



Our first school opened in Loughborough in 2011 and this year we are delighted to be celebrating our 10th anniversary. BrightLights offer classes for 4-18 year olds and are run by myself, Nick Sutcliffe. I am originally from Loughborough and graduated 25 years ago from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. Since then I have appeared in the West End several times, plus worked in major regional theatres, on large touring productions, TV and commercials. I have also worked extensively as a director and choreographer, recently having directed four abridged Shakespeare plays at The Bristol Old Vic as part of the BBC One Night of Shakespeare, as well as teaching and delivering workshops all over the UK.

The accent of our schools is very much on learning through fun, with everyone having the opportunity to shine. Students in the Main Theatre School (7-18's) are arranged into groups by age, and every week have lessons of acting, singing and dance. Our Bright Young Things (4-6's) have around 30 minutes each of acting, singing and dance lessons. I believe massively in young people learning the performing arts, the benefits are enormous. Obviously, they learn to sing dance and act, but at the same time their self-confidence grows, they learn to work as a team, to use and stretch their imaginations, to speak clearly and confidently and so much more.

We have a fantastic team of experienced teachers, all of whom work professionally at the highest level as performers themselves. most of our teachers have previously appeared in the West End! In addition to this we have regular guest teachers from the West End, TV and film industries.

We continue to have Covid19 precautions in place, and will change these as needed according to the current government guidelines at the time.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

Do you have to audition?

Nobody auditions to join BrightLights. We are open to everyone, experienced or otherwise. Students come to BrightLights for many reasons, some because they plan on following a career in the arts, others just because they enjoy singing and dancing and some to help with their self-confidence. Everyone is equally welcome.

What are the times of sessions?

BrightLights Acting operates on Thursday evenings at our new studio complex at Sutton House, Bishop Meadow Road Loughborough LE11 5RE We run two sessions, the first from 17:30– 19:00 which is for 8-12 year olds and the second from 19:30-21:00 for 13-18 year olds.

Our Bright Young Things sessions are on Saturdays at Sutton House. We have 2

sessions, 09:30-11:00 and 11:45-13:15.

Our Main School sessions run on Fridays 17:00-20:00 at The Castle Rock School Coalville, Saturdays 10:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00 at Sutton House Loughborough and Sundays 10:00-13:00 at Sutton House Loughborough.

We ask all our students to arrive 10 minutes before the start of sessions to ensure we can get the most out of the time available.

What do I need to do to register?

We require a fully completed Registration Form along with payment for the 2 taster sessions to secure a place. Registration Forms are available to download from our website or you can call or email us and we will send it to you. Our online registration form can be found in the email accompanying this FAQ.

The current fee for the taster sessions are as follows:

BrightLights Acting - £22.00

Bright Young Things - £22.00

Main School - £42.00

What happens after the taster sessions?

If you decide you wish to sign up after the taster sessions, fees are due either termly or by monthly bank transfer (details of which will be provided to you by the end of the trial). For payment by monthly bank transfer we divide the whole school years' fees over 12 equal payments. If after the trial you do not wish to take up a space, there is of course no obligation to.

What are the term dates?

We roughly shadow Leicestershire County Council school term dates, without breaking for half term. In the main school we have 3 terms a year totalling 40 weeks. Our Bright Young Things also have 3 terms per year however they total to 39 weeks.

Do you offer sibling discount?

In the main school, we offer a discount for siblings, so £21.00 per week is the cost for the first child, any brothers or sisters just pay £15.00 per week.

Do you have a uniform?

We do not impose a uniform in order to avoid extra costs for parents. BrightLights students should wear comfortable loose-fitting clothing suitable for movement and dance along with soft soled shoes or jazz shoes, no sandals or boots! Leggings or tracksuit bottoms are ideal. Please no jeans or skirts. We do have BrightLights branded

hoodies and polo shirts for sale at school at very competitive prices for anyone that would like to buy them.

Are there any extra costs?

There are no extra costs for BrightLights students. We do not charge a fee for being in any of our shows, or for costumes, props etc. Our summer productions are completely funded by ticket sales, all we ask is that you invite as many people as possible and help us sell out each performance! We do not make a profit from our shows, all the proceeds are ploughed back into better costumes, better sets and better lighting etc. So, all we ask is for as much help as possible in selling tickets. We do organise Theatre trips occasionally, but only when we believe it is suitable for our students and we can keep the cost reasonable.

When do students perform?

Our students perform at least twice a year.

In the Main School each Christmas, we perform a specially written Christmas Show exclusively for family and friends. In our Christmas Shows all students including our Bright Young Things, have a few lines each. We are delighted that our Christmas Shows continue to support Rainbows Hospice for Children, and so far we have raised over £10,000 for this fantastic local charity. We plan to perform again at Christmas 2021

Each summer every one of our students in our main schools perform in a fully staged musical at Loughborough Town Hall. Our end of year productions are fully staged with professional set, lighting, sound and special effects, and all the students are fully costumed. There is no charge whatsoever for students to appear in our shows, and BrightLights supplies all costumes etc. All we ask each year is that our parents and friends help us to sell as many tickets as possible. It is the ticket income that funds the production, not our parents!! All our schools perform at Loughborough Town Hall. Our previous critically acclaimed productions include "The Wizard of Oz", "Grease", "Annie" and Disneys "Beauty and the Beast" In 2018 for the first time, we performed 2 fully staged musicals! Our Coalville school performed their first full scale musical, "The Wiz" and all our Loughborough schools performed "High School Musical!". In the summer of 2019 our students performed "Calamity Jane" or "Chicago". We were unable to perform in 2020 but will be returning to Loughborough Town Hall in 2021

In BrightLights Acting, we usually perform around Easter as well as performing a Showcase to Parents/Carers at the end of the Summer Term. In 2019 our students performed "James and the Giant Peach". Our 2020 production of Animal Farm regrettably had to be cancelled with just weeks to go.

Our Bright Youngs Things perform with the Main School in the Christmas show and also perform their own Showcase to Parents/Carers at the end of the Summer Term.

In addition, we are invited to perform at various events throughout the year.

Do you have guest teachers?

We aim to have at least 2 guest teachers a term in both the Autumn and Spring Terms. Our previous guest teachers have included West End TV actors, casting directors and professional singers. Some of our guests' biographies can be found on our website. We have also had an ex-cast member from Coronation Street on our audition panel for the

end of year shows, and a West End casting director has auditioned some of our students on several occasions for professional theatre work. This means our students are receiving top notch tuition from people who really are at the top of their game, something that we believe to be unique in the area.

Are staff DBS checked?

All our staff, chaperones and volunteers have current up to date DBS Certificates. A qualified paediatric first aider is always on the premises. Students are covered by our insurance during sessions, and we have an extensive Child Protection Policy that our staff are required to adhere to at all times.

Do students need to bring anything?

Just enthusiasm! Students should bring a drink and are more than welcome to bring their own snacks if they wish. We have a small tuck shop that is open at break time.

How do I contact you during sessions?

You can contact us on either 01509 646647 or 01530 542646. If we do not answer straight away, please leave us a voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible.