



the astravaganza academy





# DAVID

## OUR PRINCIPAL

David's journey is a testament to the transformative power of support, passion, and perseverance. Growing up shy and struggling to connect with peers, he found solace and purpose in the world of performing arts, thanks to two compassionate teachers who recognised his potential. Their encouragement opened the door to the school drama club, where David discovered a newfound love for singing and acting.

At 17, David secured his first professional contract, which marked the beginning of a vibrant career in theatre, cabaret, and touring shows across the UK. The thrill of performing reached new heights when he joined the 90s pop and Eurovision supergroup SCOOCH, signed by EMI Records, who went on to represent the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2007.

In 2000, the millennium dawned and David returned to his North East roots with a vision to give back. He launched Performers' Stage School, a trailblazer in the performing arts. For 22 years, the school shone as a beacon of inspiration, fostering the dreams of countless aspiring artists and proving that with the right support, anything is possible. David's journey reflects not only personal achievement but also a commitment to uplifting others in their pursuit of the arts.





# LIAM

## FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Liam has dedicated the past 17 years to the theatrical industry. In his early years, he performed on stage but soon discovered his true passion lay in production, leading him to step away from his jazz shoes and embrace the creative world of theatre.

In 2012, Liam founded Astravaganza Entertainment with the goal of staging professional-level productions for North East talent to shine. To date, he has produced over 20 full-scale musicals, plays, and concerts, taking pride in the fact that his work has been showcased at nearly every professional theatre in the North East, including Northern Pride.

As a freelance Company Manager, Liam has worked on major productions such as *Evita* in the West End, UK Tours of *The Sound of Music*, and *Dirty Dancing*, along with *Grease* in Dubai and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in Canada. He has also managed five pantomimes at the Theatre Royal Newcastle.

In 2024, Liam made a decision to anchor himself in the North East and concentrate on his North East production companies. He serves as the UK Promoter for the international Cabaret Drag Show, *Deja Vu*.

Liam thrives on a challenge and last year was his most ambitious year to date, staging three major musicals and a Festive Concert back to back, followed by a nine-date UK Tour with his North East Adult Pantomime Company, entertaining 17,500 people from Clapham Grand to the Nottingham Arena. Liam has no signs of slowing down and is thrilled to announce the opening of the Astravaganza Academy, a new division of the beloved Astravaganza brand.



# ASTRAVAGANZA

## THE ACADEMY

The Astravaganza Academy is a term-time performing arts school offering engaging and professional training for children and young people. It provides an inclusive environment where students can express themselves, gain confidence, and, most importantly, have fun.

Though the academy is a new addition to the Astravaganza family, the team behind it consists of experienced professionals who have performed and worked across all sectors of the industry, including theatre, live events, television, radio broadcasting, stage production, and the recording industry.

### **ASTRAVAGANZA ACADEMY PUPILS**

**AGE:** 7 - 16

Students aged 7 to 16 participate in a weekly 3 hour session in age-specific groups, rotating between 3 tutors. Similar to a West End cast, every class starts with the entire school gathering for a physical and vocal warm-up to energize and prepare them for the session.

### **ASTRAVAGANZA ALLSTARS**

**AGE:** 4 - 6

Younger children, aged 4 to 6, enjoy a 60-minute AllStar session with us.

Our approach emphasizes and celebrates diversity in both our teaching methods and the material our students learn, rehearse, and perform.

We strive to ensure that every student feels included, safe, and supported in their journey to learn, achieve, and thrive.







# OUR TEACHERS

Our wonderful teachers are here to provide exceptional performing arts lessons for our students. With their passion and expertise, they're eager to inspire and encourage each student to reach their full potential.

We've carefully selected each instructor for their extensive experience and knowledge in the performing arts industry. Every member of our Academy Team brings valuable experience teaching young performers and has either trained or worked professionally.

The lineup of our teaching staff can change depending on the Term's content, study area, and any productions or performances our students are involved in. We also welcome guest practitioners to collaborate with our students, enriching their knowledge and skills while offering fresh insights into the industry.

All our Academy staff are fully licensed chaperones, undergo enhanced DBS checks, and participate in regular training sessions focused on safeguarding, child protection, and e-safety. Plus, every session is supervised by a qualified First Aider, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for learning.

