

M25 SpeedMeet

May 2026 Callum Tilbury



Questions

- **Who are you, where are you based and what do you do?**

I'm Callum Tilbury, and I've recently been promoted from Library Assistant to Library Supervisor at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in north London.

As the Library Supervisor, I'm the main person responsible for the physical library space, overseeing everything from signage to shelf space, and planning our monthly book displays. I am responsible for the library's online presence, which I'm currently in the process of reviewing. I'm also the primary contact for any EDI- and access-related issues. Besides all that, I'm involved in the day to day tasks that keep the library running smoothly: circulation, shelving, manning the information desk, keeping an eye on the emails, helping people find resources, troubleshooting the printers (!) and generally being on hand to answer our students' many questions.

I'm also a playwright, and occasionally a drag artist (Lady Aria Grey is both my drag name and my pen name). So working in a performing arts-specialised library is an absolute dream!

- **What do you most enjoy about your job?**

There's nothing quite as satisfying as helping a student access a resource they were struggling to find – electronic resources can be particularly tricky for students to access, which I'm sure many librarians will agree! Besides that, receiving new plays is always a treat. Our library has a collection of 13,000+ plays, and we buy most new plays published in the UK every year. On both a professional and personal level, it's great to keep up with recently published playscripts. I try not to read them at work... but sometimes I take a peek!

- **What motivates you in your work?**

My passion for theatre, performance, and creativity in general. Having gone to drama school myself, I know that they are places infused with huge amounts of creativity, talent, potential, and optimism, and I love being surrounded by that energy every day. Our library is not always

as quiet as most others... but it's a small price to pay.

- **How can/has the M25 Consortium supported you in your career?**

I'm still relatively new to working in the world of libraries, but I've already attended a number of library tours and networking events through the M25 Consortium, which have been an invaluable introduction to the profession.

- **What would it surprise people to know about you?**

Besides being a drag queen, I'm also a keen gamer. Well, perhaps not so surprising, given that this profession seems to be a magnet for introverts.

- **Complete the sentence: If I wasn't working in a library I would be..... because**

I would say I'd be doing more theatre and drag, but I still do those on top of working in a library (and in some ways, it's working in a library that enables me to do those things). So I'd actually have to mention my other, unfulfilled career dream, in which I am a pastry chef.