



ARE DRAMA ACADEMIES

Prospectus

Inspiring the next generation of performers

PASSION FOR PERFORMING SKILLS FOR LIFE



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to 'Ariel Drama Academies'

At Ariel, we do things differently. Unlike large franchise drama schools, we are a **family-run academy** that has been inspiring young performers since 2004. We are bold, forward-thinking and never tied to a rigid syllabus. Instead, every piece of work we create is shaped collaboratively by our team of tutors – making our training original, inclusive and at times, ground-breaking.

Over the years, we've grown from one small class into seven thriving academies across Sussex, offering professional training in **Drama, Singing and Dance** for young people aged **4–19**. Our tutors are a unique mix of industry experts, professional teachers and young specialists, bringing both experience and fresh creativity. This combination ensures our academies are run with care and discipline, while giving students the freedom to flourish in a truly creative environment.

We can't wait to meet you.





Performance ... is at the heart of what we do

Every year each of our academies produce an **annual showcase hosted in a professional theatre.**

In addition, our students can choose to take part in **high-quality, fully costumed productions and workshops throughout the year**, giving them the invaluable experience of performing in professional standard shows while building teamwork, confidence and stagecraft.

Musical Theatre Productions







A Week at Ariel: The Academy Experience

Students develop across all disciplines:

At Ariel, each academy is led by a dedicated Principal, supported by skilled Tutors, Support Tutors and a pastoral/administrative team. Many have worked at Ariel for years, bringing experience, creativity and passion for the arts. Together, they know the academy inside out and are committed to nurturing every student's unique talents.

Our curriculum is designed to provide a well-rounded performing arts education, ensuring Technical Skills

- ❖ Acting: voice projection, movement, characterisation, improvisation, creative writing, stagecraft, modern, contemporary and historic theatrical styles, contextual theatre.
- ❖ Singing: breath control, vocal range, diction, expression, tone, colour and intonation, with a focus on acting through song.
- ❖ Dance: rhythm, coordination, flexibility, posture and musicality across a variety of dance styles.
- ❖ A combination of acting, singing and dance not only equips students with core theatrical skills but also develops life skills such as teamwork, resilience and creativity. These disciplines bring mental and emotional benefits, building confidence, communication and self-expression, while giving every student a real sense of pride in their achievements.

Musical Theatre

- ❖ Bringing together singing, acting and dance to create versatile and confident performers who understand how to combine these disciplines into one dynamic art form.

Themed Projects

- ❖ Carefully devised projects that complement each other, encouraging creativity, collaboration and ensemble skills, while allowing students to take ownership of their work.

Showcase Preparation

- ❖ Preparation for Ariel's annual showcase performed in a professional theatre. This is a highlight of the year, giving every student the chance to experience performing on a large stage in front of an audience.
- ❖ Throughout the year, students thrive in a supportive, inclusive and creative environment, where every individual is encouraged to shine. At Ariel, we don't just teach performing arts—we inspire confidence, creativity and a lifelong love of performance.

More than skills, Ariel gives students confidence, resilience, teamwork and pride – life skills that last far beyond the stage.

Beyond the Classroom

At Ariel, we believe that drama education goes far beyond the classroom. Our extra services give students the chance to explore every aspect of the performing arts – from personalised tuition and choirs, to full-scale productions and professional opportunities. Every experience is designed to inspire, challenge and prepare our students for success on stage and beyond.

Our Extra Services Include:

- ❖ **One-to-One Singing and Acting Classes** – personalised tuition to help every student develop their voice, technique and performance skills.
- ❖ **One-to-one LAMDA exam tuition** – expert guidance to achieve exam success.
- ❖ **Junior and Senior Choirs** – fostering musicality, teamwork and confidence.
- ❖ **Industry Opportunities** – through our affiliation with a top London agent.
- ❖ **Professional Programme for Older Students** – a monthly programme designed to challenge students and provide opportunities to become industry-ready.
- ❖ **High-Quality Productions and Workshops** – fully costumed, immersive experiences throughout the year.
- ❖ **Full-Scale Plays and Musicals** – giving students hands-on experience in major productions.
- ❖ **Duke of Edinburgh Volunteer Programme** – providing students with opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork and community service skills.
- ❖ **National Theatre Connections Partnership** – a long-standing collaboration that demonstrates the high-quality, diverse training we provide.



Our Students

Classes for Ages 4–19

We offer age-appropriate classes for children and young people aged **4–19 years**, split into **five individual groups** to best match students' developmental stages. Classes are taught in small groups to ensure plenty of individual attention, with support from experienced tutors who help each student build confidence, develop skills, and reach their full potential.

We are also passionate about inclusivity in the arts. For students with additional needs, we run our **Othellos SEN classes** across all our academies. These specialist classes provide a supportive environment where every young person can thrive. Find out more at www.arielothellos.com.



