

James David Blundell

Actor | Director | British Conservatoire Training Specialist

Location: Rome, Italy

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Education

2025 -2026	Advance HE	Fellow (FHEA), Professional Recognition in Higher Education Practice
2016 -2017	Newman University	PGCE Level 7 Drama and Theatre Education
2012 -2013	Concorde International	CELTA English Language Teaching Qualification
2008 -2012	University of Kent	Master of Arts(MA): Drama and Theatre Studies (Directing Specialism)
2004 -2008	Canterbury College	BTEC First & National Diploma: Performing Arts

Academic Employment

Teatro Quirino – Scuola d’Arte Drammatica Officine Quirino (Rome, Italy)

2026 – Present

Acting Instructor – British Actor Training & Shakespeare

- Leads bilingual conservatoire-level masterclasses introducing British actor-training methodology to advanced Italian acting students.
- Delivers practical training in breath, vocal clarity, muscular text, rhythm, and embodied access to Shakespeare in English.
- Integrates performance-led research and original adaptation work into actor-development modules.
- Collaborates within a faculty of working theatre professionals across stage, screen, and classical text interpretation.

John Cabot University, Rome

2023 – Present

Performing Arts Company Artistic Director

- Leads the university’s performing arts company, directing full-scale productions including The Game’s Afoot, Jekyll and Hyde, and Puffs.
- Nurtures and develops student skills in acting and performance, production technology and creative project management.
- Boosted audience engagement by 40% through strategic programming and outreach.
- Collaborates with faculty to develop interdisciplinary educational projects and creative initiatives.

The American University of Rome

2024 – 2025

Adjunct Professor (Acting), Director of Drama Society

- Spearheaded the design and implementation of innovative Acting and Performance courses.
- Delivered advanced methodologies in Acting and Performance, integrating historical and contemporary practices in theatre and film to enrich the curriculum.
- Led the Drama Society in producing dynamic seasonal performances, fostering student creativity and collaboration through exploration of original and curated works.
- Orchestrated arts-centered university events in collaboration with departmental teams, elevating the institution’s cultural and educational impact.

Southlands British International School

2018 – 2023

Head of Drama and Theatre Studies & IBDP English Language

- Developed and executed a comprehensive KS3 Drama Curriculum, tailored to boost student engagement and performance.
- Directed and managed GCSE Drama courses and examination procedures (Edexcel), ensuring high standards of academic and practical assessment.
- Curated and delivered IBDP Theatre Studies and English B programs, including exam administration, to support diverse student needs and academic growth.

Artistic Leadership

James David Blundell is a director and theatre educator whose work bridges British conservatoire training and higher education performance practice. His leadership integrates rigorous craft, performance-led research, and contemporary staging to develop actors capable of working across classical and modern forms.

At John Cabot University, he serves as Performing Arts Company Artistic Director, directing full-scale productions and embedding structured rehearsal methodologies that strengthen ensemble discipline and performance clarity.

In 2026, he joined Teatro Quirino – Scuola d'Arte Drammatica Officine Quirino as Instructor in British Actor Training & Shakespeare, delivering bilingual conservatoire-level masterclasses focused on breath, vocal technique, muscular text, and embodied access to classical language.

His work is characterised by structured pedagogy, minimal yet emotionally precise staging, and a commitment to actor development as both technical training and reflective inquiry.

John Cabot University

2023 – Present

Performing Arts Company Artistic Director

Tick, tick... Boom!
Anthony & Cleopatra
Heathers
The Game's Afoot
Jekyll and Hyde
Puffs

2026 - Full Musical production by Jonathan Larson
2025 - Full production of Shakespeare's tragedy, adapted and directed by James Blundell
2025 - Full Musical production by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy
2024 - Full production of comedic murder mystery by Ken Ludwig
2024 - Full musical theatre production by Leslie Bricusse
2023 - Full production of the Harry Potter Parody by Matt Cox

The American University of Rome

2024 – 2025

Drama Society Artistic Director

2024 Season

An Evening in Comedy: Student written and performed productions
'Glimpses of Us': Student written and performed productions

The English Theatre of Rome

2020 – 2024

John Cabot University's Italy Reads Theatre Production Director

Spoon River (2024)
Still Waters (2022)
Beetle Creek

Conceived, written and devised from 'Spoon River Anthology' by E.L. Masters
Conceived and devised from 'Summer on the Lakes' by Margaret Fuller
Adapted and devised from the literary work 'Beetle Creek' by William Demby

Southlands British International School

2018 – 2023

Artistic Director / Producer / LAMDA Exam Coordinator

(2023)

Macbeth
Ernie's Incredible Illucinations

(2022)

The Play That Goes Wrong

(2021)

A Midsummer Week's Festival (Full production of A Midsummer Night's Dream)

(2019)

Cats

(2018)

A Christmas Carol

Professional Associations

- Edexcel Pearson Exam Associates (Drama GCSE)
- University of Kent Creative Industry Alumni Association (Rome Chapter Head)
- Creative UK Federation
- Actor's Equity UK

Academic Interests and Skills

Actor Training & Performance Practice | British conservatoire methodology | Shakespeare & classical performance | Voice & speech training | Breath & vocal technique | Muscular text & rhythm | Embodied language practice

Theatre Directing & Rehearsal Process | Ensemble-based rehearsal systems | Performance-led research | Dramaturgical analysis | Minimalist staging | Actor development & performance clarity

Pedagogy & Higher Education | Practice-based learning | Curriculum design | Assessment & feedback in performance training | Reflective practice | Cross-cultural and inclusive teaching

Text & Classical Literature | Shakespeare studies | Classical adaptation | Contemporary re-imagining of canonical texts | Text analysis for performance.