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Creative Industries (ADPA6004)

Career Action Plan

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Introduction

My chosen career path is to be a performer. My goal is to be a working actor in musical theatre, acting for stage, film, and tv. This is the right career path for me as I have been training in acting, singing, and dancing for several years and it is the one thing I have always wanted to do. I am a very motivated person, and I have big aspirations for myself. I want to act in musicals, plays, films and tv shows, so the performer career path is the correct path for me. I have spent the last two years at university honing my skills, which will help me be the most employable actor I can be. As part of my degree, I have two one to one singing lessons, one for technique and one for musical repertoire. I also have had consistent classes in Ballet, Tap and Jazz, making me a more versatile dancer. I have also received training in acting, learning about many different practitioners such as, Stanford Meisner, Uta Hagen and Stanislavski, which expands my knowledge and skill set in acting. I have daily body conditioning classes, which helps my stamina, strength, and flexibility. On top of that training, I also have volunteered for out of university projects such as two short films, dance shows and a pantomime, just so I am making the most of every opportunity I have while living in Cardiff. This action plan will cover my short, medium and long-term goals for my career. I will self-analyse my skillset and career aspirations, research the industry I want to go into, conduct a realistic action plan summary, as well as my predicted barriers and solutions.

Self-assessment and industry readiness

I am pleased with the progress that I have made during my degree so far. I believe that I have made improvements in all three disciplines and that is because of the high-standard training I have had at university as well as the hard work and dedication I have put into my course. In singing, I have been able to expand my vocal range, improve my

overall tone, and gained confidence in my ability. I also have expanded my musical knowledge and repertoire; before starting university, I had three songs in my repertoire file and now I have over twenty songs in my file that I know I can sing comfortably and securely. I received commendable feedback in my assessment “Lots of positive vocal skills presented here and plenty of potential” (WAVDA 2025). In my first year in dance, I feel I have made great improvements. My technique in ballet and jazz have improved tremendously. I have also picked up new skills in tap and commercial, which I had no prior experience in. These new skills are genres of dance I want to continue practicing making me more of an all-round dancer. In acting, I am incredibly pleased with my progression throughout my degree. I have gained a lot of knowledge and experience in acting and it is something I am truly passionate about. I have learnt about practitioners such as Stanislavski, Uta Hagen, Meisner and more.

My training has also been supported by many aspects like roles, masterclasses, assessments, and feedback. During my training, I have played roles like: The Scarecrow in ‘The Wizard of Oz’, multiple roles in ‘I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change’ and Sam in the student written play ‘A Dead Space’. I was selected for an acting through song masterclass, led by Samuel Wyn-Morris. This was my first ever singing masterclass and I was extremely nervous when approaching my song. The direction I received from Sam was greatly beneficial and I had strong feedback.

As pleased as I am with my progress thus far, I am aware that the performing industry is incredibly competitive and I have several areas where I can develop my abilities further. In singing, my range is still a part of my voice I need to continue to work on. Whilst I have noticed significant improvements, my vocal range is not where I would like it to be. I also need to develop a consistent vibrato in my singing. I have found that my voice suits contemporary musical theatre and pop rock more than legit musical theatre because my vibrato is not as controlled as I need it to be for songs in that style. My vocal health and stamina are something that I am actively working on supporting and improving. I am at a stage in my training where I know I can sing healthily, without straining or pushing for higher notes. However, it is not reliable, especially when I must sing multiple songs in an abbreviated period or a song that has a lot of jumps in range. For dance, my flexibility is the main thing I need to improve on going forward in my training. I have developed competent technique in ballet and jazz however my flexibility is holding me back in those styles specifically. Stretching is always something I have struggled with being consistent with, and because I am not naturally flexible, I find it challenging to complete stretches without feeling discomfort. My ability in tap is also not where it would like it to be. I have developed basic technique in tap however; my rhythm and accuracy of steps need refining. In acting alone, I need to work on being braver with my acting choices. I meet difficulties with characters that manifest with more comedic attributes. Without improvement, I will struggle to be casted as a versatile actor.

Comparing my current skills alongside my areas for development, personally, I am not ready for the industry just yet. I have plans to complete a post graduate musical theatre course once my degree is finished. I am elated with my current progress, but I believe another year of training and weekly lessons in singing and dance after that year will give me what I need to be industry ready.