Hamlets 4-7 years

Ariels 7-9 years

Prosperos 9–11 years

Orsinos 11-14 years

Tempest 14 -19 years



Our Academies

Inspiring Young Performers across Sussex

We are proud to run 7 academies across Sussex.

Each academy runs on either a Saturday morning or afternoon.

Saturday Morning Academies:

- Burgess Hill
- Crawley
- Shoreham
- Uckfield

Saturday Afternoon Academies:

- East Grinstead
- Haywards Heath
- Horsham

For full details of age groups and class times, please visit our website:

[Ariel Drama Passion for Performing, Skill for Life](#)



Meet the Team

Our drama academy is led by a team of highly experienced and passionate principals who have been with the company for many years. They bring a wealth of knowledge, creativity and dedication to nurturing talent in every student. Committed to a diverse and inclusive approach, they tailor their guidance to each individual, ensuring a one-to-one, caring and supportive learning environment. Their innovative methods and personal attention create the perfect foundation for aspiring performers to grow, explore and excel.



Nicci Hopson
Creative Director



Anna Hadden
Operations Manager



Neil Hopson
Creative Director



Allie Atkins
Project Manager



Erin Sheehan
Burgess Hill /
Haywards Heath



Abi Paige
Crawley



Kyle Brown
Horsham /
Shoreham



Karen Brown
East Grinstead



Chelsea Hennessey
Uckfield



In the Spotlight

We're beyond excited to celebrate some of our incredible graduates and Ariel Alumni as they take their next steps into the world of performance.

SISTERS IN THE ARIEL SPOTLIGHT



ALICIA

WHEN DID YOU JOIN ARIEL?
2012

HOW HAS IT BENEFITED YOU?

ARIEL INTRODUCED ME TO SINGING, GAVE ME REGULAR PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND FUELLED MY PASSION FOR THEATRE. IT ALSO HELPED ME GET SIGNED BY AN AGENCY—A BIG STEP TOWARDS MY CAREER.

FAVOURITE PART OF ARIEL?

THE NURTURING ENVIRONMENT. IT'S A SAFE SPACE FOR GROWTH AND CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS, AND I'VE ALWAYS FELT SUPPORTED. NOW WORKING ALONGSIDE MY FORMER TUTORS SHOWS HOW THE ARIEL FAMILY REALLY STAYS WITH YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I'VE STARTED REHEARSALS FOR THE UK TOUR OF *SUNNY AFTERNOON* (OCT 2025–MAY 2026), UNDERSTUDYING THE THREE FEMALE ROLES.

DID ARIEL INFLUENCE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

YES—ARIEL WAS THE KEY REASON I PURSUED MUSICAL THEATRE. IT COMPLEMENTED MY DANCE TRAINING AND GAVE ME THE TOOLS TO SUCCEED AT DRAMA SCHOOL. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE TUTORS TAUGHT ME TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF, SHAPING THE PERFORMER I AM TODAY.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

GO FOR IT—IT'S ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS YOU COULD MAKE. ARIEL GIVES YOU TRAINING, FRIENDSHIPS, AND LIFE SKILLS THAT STAY WITH YOU FOREVER.



SOPHIA

WHEN DID YOU JOIN ARIEL?
2015

HOW HAS IT BENEFITED YOU?

IT TAUGHT ME PROFESSIONALISM EARLY ON—DISCIPLINE, PREPARATION, AND TEAMWORK. THOSE LESSONS GAVE ME A STRONG FOUNDATION TO GROW AS AN ARTIST AND TAKE MY PASSION SERIOUSLY.

FAVOURITE PART OF ARIEL?

THE AMAZING FRIENDS I'VE MADE. BEING SURROUNDED BY LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE MAKES EVERY CLASS FUN, EXCITING, AND SUPPORTIVE, AND THOSE FRIENDSHIPS HAVE BEEN KEY TO MY JOURNEY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I'M REHEARSING FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE HUNGER GAMES* ON STAGE AT THE NEW TROUBADOUR THEATRE IN CANARY WHARF, PLAYING PRIMROSE EVERDEEN.

DID ARIEL INFLUENCE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

DEFINITELY. ARIEL GAVE ME A TASTE OF BEING IN A THEATRE COMPANY, INSPIRING ME TO PURSUE THIS PATH. SEEING OLDER STUDENTS SUCCEED MOTIVATED ME TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

ARIEL IS AN AMAZING PLACE TO EXPLORE YOUR LOVE OF THE ARTS. YOU'LL LEARN, GROW, AND HAVE FUN IN A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY THAT INSPIRES YOU TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS.



AMELIE

WHEN DID YOU JOIN ARIEL?

I JOINED IN FEBRUARY 2015 WHEN I HAD JUST TURNED 4 – SO I'VE NOW BEEN PART OF ARIEL FOR 10 YEARS!

