

THEATRICAL FIREARMS COURSE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Where are the courses run?
A: The courses are run in Dorset at the Tunnel Target Sports Centre.

Q: How do I get there?
A: The nearest station is Axminster. If needed we can pick you up on the morning of the course, otherwise we recommended Go Eco Cabs in Lyme Regis.

Q: Does the course include accommodation?
A: No, but we have a deal for students at Monkton Wyld Court that is very close by and where our instructors stay. Please mention you are training with Bare Arms. 01297560342 | info@monktonwyldcourt.org

Q: What is the aim of the courses?
A: The aim of the courses is to allow performers to come and learn the principles of using firearms safely and competently in a theatrical setting.

Q: Who is allowed to come and train with Bare Arms?
A: As live firearms are inherently dangerous and therefore should only be handled by professionals, we only train professional performers including stunt performers and Spotlight actors. A full list of joining criteria can be found on our website here.

Q: What do I need in order to book a course?
A: You can book a course right now, but before you commence training we need a DBS check no more than 24 months old that shows that you are not prohibited from handling firearms and proof that you meet the joining criteria.

Q: Won't I receive firearms training on set?
A: Possibly, but not the same type of training or to the same level as you would do with Bare Arms. Our courses are three days long, limited to 8 students and use live ammunition on real ranges. That level of dedicated training is usually not possible on set, and usually only available to lead actors. There may be bootcamps, or other low-level training provided by a production, but this can depend on the size and budget of production and will be specific for the production.



Q: Do you train background extras?
A: Background extras will rarely require the high level of training that we offer and so we don't offer training to supporting artists or background. There are other more appropriate courses aimed at firearms handling that extras may find more cost effective.

Q: Do you teach firearms tactics?
A: Tactics are dependent on the character that a performer would be portraying. There is no right or wrong tactic, as it is entirely dependant on situation and era. Specific tactics training tailored to a scenario is much more appropriate on set. We concentrate on firearms safety and competence, with the basic building blocks of how weapons are used. This provides a solid base which then puts a performer in the best possible place to learn the tactics at a later date.

Q: Do I have to do the course to use firearms on set?
A: No. The course is not a qualification nor a requirement within the industry at this stage. Bare Arms does not use any non-military personnel whose training we cannot verify ourselves. The course is recognised by various industry bodies including Spotlight.

Q: Will I get more work by doing a Bare Arms course?
A: We do not guarantee that anyone will receive more work by doing a course. That entirely depends on the performers look, performance ability etc. We do occasionally take performers from our courses on to set as part of a Bare Arms team, but we only take the best. A large number of our performers have found work elsewhere in the industry due to the training they have undertaken with us.

Q: Do you supply firearms trained extras to productions?
A: We are not an extras agency. We do however supply small highly trained teams of specialist firearms performers to top-level productions in order to fill niche roles, such as a SWAT team or a military/armed police units. These are a mix of highly competent military personnel and the top level of performers we have trained.



Q: What courses do you run?
A: We have the Theatrical Firearms Safety Course which everyone starts with, which allows them to go onto either the Close Quarter Battle Fundamentals course or more advanced training on the range. Beyond that we run specialist workshops for particular productions, bespoke training for groups and one-on-one training.

Q: How often do you run courses?
A: We aim to run one course every 1-2 months. We usually don't run public courses in January and early February due to the accommodation being closed for the winter.

Q: Why can't I see more dates on the website?
A: We release the dates roughly 3-6 months in advance of the courses.

Q: I already have some training, can I just do more advanced courses?
A: Our policy is that everyone has to start with the Theatrical Firearms Safety Course. This is because there is a lot of information and skills learnt on the first course that is the basis for everything else we teach. Also previous training can vary and may not be sufficient for starting more advanced training. We even have ex-military personnel who occasionally undertake the first course as a way of revising what they have previously learnt and adapting it to the theatrical industries.

Q: How much does the course fee, and what does our fee go towards?
A: At time of writing the course currently costs £550 inc VAT for 3 days. This cost goes towards renting the ranges, the classrooms, maintaining the weapons and purchasing ammunition and equipment, and paying our instructors. We try to run the course at as low a price as possible to ensure anyone can attend.



TFC L1: BASIC – TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training starts at 10:30 on Day 1 and runs until 18:00 each day. Day 2 and 3 start at 09:00. Between 13:00 and 14:00 each day we return to Monkton Wyld Court for lunch where you can book fantastic meals throughout the course.

