

# MUSIC – DANCE – THEATRE – CIRCUS – STREET ARTS... PERFORMING ARTS

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The performing arts are less and less compartmentalised: with his Zingaro theatre company, Bartabas creates equestrian performances combining dance, music and circus; the Théâtre du Centaure stages Macbeth on horseback and the trapeze artists of the Arts Sauts troupe offer us both lyric poetry and acrobatics. And these are only a few examples of contemporary artistic productions to be found on the margins of traditional categories. Indeed, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication has chosen to fuse the different departments involved into a single one: the Department of Music, Dance, Theatre and Shows (DMDTS).

Another feature of today's performing arts is that there are increasing numbers of private classes and training programmes for artists and technicians alike—they are to be found everywhere, throughout France, and notwithstanding the uncertainty of employment prospects. This proliferation is probably due to the fact that entry into the various professions has traditionally been through apprenticeship, not only for technicians, but for performers and even administrators. And recognition through awards and competition, which are quite numerous and often international, still takes precedence over degrees, which are usually required only to teach art education in French middle and high schools - on option that foreign students are not generally interested in.

In the field of dance, the learning process begins quite early and by 18 or 20 years of age, a dancer is practically trained; only instruction in choreography and choreographic notation or further training courses are open to adults. In the case of music, participation in master classes organised in France, as elsewhere throughout the world, allow those who already have artistic experience and wish to develop professionally recognised talent to enter national music schools and conservatories; admission is always based on auditions and growing numbers of foreign students, notably Asians, are passing the competitive entrance exams for the conservatories.. For theatre, fluent French is required. The national drama schools and conservatories are public institutions and tuition is free.

## NATIONAL HIGHER-EDUCATION SCHOOLS AND CONSERVATORIES

### Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon

<http://www.cnsmdp-lyon.fr>

### Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris

<http://www.cnsmdp.fr/>

Length of studies: 4 years

Admissions procedure: selection through competitive exam.

Programmes for dancers are limited to young people under 18 years old. Choreographic notation diploma in 2 years, selection through competitive exam, minimum age: 21 years.

In music, 7 departments (jazz, musicology, vocal or instrumental disciplines, etc.), competitive exam limited to candidates under 26-30 years old depending on the department

In Paris, 4-year post-secondary training programme in audio professions, admission via competitive entrance exam. 18% of regular conservatory students are foreigners; partnerships with more than 30 countries worldwide (master classes, student exchanges and guest instructors). The dance department at CNSMD Lyon is involved notably in various Asian countries (Vietnam, Korea, China) with support for setting up dance schools, but also in Canada, Colombia and elsewhere

### École Normale de Musique de Paris Alfred Cortot

<http://www.ecolenormalecortot.com/>

Length of studies: depends on entry level

Admissions procedure: application followed by placement audition for successful candidates, no age limit

Founded in 1919 by the pianist Alfred Cortot. Private school with very high-quality instruction, low tuition (1500- 2000€ depending on classes), recognised by the State (Ministry of Culture). 1,200 students, including 400 foreigners. Study abroad in Nagoya, Rome, Casablanca and Athens.

### Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art dramatique de Paris

<http://www.cnsad.fr/>

Length of studies: 3 years

Admissions procedure: selection through competitive exam

No prior diploma is required but candidates must have completed at least one year of theatre training with a professional who serves as their reference. About 30 students in each year's class. A few foreign trainees between are admitted each year; they must be between 21 and 27 years old, have recognised theatre training and hold a scholarship from their government or another body. They cannot subsequently apply for regular admission through the competitive exam.

### École Supérieure d'art dramatique du Théâtre National de Strasbourg

<http://www.tns.fr/>

Length of studies: 3 years

Admissions procedure: competitive exam given 2 out of every 3 years (2007 and 2008)

Candidates must be under 27 years of age, with a secondary education diploma. 4 sections (acting, stage managementstage techniques, stage design-costumes, directing-dramaturgy), all of which work together. Theatre experience required. Application pack may be downloaded from website.