HOW DO YOU FEEL IT HAS BENEFITED YOU?

I'VE LEARNED SO MANY THEATRICAL SKILLS AND DISCOVERED A REAL PASSION FOR PERFORMANCE. MORE THAN THAT, I'VE GROWN IN CONFIDENCE, DEVELOPED LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AND MADE SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS. I LOOK FORWARD TO EVERY WEEKEND AND THE EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES LIKE SHOWCASES, WORKSHOPS, AND SHOWS. SUPPORTING THE YOUNGER HAMLETS CLASS (WHERE I STARTED) AND THE OTHELLOS GROUP HAS TAUGHT ME HOW TO HELP CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, WHICH HAS BEEN SO REWARDING. I'VE ALSO TAKEN THREE LAMDA EXAMS WITH 1:1 TRAINING, WHICH NOT ONLY IMPROVED MY ACTING BUT TAUGHT ME HOW TO MANAGE PRESSURE AND AUDITIONS.



HOW HAS BEING PART OF ARIEL HELPED YOU FEEL INCLUDED AND SUPPORTED, AND WHAT MAKES THIS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PLACES YOU'VE EXPERIENCED? WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

AS SOMEONE WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS, ARIEL HAS GIVEN ME A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE NO BARRIERS—I'M ACCEPTED AND TREATED EQUALLY. OTHER PLACES SOMETIMES WORRY ABOUT MY NEEDS, BUT AT ARIEL I'M SIMPLY ME, CARED FOR AND RESPECTED. RECENTLY I PERFORMED IN CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY AT THE THEATRE ROYAL (INCLUDING DANCING BALLET IN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SQUIRREL COSTUME AND PLAYING OOMPA LOOMPAS IN COUNTLESS WIGS!). I ALSO PERFORMED IN OLIVER! AT THE SAME VENUE, AND I'M NOW REHEARSING FOR ARIEL'S BUGSY MALONE AT THE NEW BURY THEATRE, WHERE I'M DANCE CAPTAIN, FEATURE DANCER, AND PLAYING TILLY.

IN WHAT WAYS DOES ARIEL'S COMMUNITY MAKE YOU FEEL WELCOMED AND VALUED?

TUTORS ALWAYS LISTEN TO OUR IDEAS AND GIVE RECOGNITION FOR OUR CONTRIBUTIONS. LAST TERM, I WAS PROUD TO BE ASKED TO CHOREOGRAPH A TEMPESTS SINGING PIECE—IT MADE ME FEEL VERY VALUED.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING ARIEL?

ARIEL IS AN AMAZING THEATRE SCHOOL WHERE YOU CAN EXPRESS YOURSELF AND BECOME THE BEST PERFORMER YOU CAN BE!

PARENTS NOTE

AMELIE HAS THRIVED AT ARIEL FROM HER VERY FIRST HAMLETS CLASS, BOUNCING OUT BEAMING AND DANCING, THROUGH THE PANDEMIC AND NOW AS A TEMPEST PLANNING HER NEXT STEPS. ARIEL'S ETHOS OF INCLUSION HAS ALLOWED HER TO GROW INTO A CONFIDENT, ARTICULATE YOUNG WOMAN WITH A TRUE PASSION FOR THEATRE. DURING THE PANDEMIC AMELIE BECAME ILL, YET ARIEL REMAINED HER CONSTANT—HER PLACE OF JOY AND BELONGING.



SHE NOW SUPPORTS HAMLETS AND OTHELLO'S, SHOWING GREAT UNDERSTANDING AND CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS. WATCHING HER ADAPT LESSONS TO ENSURE OTHERS CAN SHARE THE SAME JOY SHE HAS IS SOMETHING WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF. ARIEL HAS GIVEN AMELIE NOT ONLY SKILLS AND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES BUT ALSO A COMMUNITY WHERE SHE CAN BE COMPLETELY HERSELF. IT HAS ENRICHED ALL OUR LIVES, AND WE WOULD RECOMMEND IT WHOLEHEARTEDLY.





LUCY

WHEN DID YOU JOIN ARIEL?

I FIRST JOINED ARIEL IN 2018 WHEN I WAS 8 YEARS OLD.

HOW HAS ARIEL BENEFITTED YOU?

WHEN I FIRST STARTED AT ARIEL, I LACKED A LOT OF SELF-CONFIDENCE, BUT THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FROM THE TUTORS HAS HELPED ME DEVELOP GREATER CONFIDENCE WHILE ALSO LEARNING VALUABLE NEW SKILLS.

FAVOURITE PART OF ARIEL?