**THE BEST TEACHERS ARE THOSE  
WHO SHOW YOU WHERE TO  
LOOK BUT DON'T TELL YOU  
WHAT TO SEE**  
ALEXANDRA K. STRENFOR



# MUSICAL THEATRE

Musical Theatre will always be central to our mission, as it challenges performers to excel as triple threats in singing, dancing, and acting.

Students will learn to intertwine these three elements to convey compelling stories through their performances. We guide our students in creating vibrant and believable characters while enhancing their storytelling and performance abilities. We encourage collaborating as an ensemble, exploring a diverse range of material from pop music to musical theatre, classics to contemporary.

We encourage (and hope) you will take some time to explore the galleries of our past productions on our website [www.astraents.com](http://www.astraents.com)

## Some of our past musical theatre Productions include:

- **Annie** at The Whitley Bay Playhouse and also The Tyne Theatre & Opera House
- **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** at The Exchange 1856
- **Disney's Beauty and The Beast** at The Exchange 1856
- **Oliver!** at The Tyne Theatre & Opera House
- **Priscilla Queen of the Desert** at The Tyne Theatre & Opera House
- **Avenue Q** at The Tyne Theatre & Opera House
- **Shrek The Musical** at The Tyne Theatre & Opera House
- **The Producers** at The Tyne Theatre & Opera House
- **The Wizard of Oz** at The Stanley Civic Hall
- **Blood Brothers** at The Stanley Civic Hall
- **Grease** at The Stanley Civic Hall







# ACTING

## TELLING STORIES

Drama at the Astravaganza Academy is not only captivating but also focused on performance. Students at the Academy acquire skills for stage performance and, regardless of their prior experience, naturally enhance their abilities and self-confidence.

Our hands-on sessions cover a diverse array of topics and techniques, including theatre history, acting methods, voice training, movement, improvisation, character development, exploration of text, and spatial awareness.

Term topics encompass immersive theatre, self-devised works, the study of contemporary plays, scriptwriting, podcast delivery, along with CV development, self-taping, and audition techniques. Each student will create a repertoire by performing monologues, duologues, and full-length plays, equipping them with vital tools for their performance journey.

We aim for every student to cultivate transferable life skills through teamwork, effective communication, and confidence building.

Exciting performance opportunities are available both in class, within the academy, and externally.

**TO BE AN ACTOR YOU  
HAVE TO BE A CHILD**  
PAUL NEWMAN



# SINGING

## CREATING MUSIC WITH THE VOICE

Singing at the Academy takes place in a collaborative environment, focusing on developing skills in unison and harmony. These sessions are rooted in fundamental music theory. As students advance, we encourage and support solo performances, which are often featured in recitals, performances, and productions along with showcase events.

The core elements of singing, musicality, and technique are thoughtfully integrated to ensure that sessions accommodate varying levels of confidence and experience while maintaining a fun atmosphere.

Students are invited to share their music preferences and delve into a wide range of genres, including musical theatre, classical, pop, and more contemporary styles.

**WORDS MAKE YOU THINK  
A THOUGHT  
MUSIC MAKES YOU FEEL  
A FEELING  
SINGING MAKES YOU FEEL  
A THOUGHT**  
YIP HARBURG





# DANCING

## EXPRESSION THROUGH MOVEMENT

Dance offers numerous advantages for young individuals, playing a vital role in promoting both physical and mental health. It not only enhances physical fitness by improving strength, flexibility, and coordination but also contributes to mental health by reducing stress and anxiety, boosting mood, and increasing overall happiness. Moreover, dance significantly improves emotional well-being by providing a creative outlet for self-expression and helping young people process their emotions in a healthy way.

In addition to these benefits, dance fosters the development of cognitive abilities. Engaging in dance requires learning complex choreography, which enhances memory, attention, and problem-solving skills. Furthermore, dance encourages social connections by bringing together individuals with shared interests, facilitating new friendships, and teaching teamwork and cooperation. It also promotes self-expression, allowing young dancers to explore their individuality and build confidence.

