also be interested in:

- [Talent agent >](#)
- [Dramatherapist >](#)
- [Dancer >](#)
- [Comedian >](#)

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Dance at uni:

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[Canada >](#)
[Europe >](#)
[Asia >](#)
[Australasia >](#)
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Drama and Theatre studies at uni:

[USA >](#)
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[Middle East and Africa >](#)
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English and Comparative literature at uni:

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[Australasia >](#)
[Middle East and Africa >](#)
[Ireland >](#)

Apprenticeships:

[UK >](#)

College / Sixth Form:

[UK >](#)

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Median averages relating to the Actor profession.

UK
 USA

Jobs

Artistic, literary and media professionals

342,899

 **2,417** in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Surrey	8,868
2	Hackney	8,587
3	Kent	8,466
4	Hertfordshire	8,120
5	Lambeth	7,261

Salaries

Actors and presenters

£24,249

📍 (Not enough data for this region) in your region of North West

🕒 **Hours/week**

Actors and presenters

37

📍 (Not enough data for this region) in your region of North West

📈 **Growth**

2020-2035

Culture, media and sports professionals

+0.2% ↑ 1,593 jobs

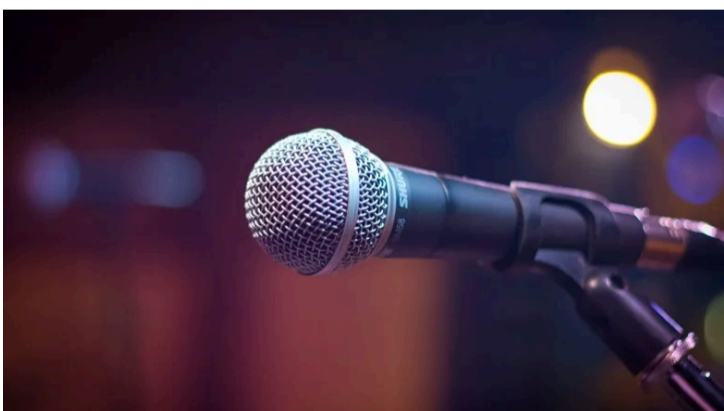
📍 -4.8% in your region of North West, an decrease of 2,325 jobs

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Singer

Singers perform and/or record songs for stage, radio, television, or film.

[Read the profile >](#)

Director (TV or film)

TV and film directors are responsible for the artistic vision of a script. They make key decisions including cast choices and production design.

[Read the profile >](#)

Producer (TV or film)

TV and film producers oversee the a programme or film. This could in budgeting and marketing.

[Read the profile >](#)