

Emma Thompson becomes face of Edinburgh College's Performing Arts Studio Scotland



British superstar and Oscar award winning actress Emma Thompson has become the new face of Edinburgh College's Performing Arts Studio of Scotland (PASS).

The Nanny McPhee and Sense and Sensibility star, who is also a screenwriter and well-known human rights activist, has shown her support towards the performing arts arm of Edinburgh College by accepting the honour of being its patron.

Emma Thompson said: "Edinburgh College's Performing Arts Studio of Scotland is an exciting, high octane, cutting edge centre that will attract much of the wealth of talent in Scotland and beyond. I'm very proud to be patron."

The much-admired British actress became familiar with PASS after meeting Edinburgh College acting and theatre performance lecturer John Naples-Campbell when he was training as a theatre student at the Scottish Youth Theatre in Glasgow.

John said: "I first met Emma when I was 18 years old at the Scottish Youth Theatre (SYT). She came along to the theatre to hold a Q&A session with SYT students and, after listening to her talk about her career in the industry, I felt driven to continue with my career in performing arts – which is why I am an acting and theatre performance lecturer today."

"We are absolutely thrilled to have Emma Thompson as patron as

this means that our training at Edinburgh College is truly recognised by the very best in the industry. We look forward to welcoming her to our productions in the college's theatre wherever possible, and we hope to work around her schedule to hold workshops with our students."

John added: "Emma is an inspirational person, not only because of her many Academy Awards, but also because of her work as a human rights ambassador. Her tremendous work on stage and screen gives hope to any young person wishing to pursue a career in the arts and I know that having her as our patron will motivate and inspire our students **to reach their full creative potential.**"

As one of the world's most respected actresses, Emma Thompson is known for her versatility in acting as well as screenwriting and she most recently appeared in *The Boat That Rocked*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, and as the voice of Queen Elinor in the Pixar animation *Brave*. As well as her work on screen, Emma Thompson also works as an educational ambassador for a UK-based human rights organisation, the Helen Bamber Foundation, to help rebuild the lives of, and inspire a new self-esteem in, survivors of human rights violations.

Edinburgh College offers a selection of dance, acting, technical theatre, costume design, and make up artistry courses. Former graduates from performing arts courses include Scottish actress Karen Gillan, who starred in the BBC's *Doctor Who*. Previous students from PASS have also performed live at the O2 Arena and collaborated with Jon Lord at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, and have also performed live on stage with Lady Gaga.

Photography caption: Emma Thompson, patron of Edinburgh College's Performing Arts Studio of Scotland. Photo by Nick Haddow

