



Press Release 2020

- Graeae and Rose Bruford College welcome seven new young artists for a third year of the groundbreaking Ensemble training programme
- For the first time, Ensemble is formally accredited by Rose Bruford College
- Other leading drama schools remain partners on the programme: LAMDA, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and RADA

Barriers and attitudes sadly remain rigid for many Deaf and disabled artists to enter the theatre industry, to which Graeae responds with a third year of the pioneering course Ensemble, creatively supported and accredited by Rose Bruford College to a Level 4.

Ensemble is reaching new heights with its 2020 launch of **Cert HE Graeae Ensemble: Theatre Making and Leadership**, paving the way for truly inclusive drama school environment. After Graeae and Rose Bruford's longstanding partnership, it is a delight to be able to offer the next generation of Deaf and disabled theatre makers an accredited course tailored and shaped to the industry without compromising access and ensuring a future diverse leadership.

"We must fight to be seen, we must fight to be heard and we must never stop striving to have a voice, equal to all." **Ensemble Artist**

Ensemble continues on its path of mutual learning, shared resources and an inclusive approach with our committed partners and leading drama schools; Rose Bruford College (accrediting body), London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), Royal Central School of

Speech and Drama (RCSSD) and Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA).

Graeae and Rose Bruford have designed the Ensemble course into a 120 credit delivered across the 4 modules: **The Skills of the Theatre Maker; Approaches to Performance; Think, Share, Reflect; Platform (a showcase of the work developed over the course).**

The course, combined with a strong line-up of practitioners, mentors and arts organisations, sees Graeae and Rose Bruford alongside its partners deliver a vigorous Ensemble 2020 programme paving the way for a new generation of theatre makers and future leaders.

‘Nothing yet exists like Ensemble. It is an utter dream to train a new generation of talent who in turn drive our ambition and learning as a company. With a talented alumni underpinning its success, Ensemble only gets stronger with every new cohort and growing artistic and social investment from drama schools.’

Jodi-Alissa Bickerton, Creative Learning Director, Graeae

‘Rose Bruford College is both pleased and proud to be collaborating with Graeae on the 2020 iteration of Ensemble. We passionately believe that all talented young artists should have the possibility of high-quality accredited training to equip them to enter the theatre and performance industries. It is just not acceptable that young Deaf and disabled artists experience barriers to drama training and we are delighted to be accrediting this unique Certificate of Higher Education (level 4) in Theatre Making and Leadership. We look forward to welcoming Ensemble 2020 to the Bruford campus.’

Clarie Middleton, Principal and Chief Executive, Rose Bruford College

‘Graeae’s newly accredited Ensemble programme, ‘Cert HE Graeae Ensemble: Theatre Making and Leadership’, is a result of Graeae’s longstanding partnership with Rose Bruford College. This exciting new phase strengthens the mission towards full inclusion across UK drama schools and theatrical training. Ensemble offers many of the required skills to young artists who have not previously accessed drama school training. It’s time for change, and Graeae once again, along with Rose Bruford and partners, are leading the way’

Mat Fraser, Graeae Patron

Ensemble 2020 is supported by Arts Council England, The Stage, The Backstage Trust and The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation.

The Ensemble 2020 artists

We warmly welcome:

Jamie Green, James Greenhalgh, Jamie Hale, Jennifer Gambles, Katie Watson, Sophie Tennison and Stephen Reeder.

The seven artists will further their professional development with training in both on and off stage roles, commencing from Wednesday 12 February. From May onwards they will be devising their showcase for public performances in July.

The Ensemble alumni have gone onto; securing Research and Development funding, Assistant Directing, Acting (stage, TV, Radio), Workshop facilitation, assisting with embedding access in plays and are pursuing professional careers in theatre making with examples such as:

- Jamal Ajala debuted as the first Deaf actor at the Royal Court Theatre, London in *ear for eye* by debbie tucker green and won Best Actor for this role at The Stage Debut Awards 2019
- Kellan Frankland had a leading role opposite Kathryn Hunter in *The House of Bernarda Alba* at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, and was nominated for a Stage Debut Award 2017
- Terri Donovan got a part in *Graeae's Midwich Cuckoos*, which was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in January 2018
- Hana Pascal Keegan has Assistant Directed *Jellyfish* (Bush Theatre, National Theatre), *All My Sons* (The Old Vic) and in spring 2020, will Assistant Direct *All of Us* (National Theatre)
- Dave Young aka The Shouting Mute has been touring his piece *Grow Up* and *Just Love Chocolate*

"My ambition is to be the best I ever can be." **Ensemble Artist**

Editor's note

Graeae is a force of change in world-class theatre - breaking down barriers, challenging preconceptions and boldly placing Deaf and disabled artists centre stage. Artistically led by Jenny Sealey, Graeae's signature characteristic is the compelling creative integration of captioning, sign language and audio description, which engages brilliantly with both disabled and non-disabled audiences. Championing

accessibility and providing a platform for new generations of artists, Graeae leads the way in pioneering, trail-blazing theatre.

www.graeae.org

Rose Bruford's vision is to create the Change Makers – young people who want to make a difference. We aim to achieve social as well as cultural impact through delivering the highest quality vocational training and education across a wide, innovative spectrum of learning and teaching that delivers proactive graduates who are creative, empowered, employable, inclusive and diverse, ethical and intercultural in outlook.

www.bruford.ac.uk

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