MY FAVOURITE PART ABOUT GOING TO ARIEL EVERY WEEK IS BEING AROUND LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE WHO LOVE DOING THE SAME THING AS ME AND SHARING THE PASSION FOR PERFORMING. THE BEST PART IS THE SPECIAL, LIFELONG FRIENDS YOU MAKE ALONG THE WAY.

HOW HAS BEING PART OF ARIEL HELPED YOU FEEL INCLUDED AND SUPPORTED, AND WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PLACES?

ARIEL HAS MADE ME FEEL INCLUDED AND SUPPORTED BY GIVING ME AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES THAT PUSH AND CHALLENGE ME OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE WHILE NURTURING AND GUIDING ME, ALWAYS HAVING FAITH IN ME. IT'S DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PLACES BECAUSE OF ITS INCLUSIVITY—EVERYONE HAS THE CHANCE TO DO WHAT THEY LOVE WHILE BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I AM NOW GOING TO COLLEGE AT BN1 ARTS, WHERE I GET TO DO MUSICAL THEATRE EVERY DAY FOR 2 YEARS, WHILE STILL ENJOYING ARIEL EVERY SATURDAY.

IN WHAT WAYS DOES ARIEL'S COMMUNITY MAKE YOU FEEL WELCOMED AND VALUED?

THE FAMILY FEELING AT ARIEL MAKES EVERY WEEK SO VALUABLE. THE TUTORS ARE INSPIRING AND ONE OF A KIND.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING OF JOINING ARIEL?

I WOULD SAY THAT ARIEL TRULY HAS THE MOST AMAZING ATMOSPHERE. IT TEACHES YOU LIFELONG SKILLS WHILE PROVIDING SUPPORT AND COMFORT WHEN YOU NEED IT.





CECILY



WHEN DID YOU JOIN ARIEL?

I'VE BEEN PART OF ARIEL FOR 6 YEARS. I ATTEND THE WEEKLY SEN OTHELLO'S CLASSES AND AM A BUDDY TO A CHILD WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS. SINCE 2022, I'VE BEEN IN THE ARIEL MUSICALITY CHOIR AND HAVE HAD PRIVATE LAMDA LESSONS. I'M JUST ABOUT TO START GRADE 8.

HOW HAS IT BENEFITED YOU?

ARIEL HAS BOOSTED MY CONFIDENCE IN SINGING, DANCING, AND ACTING. I'M ABOUT TO START A 2-YEAR MUSICAL THEATRE COURSE AT THE BRIT SCHOOL, AND ARIEL HAS GIVEN ME THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES TO PREPARE FOR THIS NEXT STEP. I'VE ALSO MADE LIFELONG FRIENDS AND BUILT STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH SUPPORTIVE TUTORS—ARIEL TRULY FEELS LIKE ONE BIG FAMILY!

FAVOURITE PART OF ARIEL?

DOING WHAT I LOVE, SURROUNDED BY AMAZING PEOPLE AND TAUGHT BY TALENTED AND KIND TUTORS.

HOW HAS BEING PART OF ARIEL HELPED YOU FEEL INCLUDED AND SUPPORTED?

FROM DAY ONE, I FELT PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL. MY BUDDY BECAME A BEST FRIEND, AND EVERYONE SHARES THE SAME PASSION, MAKING FRIENDSHIPS EASY. THE TUTORS REALLY KNOW ME AND GUIDE ME. THROUGH THE OTHELLO'S BUDDIES PROGRAM, I HELP CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS DISCOVER PERFORMING, WHICH HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY REWARDING.

HOW DOES ARIEL'S COMMUNITY MAKE YOU FEEL WELCOMED AND VALUED?

I'VE ALWAYS FELT LISTENED TO AND SUPPORTED. I'VE MADE FRIENDS ACROSS ACADEMIES AND BEEN GUIDED BY TUTORS WHO GENUINELY CARE ABOUT HELPING ME BECOME THE BEST PERFORMER I CAN BE.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE LOOKING TO JOIN ARIEL?

IF YOU LOVE DRAMA OR MUSICAL THEATRE, ARIEL IS THE PLACE FOR YOU! IT'S FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES, EXPERIENCES, AND A SUPPORTIVE, PASSIONATE COMMUNITY.





The Fees



As an independent, family-run academy, rather than a franchise, we are able to offer affordable fees while maintaining the highest standards of teaching.



We believe that high-quality performing arts training should be accessible and we are confident that our students receive exceptional value for money — combining professional-level tuition with a warm and supportive environment.



Discretionary scholarships are also available, as we are passionate about ensuring that as many young people as possible can benefit from the confidence, skills and opportunities our lessons provide.



Upon completion of our enquiry form, full fee details will be sent to you: [Enquiry Form](#)

Connect With Us

- Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates and community news.
- Join our Instagram community to see behind-the-scenes moments and performances.
- Visit our website for detailed information on programmes and events.
- Contact us with any queries or questions.



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