Each day is broken down into theory lessons in the classroom and then practical lessons with the weapons, before using them live on the ranges. All kit and equipment is provided.







Day 1:	How Firearms Work
	Firearms Safety
	Bolt Action Rifles
	Marksmanship Principles
	Firing Stances
	Lee Enfield Live Fire Range
Day 2:	Hollywood Myths
	Assault Rifles
	AR Live Fire Range
	UK Firearms Law
	Movement with Firearms
	Movement Live Fire Range
Day 3:	Semi-Automatic Pistols
	Weapon Transitions
	Transition Live Fire Range
	Sniper Rifles
	3-Gun Live Fire Final Range

If for whatever reason you need to cancel or delay a course, we will refund the amount in accordance with our terms and conditions.



HOW TO GET HERE

The Basic course is run at The Tunnel Target Sports Centre just off the A35 near Axminster. The course starts at 10:30 on the first day, ready to start the course. We encourage students to share lifts between Monkton Wyld Court and the range each day. If for whatever reason there aren't enough people with vehicles, the instructors can assist.

CAR: To get here via sat nav use the following address.

Bare Arms @ The Tunnel
DT6 6BY

TRAIN: There is usually a morning train from Waterloo that arrives into Axminster just after 10am. We will do a station pickup on request, as well as a drop off at the end of the course. If you arrive or leave at a different time, we recommend 'Go Eco Cabs' who can be contacted on 01297 445 444.

WHAT TO BRING

The Level 1 course is held entirely indoors, so you won't need waterproof clothing. You will be provided with coveralls to wear to protect your clothes during the lessons, so we suggest bringing loose clothing such as sports clothes to go underneath as you'll be moving around a fair amount. For footwear, we recommend sturdy trainers or light boots, whichever suits you better. One of the ranges is not heated, so if attending a winter course, please bring warm layers and maybe some gloves for when you aren't firing. We have some lightweight jackets if required. Bring a pen and notebooks with you so that you can take notes as we go. The course is mostly practical, but there is some theory involved, however electronic course notes will be provided at the end. If staying at Monkton Wyld Court, we would advise bringing some cash, as the local pub in the grounds is cash only. We would also advise that you bring a reusable water bottle to save on plastic. Don't forget to bring a towel!



3-DAY RESIDENTIAL PACKAGES

Accommodation: During your training we recommend staying with at the unique Monkton Wyld Court. MWC is an award-winning centre for sustainable living that is set in a Victorian country mansion and where our instructors stay. The rooms are shared dormitory style accommodation with other course students. All bedding is provided, but please bring your own towels. When booking, mention you are training with Bare Arms.





Meals: MWC can provide excellent meals for the duration of your training, even if you aren't staying there. The food is vegetarian, but it is of an exceptionally high standard as 50% of the produce comes from the grounds, including their own dairy cows for milk and cheese, eggs and bread. The kitchens are very good at catering to unusual dietary requirements, so please email us or MWC if you want to check. Vegan, gluten and dairy free options are always available on request.

2026 prices:

- 2 nights + meal package - £136
    - Extra nights B&B - £35 per night
- Private Room single occupancy £176 for two nights with food,
    - additional nights £55
- Extra evening meal +£15
- For those staying elsewhere, lunches are available at £12



OTHER FIREARMS TRAINING

The most effective way to learn the fundamentals of firearms whilst still being affordable, is through our TFC:L1 Basic course, but we do have other options available on request. We have a facility very close to Victoria station in London where we run dry training, and will be introducing short workshops that will be accessible to those who have completed the basic course.

Please get in touch to enquire about prices and availability.

One-on-One Live Training: Usually reserved for high profile actors and established stunt performers, we can run private training for individuals at the Tunnel in Dorset. This kind of dedicated training comes at a premium, but is highly effective. We recommend a minimum of 2-days for a beginner.

One-on-One Dry Training: Whilst dry training (non-firing) has benefits such as not requiring a range, it can never fully replace live training. It can be useful if you are short on time. We can run ½ day sessions at our London base, or we can travel to you. This training is useful for those who are attending an audition, or need some revision before starting a role that requires firearms.

Private Group Training: Either live or dry training as above, production specific or a private 3-day TFC on a date of your choosing. The more students on a course, the more cost effective it can be.

If you have any further questions about the course, please get in touch.

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