### École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre (Lyon)

<http://www.ensatt.fr/>

Length of studies: 3 or 4 years

Admissions procedure: under 25 years old, selection through competitive exam

9 departments offer training for actors, stage and costume designers, light and sound designers, performing arts administrators, dramatists, technical directors and theatre directors. Masters-level diploma granted (5 years of postsecondary studies). Fluent spoken and written French required. Public institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education

### REGIONAL NETWORK (THEATRE, MUSIC, DANCE)

The 145 national conservatories in the administrative regions and the national music and dance schools are intended to train young people in these artistic fields or encourage amateur practices.

They do not offer higher degree programmes apart from certain exceptions; notably in the dramatic arts field (Montpellier, Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons).

[http://cimd.cite-musique.fr/services/francais/ecoles/ecoles\\_ent.asp?type=cnrenm](http://cimd.cite-musique.fr/services/francais/ecoles/ecoles_ent.asp?type=cnrenm)

### DANCE, MUSIC AND DRAMA SCHOOLS

#### École du Théâtre national de Bretagne

[http://www.t-n-b.fr/ecole\\_tnb/index.asp](http://www.t-n-b.fr/ecole_tnb/index.asp)

Length of studies: 3 years

Admissions procedure: selection through competitive exam between 17 and 26 years old

About 15 students in each year's class, free tuition, possibility of student status and scholarships (as is the case for most schools, students must sign written agreement excluding all parallel work activity).

#### École du Théâtre national de Chaillot

<http://www.theatre-chaillot.fr>

Length of studies: 3 years

Admissions procedure: selection through competitive exam between 17 and 26 years old. 16 students, free tuition, possibility of student status and scholarships, 26 hours of training weekly.

#### École du Centre dramatique national de Saint-Étienne

<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/comedie.saintetienne/ecole.html>

Length of studies: 3 years (about 50 hours/week)

Admissions procedure: selection through competitive exam between 18 and 25 years old

The 10 students selected each year participate in the productions of the Comédie de Saint-Étienne. A national diploma is issued at the end of the programme. Application pack available on the website (attention to deadline!).

#### École régionale d'acteurs de Cannes

<http://www.cannes.fr/francais/theatrefr.html>

Length of studies (required): 3 years

One of France's 8 higher-education institutions signing the Ministry of Culture's 2003 platform on higher education in the dramatic arts. Free tuition, some scholarships. Grants national diploma in acting.

#### Centre National de la Danse Contemporaine d'Angers

<http://www.cndc.fr/>

2-year programme in contemporary choreographic creation for young French or foreign students from 18 to 24 years old.

Solid experience in dance plus good knowledge of choreographic culture required. Must understand spoken French and basic English before entering programme. Institution-specific diploma (CNDC higher studies diploma).

ESSAIS ("Essays") programme:

12 students between 20 and 28 years old, French and foreigners, with post-secondary arts training and/or professional experience as choreographic artists (dancers, choreographers) or coming from other arts fields.

Specific dance training is not necessary but programme involves intensive physical effort. A student working on video in an art school, for example, might enter ESSAIS.

Fluent spoken French and basic English required.

One-year programme (free tuition) in Angers.

### Coline, compagnie d'insertion professionnelle

<http://www.danse-istres.com/compagnie-coline.html>

Length of each session: 20 months

Entrance auditions every 2 years

contemporary dance, for dancers 18-25 years old with solid initial training and intention to pursue a professional career.

Classes and workshops take place at the Maison de la Danse Intercommunale in Istres. Tuition fees: 1,800 €

### Centre Chorégraphique National de Montpellier Languedoc Roussillon

<http://www.mathildemonnier.com/fr/>

ex.e.r.ce (experience.school.research.exercise)

contemporary dance programme for 16 trainees selected by audition, 20-26 years old, various nationalities, 7 months.

Possibility of coming from fields other than dance. Integrated approach to creative process, involving technical and theoretical training and openness to other disciplines

### PUPPETRY

#### École Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette Charleville Mézières

<http://www.marionnette.com>

Length of studies: 3 years

Admissions procedure: selection through competitive entrance exam or in second year with portfolio. Age limit 26 years.