Industry Research

For me to thrive in this industry, I have chosen to conduct personal research that I would need post graduating. There are many current market trends specifically for the musical theatre industry. The rise in social media, more specifically TikTok, has been an amazing tool for aspiring performers to grow audiences before and as they enter the industry. A notable example of this is Hannah Lowther. She started her TikTok account in lockdown, grew her following and has now been in productions like Legally Blonde. Being more proactive on social media would be an amazing pathway before I enter the industry as having an online presence along with skills from my training, would make the start of my career more accessible. I have researched key roles, and organisations; and as a queer actor in 2026, there are a lot more opportunities for me than there have ever been “New queer approaches have the potential to expand representation within musical theatre further and welcome more intersectional identities to access the stage.” (Eyer, 2025) While having more opportunities for queer performers is exceptional, that does not mean there is no room for improvement. Queer performers still do not have the same privileges as heterosexual performers. Organisations such as Spotlight allow actors to access auditions for any kind of performing project. If I have a Spotlight membership, finding auditions will be much more straightforward. Analysing the current opportunities and entry pathways into the industry for me, I do have the advantage of being a cis-gender man. With there being much fewer men in the industry, that means I do have less competition for roles. Also, being queer and having experience playing queer and heterosexual roles means I am more castable because I can play more varied roles. For my entry pathway into the industry, I can see myself being casted as a young character, late teens to mid-twenties, no specific sexuality, however, I believe I am more comfortable playing queer roles.

I understand that once I am in the industry, there will be certain expectations that I will have to meet to get hired. I will be expected to use the skills that I have developed in my training in the audition room, behave in a professional manner, and to ensure I am meeting all the standards the creative team require. There are expectations when it comes to professional auditions; these are “Preparation, professionalism and practice” (Barton, 2025). Also, through research, I have discovered that equity is a great organisation to assist me if I ever face any prejudice in the industry. The training expectations for this career are to make sure I am well versed in all three disciplines.

The risks and challenges for this career path may involve funding barriers. If I do not receive enough financial assistance, studying a post graduate degree in London will not be possible, therefore suspending my training until I am economically secure to provide funding for my training. In conjunction with this, health complications may become a factor. If I injure myself in a class, my audition bracket will narrow down significantly as I won't be able to audition for roles that involve a lot of physical demands. Lara Bianca Pilcher says that an injury could halt a performers source of income consequently causing anxiety and stress (Pilcher, 2023).

Career Goals Using the SMARTIE Framework

Goal	Measure of Success	Deadline	Impact/Purpose
Go on to study for a master's in Musical Theatre or Acting	I am currently in the application process	September 2026	Expanding my training and making me more employable
Perform in at least 2 screen acting projects	I have networked and made connections with several film makers in and around Cardiff	November 2027	Giving me more experience in a field I want to progress in
Develop a professional showreel	I am currently training to develop my skills to create the best possible showreel I can	November 2027	Increase my chances for future employment
Create a backup training fund	I am currently using my wages I get at work to put into a savings fund	September 2026	Allowing me the chance to fund further training post-graduation
Representation and professional access	I am currently contacting agents and casting directors to see my university showcase	September 2027	Increasing my chance of getting into more audition rooms
Create original work e.g. my own play, film or musical	I am in the process of creating an independent project	May 2026	Expanding my creativity and giving me expanding career paths

Short-term goals

To summarise my career goals, I created a SMARTIE table which allowed me to divide my goals into three sections: short, medium, and long-term goals. I have several short-term goals, which I would like to complete within the next twelve months, one being, I would like to study a post graduate course in musical theatre or acting. Since this is a short-term goal, I have already auditioned for drama schools and have received a place at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Having another year of training at this school or another school I have auditioned for would give me more contact training

time with industry professionals and allow me to create professional relationships, leading to agency representation.

Medium-term goals

That leads onto my medium-term goals, which I would like to complete within the next one-three years. My goal is to be represented by an agency by September 2027. Getting an agent would allow me to get professional auditions in theatre, film and TV easily and more frequently. This means that I have more opportunities for future employment. Furthermore, I intend to create a professional showreel. By doing this, I can add it to my Spotlight profile, which gives casting directors an idea of what I am capable of and could increase my chances for future employment. In addition to this, I plan to be a part of at least two screen acting projects. Screen acting is a huge passion of mine and I have already made connections in Cardiff and have been in two short films. These experiences have enhanced my desire to do more screen acting projects and I believe that if I am able to have more experience in that part of the industry, I will be able to expand my casting bracket and the types of jobs I can audition for will expand.

