

# in the spotlight.

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If you want to see your name in lights, studying performance skills can help you tell a story to the audience and improve your acting skills. However, performing is not the only way to get into the theatre or the media. A wide variety of jobs exist in theatre and its related industries, including the vital roles played by Director, front-of-house staff, Stage Managers, Light and Sound Technicians and many more.

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## Sectors to explore

Understanding performance skills and the different elements required to put on a production can help you progress in a wide variety of sectors. Here are just a few to get you started:

### Acting and performing

If you're brimming with confidence and can tell a story using your voice and your body, you may want to pursue acting on the stage, radio or on-screen. Your focus could be musical theatre, dramatic productions, dancing, cabaret and more.

### Lighting and sound production

As the saying 'lights, camera, action!' goes, lights and sound are essential to a good performance. It takes a great deal of skill to properly illuminate a stage and create effects that will complement a performer's live show.

### Direction

You'll need to be able to see the big picture as a Director – multi-tasking and managing a large group of people and elements. Ultimately, you're responsible for the final show and bringing it all to life.

### Broadcasting

TV and Radio Broadcasters can benefit from experience in performance skills. How they use their voice and body language to deliver information is essential to their job role.

### Backstage

From costume design production, props, research, set design and much more, a performance couldn't run without people working back stage to make it possible.

### Technical crew

Alongside lighting and sound production, a team of Camera Operators keep things "picture perfect". You could enter this team as a Junior Camera Assistant, learning the ropes from senior members of the team up to the Director of Photography.

Qualifications to consider include:

- **Level 1/2 Technical Award in Performance Skills**

## Routes to success

If you choose to study performance skills, there are a number of routes you can take to further your career such as:

- **Further study at university or college**  
A degree in performing arts or musical theatre isn't essential, but it can give you a taste of what it's like to audition for roles, work in areas you may not expect and learn from the experiences of others.
- **Apprenticeships**  
You'll be working to a set programme of learning whilst earning money as an apprentice. This will provide you with a structured training period with a solid foundation of knowledge from which to progress in this sector.
- **Amateur dramatics and extra work**  
Getting involved in a drama club, even if you don't want to perform, is a great way to learn about the industry. Keep an eye on media listings for open call auditions for film and TV extras. Make sure that you research the reputation of the company and take someone with you if you're unsure or nervous.

## Where next?

We understand the amount of information out there can be daunting. To help, we've included a small collection of useful websites for you to visit:

**The National Careers Service** website offers an overview of many different careers. It's a great starting point to help you take your first step towards planning your career.  
[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

**All About Careers** includes really useful information about specific career opportunities. You can also take a career 'test' which will give you ideas about industries you might want to explore further based on your answers.  
[www.allaboutcareers.com](http://www.allaboutcareers.com)

**The National Apprenticeship Service** offers information about what apprenticeships are and how they work. It's particularly useful as a general introduction and to help you and your parents understand the opportunities an apprenticeship offers. [www.gettingofar.gov.uk](http://www.gettingofar.gov.uk)

**Not Going to Uni** is a website that aims to offer a full range of options and choices if you feel that university is not the route for you. [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

**Which University?** is a website that can help you decide what to study, where to study and how to get there.  
[www.university.which.co.uk](http://www.university.which.co.uk)

**REED Salary Checker** can help if you're curious about what your earning potential could be in your chosen career.  
[www.reed.co.uk/average-salary](http://www.reed.co.uk/average-salary)