State arts diploma in puppetry (DMA), recognised at European level as 2 years of post-secondary study).

The school belongs to the International Institute of Puppetry and also organises summer courses in French or English for young professionals.

### CIRCUS AND STREET ARTS

For some 15 years, the circus has undergone an unprecedented artistic revival. The richness and diversity of the productions, combining traditional disciplines and borrowings from theatre, dance and visual arts have made it a major phenomenon on the contemporary French arts scene.

#### Centre national des arts du cirque de Châlons-en-Champagne

<http://www.chalons-en-champagne.net/fr/tempslibre8.html>

An institution of higher education under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Communication. Grants a State diploma in circus arts (equivalent to 2 years of postsecondary study). Admission based on application followed by 4-month trial period, programme lasts 3 years.

Wide range of circus disciplines, importance of basics: the ring, nomadism, virtuosity. Learning takes place within the apprenticeship tradition, with artists participating in the teaching programme. Special attention is paid to the medical follow-up of students during their training.

#### École Nationale de Cirque de Rosny-sous-Bois

[http://www.enacr.com/ecole\\_cirque\\_admission.htm](http://www.enacr.com/ecole_cirque_admission.htm)

Admissions based on application and preselection audition followed by 10-day trial. Open to French and foreign candidates ages 16-23.

Preparatory classes for the competitive entrance exam at the Chalons-en-Champagne school also offered.

#### Académie nationale contemporaine des arts du cirque Annie Fratellini Saint-Denis La Plaine

<http://www.academie-fratellini.com/>

Training centre for high-level vocational apprentices. Close ties with artists, continuing vocational training activities offered in artistic and technical fields, diploma in circus arts.

#### Formation avancée et itinérante des Arts de la rue FAI AR

<http://www.faiar.org/>

18-month post-secondary training programme in street arts; open to dramatists, theatre directors, stage designers and choreographers, experienced or budding artists who wish to give voice to their art in public spaces. This programme, which is part of the future Cité des Arts de la Rue in Marseille, draws its technical and human resources from various sites in France and elsewhere in Europe.

## MAIN UNIVERSITIES

France's State-run universities generally do not offer programmes for artists in these fields but rather, train specialists capable of analysing the different forms of artistic expression or managing the institutions which promote them.

They offer undergraduate and graduate diplomas (Bachelor, masters [ex-DESS or DEA], doctorate) and also train future teachers.

**Université de Paris 1, Department of Visual Arts and Sciences of Art**  
[http://www.univparis1.fr/formation/arts\\_sciences\\_humaines\\_rubrique15.html](http://www.univparis1.fr/formation/arts_sciences_humaines_rubrique15.html)

**Université de Paris 8, Saint-Denis - Division of Arts, Philosophy, Aesthetics**  
<http://www-artweb.univ-paris8.fr/sommaire.htm>

**Université de Paris 4 Sorbonne - Department of Music and Musicology**  
[http://www.paris4.sorbonne.fr/fr/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=1050](http://www.paris4.sorbonne.fr/fr/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=1050)

**Université de Paris 10 Nanterre, Division of Literature, Languages and Philosophy**  
[http://www.u-paris10.fr/E/0/fiche\\_\\_\\_structure/](http://www.u-paris10.fr/E/0/fiche___structure/)

**Université Strasbourg 2 Marc Bloch, Arts Department**  
<http://www-umb.u-strasbg.fr/index.html>

**Université Bordeaux 3 Michel de Montaigne, Arts Department**  
[http://www.u-bordeaux3.fr/Ufr/formation\\_art.htm](http://www.u-bordeaux3.fr/Ufr/formation_art.htm)

**Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour, Division of Literature, Languages and Humanities**  
<http://www.univ-pau.fr/>

**Université de Bourgogne, Dijon, Humanities Division**  
<http://www.u-bourgogne.fr/index.php?rid=6>

**Université de Bretagne Rennes 2, Division of Arts, Literature, Communication**  
<http://www.uhb.fr>

**Université François Rabelais-Tours, Division of Arts and Humanities**  
<http://www.univ-tours.fr/>

**Université de Reims Champagne Ardenne, Division of Literature and Humanities**  
<http://www.univ-reims.fr/>

**Université de Provence, Aix Marseille, UFR Lettres, Arts, Communication et Sciences du Langage**  
<http://www.up.univ-mrs.fr/lacs/>

**Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis, Division of Literature, Arts and Humanities**  
<http://portail.unice.fr/>

**Université de Toulouse 2, Division of Literature, Philosophy and Music**  
<http://www.univ-tlse2.fr/>

**Université Lumière Lyon 2, Departments of Performing Arts, Music and Musicology**  
[http://lesla.univ-lyon2.fr/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=5](http://lesla.univ-lyon2.fr/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=5)

**Université Paul-Verlaine de Metz, Division of Humanities and Arts**  
<http://www.sha.univ-metz.fr/presentation/index.php>

**Université de Nancy 2, Division of History, Geography and Musicology**  
<http://www.univ-nancy2.fr/presentation/campus/ufrrhistgeo.html>

**Université d'Évry Val d'Essonne, Department of Arts and Music**  
[http://www.univ-evry.fr/PagesHtml/UFRetIUT.htm#hors\\_ufv](http://www.univ-evry.fr/PagesHtml/UFRetIUT.htm#hors_ufv)

**Université Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne, Division of Arts, Literature, Languages**  
<http://portail.univ-st-etienne.fr/>

**Université de Grenoble 3, Stendhal, Department of Classical and Modern Literature**  
<http://www.u-grenoble3.fr/>

**Université de Grenoble 2, Pierre Mendès-France, Humanities Division**  
[http://webu2.upmf-grenoble.fr/UFRSH/0/fiche\\_\\_\\_structure/](http://webu2.upmf-grenoble.fr/UFRSH/0/fiche___structure/)

**Université de Poitiers, Division of Humanities and Arts**  
<http://www.univ-poitiers.fr/univ/sha.htm>

**Université de Picardie, Jules Verne, Humanities Division, Performing Arts**  
<http://www.u-picardie.fr/>

**Université de Lille 3, Charles de Gaulle, Division of Arts and Culture**  
<http://www.univ-lille3.fr/portail/index.php?page=ArtsCulture>

**Université Montpellier 3 Paul Valéry, Division of Literature, Arts, Philosophy, Linguistics**  
<http://www.univ-montp3.fr/etudes/uf1/index.htm>

**Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, Division of Language Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences**  
<http://slhs.univ-fcomte.fr/>

**Université de Caen Basse-Normandie, Humanities Division**  
<http://www.unicaen.fr/sc-homme/>

**Université catholique de l'Ouest (Angers), Institute of Arts, Literature and History**  
<http://www.uco.fr>

## ON THE WEB

**Cité de la Musique**  
<http://www.cite-musique.fr>

This site provides abundant information about training programmes as well as music-related professions.

You will also find a study on the reform of higher-education diplomas (known as the LMD system in France) for the performing arts, a list of masters programmes (both vocational and research oriented) and a very complete database of training programmes..

**Centre de documentation de la musique contemporaine CDMC**  
<http://www.cdmc.asso.fr>

**French Ministry of Education**  
<http://www.education.gouv.fr>

**Onisep, atlas of higher education and training programmes**  
<http://www.onisep.fr>

**Culture portal, detailed overview of cultural activities in France**  
<http://www.culture.fr>

**Department of Music, Dance, Theatre and Shows (DMDTS), French Ministry of Culture and Communication**  
<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/dmdts/index-dmdts.htm>

**Centre National de la Danse**  
<http://www.cnd.fr>

**Centre National du Théâtre, complete list of drama schools**  
<http://www.cnt.asso.fr>

**Circus arts resource centres (Reims)**  
Reims <http://crdp.ac-reims.fr/polecirque>

**Hors les Murs (Paris), resource centre for circus and street arts schools**  
<http://www.horslesmurs.asso.fr>

**Chroniques de l'AFAA**  
<http://www.afa.asso.fr>

also available from La Documentation française  
<http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr>