WHY LDA ROCKS

Small classes (Max usually 12) and a personal approach.

Taught by experts and working professionals.

Acting classes are core to the program. These classes are not only in classical acting. There is however a belief that if you can act Shakespeare you can act most things.

An intense conservatory experience 14 weeks to purely concentrate on theatre all day and every day.

Teaching is for all 14 weeks and does not focus on production but on learning.

An exceedingly practical course giving the student-actor real tools to take into their future work.

One on ones for several classes. Example: audition technique

One on ones for the Alexander Technique (no other school provides this)

A minimum of 12 theatre visits. Cost included in fees. (BADA provides 8)

Visits to Stratford and another place of interest included. (an English village or Oxford. Brighton, Bath or Cambridge)

Educational guided walks putting the plays in context of SPACE PLACE and TIME in London.

Casting is equal opportunities. (not big Hamlet..little grave-digger).

Useful Masterclasses/ Workshops: the use of theatre skills in many walks of life. This semester we had workshops from: an agent/screen-writer/casting director for camera/actors in business training/...and Ralph Fiennes!
Housed in one of the prettiest and most central areas of London very close to the Centre.

Social events with other London Centre students and the wider Heythrop Community.

A life-enriching training for human-beings many of whom may become theatre practitioners.

A curriculum based on the great British Drama Schools.

Open-rehearsals and Sharings at the end of term to a small invited audience. LDA concentrates on teaching rather than performance and the tyrannies of casting. Testing learned new skills in front of other people.

A safe environment, where people are encouraged to dare and can "fail" safely. All students are treated as equals whatever their theatre experience has been.

A single cohort per semester means that Faculty concentrate solely on this one group, leading to a personal and unique experience.

A wonderful opportunity to make new friends for life on a shared adventure.
LDA Student Testimonials:

You will be in class from 9-5, read a lot of plays, learn, cry, scream, grow, explore, laugh, laugh until you cry, laugh until you pee (or close enough), befriend people you never thought you would, understand people different from yourself, hear some fantastic accents, hear some even better English phrases, be pushed, nurtured, entertained, and watched by teachers and peers, and you will miss home. Most of all though, you will leave the city fourteen weeks later a completely different person. Wiser, more grounded, and closer than ever to becoming who you want to be. It is not for the faint of heart. But, then again, what’s worth doing that isn’t? - Evan Sibley.

"Theatre is a Vampire" is what Kathryn Pogson told us on the first day of LDA, and that is something that we quickly came to recognize quite immediately. Many study abroad programs leave their participants with memories of travel as the apex of their time, but - though we had travel experiences for many epic stories - we gained something more: the wildest semester-long love affair with this Vampire that rules our lives. It was not a perfect semester: it was tough, it was brutal and heartbreaking at times, and I even have some regrets from it - ironically, learning to play requires an awful lot of work - but if you asked me to dive in again now, knowing what I do, knowing the good and the bad, the loneliness, the feeling of solidarity, the exhilaration, the long work days, the long nights, playing ridiculous games with ridiculous people, dancing up a storm - literally and metaphorically - fighting onstage and off and waking up ungodly hours to train for a work that will likely never pay us what most sane people consider a living wage, I would dive in without a seconds hesitation and work harder, play harder and bare my neck to this beautiful vampire. What I've learned from these teachers- some of the most inspirational people I have ever learned from- I will carry with me as long as I draw breath. - Matthew Tiemstra.

Every day of my term at LDA I was eager to get up early in the morning in order to begin a day full of playing, experimenting, and making loads of mistakes. I came to the program as quite a perfectionist when it came to creating work, but I soon learned that failing gloriously is the only way to grow and develop as both a person
and a performer. LDA was an incredibly safe environment to make these mistakes in, despite having to negotiate living in a new country and collaborating with so many new people. However, the unfamiliarity was what made my experience so electric and memorable: I was challenged artistically, socially, mentally, and physically and my ability to succeed throughout the semester in all of these areas bolstered my confidence and left me ready to tackle anything. If you are considering applying to the program but are afraid of the major changes and challenges that will ensue, I can reassure you that the support and care you will receive from faculty and fellow classmates is so overwhelming that there is no direction to go but up. In addition to a perfectly-planned course of study, the city of London became like another classroom and teacher for me and my classmates. We explored a variety of facets and boroughs and gained a great deal from heavily involving ourselves in this new culture. The theatre we were able to see while abroad was a irreplaceable supplement to the work we were doing in class and encouraged to think and engage not only as actors, but as writers, critics, directors, and well-rounded theatre artists. My time at LDA has shaped me into a much braver person than I was when I began and instead of being afraid to take on a challenging role or a dense scene, I run to these challenges with open arms and look forward to making a mess of things. I have made memories and friendships that will last me a lifetime, and I would give anything to go back to class for a day with all these friends and teachers, but my time in London with LDA has also inspired me to move on and seek out new and exciting opportunities. - Catherine Purcell.