As you might expect, our dance sessions are highly practical and tailored to accommodate all skill levels, ensuring that every participant can enjoy and benefit from the experience. We primarily focus on jazz and modern dance styles, which are both dynamic and expressive, offering a perfect blend of technique and creativity. Our programme includes detailed instruction on technique to support the development and growth of each dancer, helping them refine their skills and reach their full potential. By doing so, we aim to create a nurturing environment where young dancers can thrive and develop a lifelong appreciation for the art of dance.



# Nativity!

## The Musical

31ST OCTOBER TO 1ST NOVEMBER 2025

FEATURING STUDENTS FROM

the  
astravaganza  
academy

sunderland  
empire

The West End of the North East

AN ATG ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

# ALLSTARS

## WHERE SUPERSTARS ARE MADE

AllStars is our dynamic and captivating performing arts programme specifically tailored for children aged 4 to 6. These meticulously designed 60-minute sessions are packed with excitement and focus on nurturing creativity, fostering independence, honing performance skills, and enhancing communication abilities.

Each week, our enthusiastic AllStars dive into the magical realms of singing, dancing, and acting. Imagine them embarking on thrilling adventures – soaring through the cosmos on a rocket ship, diving into the mysterious ocean depths to uncover hidden treasures, or joining the whimsical world of a bustling circus, complete with acrobats and clowns! The excitement doesn't end there; our AllStars also get the exhilarating opportunity to take centre stage in their very own showcase. Here, they can dazzle the audience with their newfound talents and creativity.

Our AllStars sessions are a whirlwind of energy and joy, offering our youngest performers a vibrant and immersive journey into the enchanting world of performing arts. Each 60-minute session is designed to ignite their imaginations, allowing them to explore and express themselves in bold and imaginative ways.

Our AllStars students will have the opportunity to appear in

**Nativity! The Musical at The Sunderland Empire**

on 31st October & 1st November 2025.

**THERE'S MAGIC IN EVERY  
PERFORMANCE  
NO MATTER HOW SMALL  
UNKNOWN**





# PRODUCTIONS

## BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Every performer aspires to be on stage; there's truly nothing like the thrilling excitement that fills the air just before the curtain rises! Each student at the Academy has the chance to showcase their talent in at least one production each year, beginning with **Nativity! The Musical at The Sunderland Empire** on 31st October & 1st November 2025.

In this expertly crafted performance, our students encounter the same experiences that a West End performer faces, such as auditions; rehearsals; vocal recording sessions; makeup and hair workshops; press and publicity calls; wearing theatrical costumes; managing props; and working on a professional stage complete with professional sets; lighting and sound. The final pieces of the performance come together during technical and dress rehearsals. They also get to enjoy unforgettable moments like stepping through a Stage Door; having their own Dressing Room and, of course, the ultimate thrill of performing live on stage in front of an audience. While some may see these as minor details, we understand their true significance. Every experience matters.

**These moments are cherished for a lifetime.**

We recognise the value of these stage experiences, as our own memories hold a special place in our hearts.

**IT WAS ONLY IN THE  
THEATRE THAT I LIVED**  
OSCAR WILDE





# GUIDE & GROW

The performing arts significantly influence the lives of young people, and we believe it is crucial for parents and guardians to stay updated on their child's progress. Building strong relationships with our students' families is a priority for us. We genuinely appreciate your commitment to your child, the effort you put in at home, and the dedication you bring to their passion.

Your support, both behind the scenes and at home, often goes unnoticed; however, we recognise you as the unsung heroes who truly deserve a standing ovation. With this in mind, we schedule an annual opportunity for you to meet with our teachers to discuss your child's growth and development.

We are dedicated to this creative feedback and hope you will fully embrace this added layer of our commitment to the performing arts and your child's success.

**IT WAS ONLY  
IN THE THEATRE  
THAT I LIVED  
OSCAR WILDE**





# EQUIPMENT

Mobile devices and electronic equipment should not be brought to class. They can be left with one of our Teaching Assistants during registration. We cannot be held responsible for any items that are lost, stolen, or damaged. Each student is asked to supply and bring with them:

- a pen, pencil, eraser, and working notebook.
- a folder or document holder labelled with the student's name to keep handouts organised and in order.

We maintain a private, closed Facebook group for current students and parents to connect and share valuable Academy-related updates and information.

A tuck shop is available at every session, offering cold drinks and snacks.

