

# BACKSTAGE ACADEMY

## Statement of Academic and Creative Freedom

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Backstage Academy values the principle of academic and creative freedom as central to its mission to be a centre of learning that is innovative, dynamic and progressive and that aims to extend the boundaries of knowledge in the field of Live Events and its related industries.

Section 202, Education Reform Act 1988 states that higher education institutions must ensure that academic staff have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or any privileges they may have at an institution. These rights must be exercised within the law.

Backstage Academy believes that exercising academic and creative freedom brings certain corresponding responsibilities. Backstage Academy understands these freedoms and corresponding responsibilities to be:

### **Freedoms**

- To hold views and express opinions;
- To question and test ideas and theories;
- To develop and advance new ideas or innovative/ creative proposals;
- To debate controversial or unpopular opinions.

### **Corresponding responsibilities**

- To respect the rights of individuals to hold different beliefs and views and express them through appropriate contribution to discussion and academic debate;
- To value diversity and acknowledge the different perspectives, ideas, knowledge and culture that such diversity brings;
- To communicate in ways that are clear, relevant respectful, accurate and timely, transparent and constructive;
- To treat others with courtesy and respect, challenging inequality and responding positively to different needs and circumstances.

### **This means that Backstage Academy community will:**

- Promote academic rigour and justify our views with evidence and academic argument and be willing to recognise the gaps and weaknesses in our own arguments;
- Make every reasonable effort to minimise the risks of any harm, either physical or psychological, arising for any person, institution or community;
- Be aware that some academic opinions and arguments may cause offence to some people but that this is not, of itself, a sufficient reason not to express those opinions and arguments. We will, nevertheless, be sensitive to the views of others and we will not present or challenge views in a way that is hostile or degrading;
- Respect the right of others to challenge our views, provided that it is based on accurate evidence, facts or reasonable argument and that it is thoughtful and made in appropriate context;

- Always be careful to distinguish between our personal views and those of Backstage Academy or any other person, group of people or organisation with which we may be associated.
- Consider the legal implications of our actions. We recognise that there may be consequences if we act in breach of the law and will only involve others with their express consent;
- Reflect upon and apply these principles in our teaching, research, study, and debate. We will be proactive in protecting academic freedom for ourselves and for others and use it responsibly for the promotion of knowledge and understanding.

| <b>DOCUMENT CONTROL</b>    |                                   |
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| <b>Author:</b>             | Richard Sadler, Academic Director |
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