

LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE

For me, as a musical theatre actress and singer, London is simply the place to be. The immense diversity of both West End and Off-West End theatres is fascinating and inspiring. Not without good reason, it is regarded as the cultural capital of the world. I was lucky enough to do my undergraduate studies in musical theatre at the Berlin University of Arts. As one of ten students, I studied singing, acting and dance intensively for four years. In 2010, I graduated with distinction and began working as an actress in various theatres all over Germany, playing lead roles such as Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. After four years of working professionally, I felt it was time to refocus and take a step back from my professional career in order to study once more. The one-year postgraduate musical theatre course at the Royal Academy of Music seemed like the perfect thing for me to do – it has certainly proven to be. The course is hugely intense. My day at the Academy starts at 8:40 with a physical workout and a dance class. In the course of the day, we have acting classes, individual singing and repertoire lessons, voice tutorials and rehearsals for projects and performances, usually until 21:00. This intensity grants us the absolute maximum of input and time with our teachers that we could possibly get – a true privilege, as we are working with famous directors, composers and conductors.

Through cultural and intellectual exchange with my teachers and fellow students, I am not only improving my technical abilities, but am also learning a lot about myself.

On November 30th, we hosted a concert at the Prince Edward Theatre in London's West End. To celebrate 20 years of musical theatre at RAM, we performed *Curtain Up!* together with the Royal Academy of Music Orchestra – a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Debuting on a West End stage has been the highlight of my first three months here in London. I want to express my deep gratitude to the BCCG Foundation and of course the Anglo-German Club. The award has been a huge help and a great load off my shoulders. It has allowed me for example to take on an extra course at the Academy, namely the Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music (LRAM). Alongside my regular lessons, I am now studying to become a certified voice and performance teacher. Once I've received my LRAM Diploma, I'll be licensed to teach internationally.

Thanks to everyone involved in the decision to grant me this award, and to everyone who has so generously sponsored it. It is a great gift that people care about and an investment in cultural and academic exchange and the future of our society.



Karoline Goebel, Kassel
(currently in London)