# UNIFORM

All students are required to purchase and wear our branded Academy clothing at every class and performance. In addition to this:

- black split sole jazz shoes, boots, or trainers.
- hair should be neatly groomed and long hair tied back from the face.
- older student's are encouraged to wear light makeup.
- no watches or jewelry should be worn during our sessions.





# FEES & TERMS

Our sessions operate during the school term, and our fees are structured accordingly, to be paid in advance on the 1st of each month via Direct Debit.

- **1 Academy Student:** £92 per calendar month
- **Siblings:** £69 per calendar month
- **AllStars Pupils:** £52 per calendar month

Please be aware that there will be charges for Production Terms, School Trips, Examinations, and optional Special Guest Workshops.

## TERM DATES

### Spring Term: TECHNIQUE TERM

Tuesday 29th April to Tuesday 20th May inclusive (4 weeks)

### Summer Term: PRODUCTION TERM

Tuesday 3rd June to 22nd July inclusive (8 weeks)

### Autumn Term: PRODUCTION TERM

Tuesday 9th September to Tuesday 28th October inclusive (8 weeks)

## **NATIVITY! THE MUSICAL at The Sunderland Empire**

Performances 31st October & 1st November

Cast Members will be needed for full day rehearsals at the Theatre on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th October

## **Academy Awards**

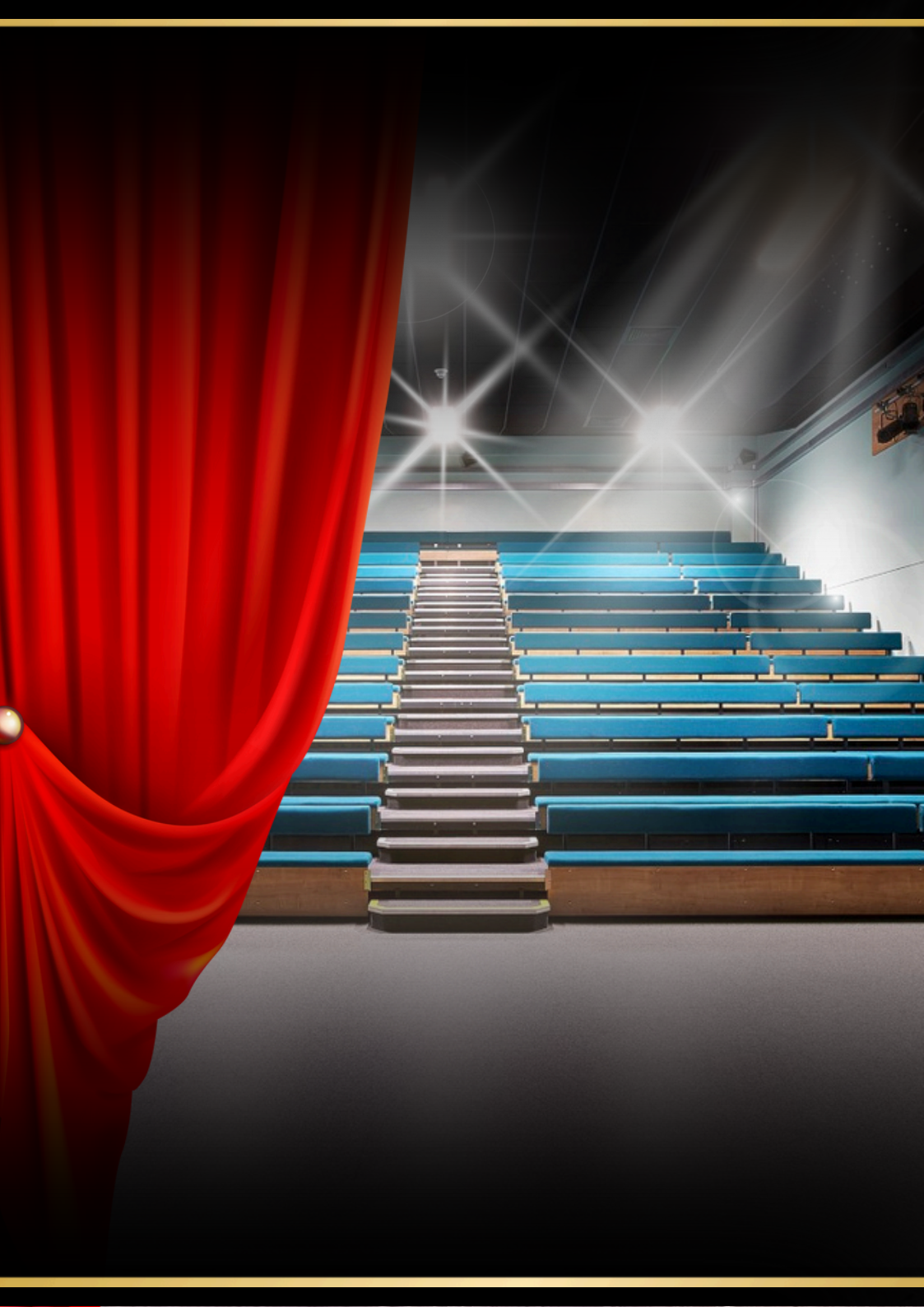
Evening of Saturday 22nd November at The Roker Hotel

## **Winter Term: PRESENTATION TERM**

Tuesday 11th November to Tuesday 16th December inclusive (6 weeks)

**Festive Presentation during the last session**





# THE ACADEMY

## SCHEDULE

SESSION	DAY	TIME
NATIVITY! REHEARSALS	MONDAY EVENINGS	5:15 - 7:30PM
ALLSTARS SESSION	TUESDAY EVENINGS	4:30 - 5:30PM
MAIN ACADEMY	TUESDAY EVENINGS	5:30 - 8:30PM REGISTRATION AT 5PM

The Astravaganza Academy is located within Castle View Enterprise Academy, a multimillion pound complex located in Castletown, Hylton Castle.

**Castle View Enterprise Academy, Cartwright Rd, Castletown,  
Hylton Castle, SR5 3DX**

### DANCE STUDIO

Complete with Ballet bar, sprung flooring and full mirrored wall along with air conditioning and full integrated sound system.

### MAIN HALL

An enhanced performing space with mobile stage, seating, lighting and sound equipment.



# ONSTAGE WITH ASTRAVAGANZA

Astravaganza Academy students have the incredible opportunity to perform in **'Nativity! The Musical' at The Sunderland Empire.**

Those taking part will attend an **additional** rehearsal from Monday 9th June, running throughout the Summer, right up to the performance.

This **additional session** will take place **every Monday 5.15 -7.30pm.**

## ACADEMY STUDENTS

There will be a one-off Production cost of £95 plus £10 for the additional Monday rehearsal payable weekly when students arrive for the rehearsal registration.

## NON-ACADEMY STUDENTS

There will be a one-off Production cost of £150 plus £12 for the Monday rehearsal payable weekly when students arrive for the rehearsal registration.

Please note Astravaganza Academy students are given a guaranteed performance place within the cast and take priority when signing up to appear in the show.

Non Academy students can register interest and cast places will be offered if space is available.



**SUNDERLAND  
ARE YOU READY TO  
SPARKLE & SHINE?**

# Nativity!

## The Musical

**31ST OCTOBER TO 1ST NOVEMBER**

**sunderland  
empire**  
*The West End of the North East*  
AN ATG ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

STARRING THE CAST OF  
the **astravaganza**  
academy  
**astravaganza**  
entertainment





# ACADEMY AWARDS

Our Annual Autumn Academy Awards is a ticketed event designed for students, along with their friends and family, to don their finest attire and unite in celebration. This occasion highlights the dedication and progress our pupils achieve each year. Picture the Oscars, complete with a red carpet, a delicious meal, entertainment, and our prestigious awards ceremony!

## Some of the Award Categories include:

Outstanding Achievement in Drama/Dance/Music  
Academy Award for Best Performance  
Academy Contribution  
Unsung Hero Award  
One To Watch

## ACADEMY CONTACT INFORMATION

**Mobile** 0778 7566 850

**Email** [astragents@gmail.com](mailto:astragents@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

 Follow **Astravaganza Entertainment** Facebook Page

 Follow **AstraEnts** on Instagram

 Visit our website [www.AstraEnts.com](http://www.AstraEnts.com)