Long-term goals

My long-term goals are ambitious however; I know they can be achieved if I put in the effort and continue my professional practice. These long-term goals I have created are aimed to be completed after three years from now. I wish to have a significant role in a feature film and or television show. The timescale that I am giving myself for this would be in the next five-ten years as I think I would need more time to advance my skills and gain more experience in the screen acting world. The additional resources I would need to complete this goal would be an agent to get me into audition rooms for these projects. As well as this, I would need professional materials: such as up-to-date headshots, a CV that shows the film and television experience I have had and a screen acting showreel which could provide evidence of my work. For this goal, I would also need to ensure the job meets my personal values: I would need to make sure the job can pay me fairly in consideration to the work I have to do. In addition, the creative team would need to provide an accepting and inclusive environment for queer people. From my independent research, I have discovered that many queer people such as Nathan Lane have had bad experiences in the industry. Lane was told he was “too gay to play the part” in 1996’s Space Jam (Wallcott, 2025). Along with this long-term goal, another milestone I hope to achieve in the next five-seven years would be to play Melchior Gabor in Spring Awakening. I would achieve this goal by studying the musical, becoming knowledgeable of the character, whilst also being strict with my professional practice. I would make sure I am having as many singing lessons as possible as he is the lead and sings extensively in the show. I also must make sure that I have songs in my repertoire that reflect the character and that I can use in a professional audition. I have given myself the timescale of five-seven years as Melchior is a teenager and if I am

over the age of twenty-seven, I consider it unlikely that I would be seen by a panel for that role. It is necessary for me to make sure that I am agent-represented and that my agent can get me in the audition room, furthermore, there needs to be a creative team producing a production of Spring Awakening. The only equity consideration I would need for this show is that I require payment that provides me with enough money to live comfortably wherever that production is in, whether that is in a city like London or if it is a touring production.

Anticipated Barriers & Solutions

Barrier/Risk	Potential impact	Mitigation Strategy
Financial instability after graduation	Not being able to live full time in a city	Find a consistent job outside of performing to give me a stable income
High audition rejection rate	Not getting a stable source of income	Audition for as many projects possible, to increase my chances in performing contracts
Limited screen experience	Struggling with acting for screen	Audition for lower budget film projects to gain experience before auditioning for higher budget projects

There are several barriers that I may face in this chosen career path. I may be financially unable to live in a city like London. London is the city where I am likely to get greater opportunities in, however, it is incredibly expensive to live there. To combat this potential risk, I intend on having a consistent job that I can always go back to when I am not in a performing contract. Besides this, there is also a high audition rejection rate in the industry. This is something I must prepare myself for as it will be arduous to get performing work. My mitigation strategy for this is to make sure I am auditioning for multiple projects, as I would need every available opportunity to strengthen my likelihood of employment. My final risk is my limited experience in screen acting. Acting for screen is a skill that I have not developed. “Experienced actors have trained themselves never, ever, to come in over someone else’s line unless they are expressly told they can do so” (Tucker, 2023, chapter 4) This could mean that if I get a screen

acting job, I could experience obstacles when working on this job type. To combat this, I will gain as much experience in lower budget film projects as possible to sharpen my skills in screen acting.

Conclusion

To conclude, my journey in musical theatre thus far has equipped me with the skills needed to pursue a career in the performing arts field. I also know what my next steps are to make sure my proficiencies are refined; that would be to complete a post graduate course in musical theatre, achieve agency representation and gain experience in musical theatre and screen acting work, while also keeping on top of weekly classes in singing and dance. Based on the research I have conducted, it has been clarified that I should not face prejudice based on my sexuality. In addition, I am going in the right direction to eventually achieve my chosen goals. This action plan can aid my transition into the industry as it gives me a clear pathway on what I need to do to succeed in this industry. I aim to continue to be rigorous with my professional development, making sure I am taking regular classes, responding to feedback, and expanding my knowledge in this field.

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