



# Ava Merrell

MA student

ava.merrell@hotmail.co.uk

## Profile

I am a passionate director and choreographer, with over three years of experience at both the University of Durham and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. I have worked primarily within the field of accessible student opera, aiming to work with performers and audiences who have not engaged in opera before. I am a hardworking, conscientious and highly empathetic individual who thoroughly enjoys working with others.

## Employment History

Oct 2016 — Feb 2019

Durham

### Director and Choreographer at Durham Opera Ensemble

- I worked frequently on devised productions, including *Opera of Ages*, where I combined different musical genres within traditional opera and merged various dance styles in order to challenge operatic stereotypes. I also assisted-directed and choreographed Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, experiences which have made me a confident leader in rehearsals.
- I took different workshops to local schools and community centers to help expand the Opera Ensemble's outreach to the wider community, which were highly rewarding experiences.
- Having worked with 40+ people within the rehearsal process, I am comfortable leading a large group of performers.
- During my time here, I worked closely with various production teams, that highlighted the importance of team work and dynamics in the development of a successful production.

Feb 2015 — Jan 2020

Malvern

### Bar Tender at The Nag's Head

- Experience within the service industry has helped develop my skills such as training new staff, maintaining good relationships with customers, and being confident with being left in charge.

Dec 2015 — May 2016

Paris

### English Teacher at Babylangues, France

- During my gap year, I moved to Paris to teach English to young children. This experience taught me how to work with younger people, developing my communication skills, and economising.

## Details

### Skills

Directing

Choreographing

Producing

Strong communication skills

Committed team player

Strong organisational skills

### Hobbies

Ballet, singing, guitar and piano, rock climbing, running.

## Education

Sep 2019 — Sep 2020

London

**Guildhall School of Music and Drama**

MA in Collaborative Theatre Production and Design

Oct 2016 — Jun 2019

Durham

**University of Durham**

English Literature BA

Graduated with 2:1 honours degree

Aug 2013 — Aug 2015

Malvern

**The Chase School**

A Levels

History: A\*

English Literature: A\*

Film Studies: A\*

## References

Scenographer and Design Lecturer at Guildhall School of Music and Design

Susannah Henry

OperaUpClose

Robin Norton Hale

The Nag's Head

Alex Whistance