

BA (Hons) Acting

Apply Through: UCAS Conservatoires

Institution Code: R59

Course Code: 200 F

This course overview provides a summary of the BA (Hons) Acting programme as offered from September 2019. Please note that whilst the information reflects the programme offered to date, it may be subject to amendment and change in future years. Students are always consulted on such change and details are made available to applicants holding offers. Each year of the course is worth 120 credits. In order to progress through each year students will *normally* have to pass all modules.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Acting Methods 30 credits	Shakespeare Project 10 credits	Bridge Project 10 credits
Vocal Skills: Voice / Speech / Text 20 credits	Comedy Project 10 credits	Public Performance 1 20 credits
Movement Skills 20 credits	New Forms 10 credits	Public Performance 2 20 credits
Singing 10 credits	Acting for Screen & Radio 10 credits	Public Performance 3 20 credits
Acting for Screen 10 credits	Vocal Skills: Voice / Speech / Text 20 credits	Public Performance 4 20 credits
Contextual & Professional Studies 10 credits	Movement Skills 20 credits	Public Performance 5 20 credits
End of Year Assessment 20 credits	Singing 10 credits	Contextual & Professional Studies 10 credits
	Contextual & Professional Studies 10 credits	
	End of Year Assessment 20 credits	

Year 1

Acting Methods

Credits: 30

The module has three components:

1) Improvisation and Mask Work

Assessment: 33% Coursework

An exploration of the challenges, opportunities and imperatives offered through improvised and spontaneous performance and their relevance and application when dealing with text. Building on the work undertaken through improvisation, the connection between actors will be examined further through the negotiation and collaboration implicit in the use of masks.

2) Text

Assessment: 33% Coursework

A sequence of practical classes and rehearsals which are intended to make clear the work which is required of an actor in the creation of a believable and dynamic character from the words, imperatives and ideas derived from a given play text. Students will be invited to consider the various methodologies which are employed by professional actors today.

3) Rehearsal

Assessment: 33% Coursework

A series of practical classes and rehearsals which aim to show the need for actors to develop working methods which are integral to, and contribute towards, the common purpose of creating the world of the play. This will include a detailed consideration of relationships found within the play between actors and the characters they inhabit, between the characters themselves and the essential relationship between actor and audience.

Vocal Skills: Voice / Speech / Text

Credits: 20

Assessment: 100% Coursework

A series of practical classes and tutorials establishing a thorough introduction to voice and text work. Initially focus will be on removing unhelpful physical habits and establishing healthy and effective vocal use – particularly with reference to breath, resonance and diction. This is explored and applied through work on a variety of texts, the main focus of which is to explore, appreciate and enjoy language – leading to a presentation of a piece of text at the end of the year.

Movement Skills

Credits: 20

The module has three components:

1) Movement

Assessment: 100% Coursework

A series of practical classes to investigate the student's personal resources for free and expressive movement and how to employ them effectively in theatrical communication. Students will explore and develop an understanding of the importance of a physical approach to the training and life of an actor. Towards the end of the year the student will devise and perform a movement presentation based on a given text.

2) Alexander Technique

Assessment: 100% Coursework

A series of sessions introducing students to the Alexander Technique which teaches us to be aware of our alignment - or more precisely our head/neck/back relationship - and improves posture, coordination, vocal quality and breathing as unnecessary tension is released.

3) Stage Combat

Assessment: 100% Coursework

A series of practical classes to develop the student's knowledge and skill in stage combat techniques, including fencing and unarmed combat, in preparation for the Academy of Performance Combat's proficiency examinations.

Singing

Credits: 10

Assessment: 100% Coursework

A series of classes where the emphasis is on physical skills - singing technique, appropriate use of breath and the structure of sound and musicianship. Students will be given the opportunity to integrate basic singing technique through group and chorus work.

Acting for Screen

Credits: 10

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Students are asked to respond to a variety of working environments familiar within the television and film industry. These will include audition and casting sessions, pressurised and time sensitive shooting, the devising and adapting of scripts and filming short scenes on location.

Contextual & Professional Studies

Credits: 10

This module has three components:

1) Introduction to Professional Studies

Assessment: Pass/Fail

Students will be asked to consider the role of contemporary actors in the light of both public and professional expectations and perceptions. Later seminars will centre around current industry practice and protocol in the theatre and recorded media industry.

2) Contextual Studies

Assessment: 100% Class Work

A series of seminars will explore a number of theatre practitioners and theorists whose work has significantly changed existing theatrical and dramatic forms, conventions and practice. The emphasis is on 'active learning' with students taking responsibility for solo and small group research projects which are then presented to the rest of the group.

3) Sight Reading

Assessment: Pass/Fail

Classes are designed to improve the particular skill of 'sight reading' – whereby an actor can swiftly assimilate the context, form and meaning from a dramatic text and thereby produce a characterisation which is fully realised.

End of Year Assessment

Credits: 20

Assessment: 100% Performance

Students undertake research, rehearsal and production of a self-generated performance that makes full use of the training undertaken in the first year of training, culminating in a performance.

Year 2

Shakespeare Project

Credits: 10

Assessment: 100% Coursework

The aim of the module is to introduce the student to the world, language and realisation of Elizabethan and Jacobean Theatre. A series of group classes, observed scene work and calls where the context of the plays, the means of analysing and realising the text, and the relationships to other acting methodologies are explored leading to the rehearsal and performance of a selection of scenes and speeches.

Comedy Project

Credits: 10

Assessment: 100% Coursework

The module offers students the opportunity of exploring the particular opportunities and challenges of playing comedy. A series of practical classes and rehearsals which are intended to make clear the specific demands made upon the actor by modern and /or period comedy with particular regard to the social conventions for the period under study and the influence of class, status and gender.

New Forms

Credits: 10

Assessment: 100% Coursework

The module invites students to explore bolder possibilities in developing their work - examining language and meaning through physicality and encouraging the concept of the actor/performer as creator/interpreter. Classes and rehearsals will explore and challenge contemporary attitudes and conventionality through the physical realisation of both existing and original dialogue. Emphasis is placed on investigating the expressive potential of body, breath, emotional and rational content. Through the framework of a 'performance montage' – a fusion of circus, text, sound, music and visual arts – performers are encouraged to negotiate and collaborate towards the realisation of a final presentation to an invited audience

Acting for Screen & Radio

Credits: 10

The module has two components:

1) Acting for Screen

Assessment: 100% Coursework

A concentrated series of practical classes is followed by the realisation of a short film or scenes in which the skills acquired through Acting for Screen in Year 1 are tested under conditions which are reflective of normal industry practice.

2) Acting for Radio

Assessment: 50% Radio Project & 50% Coursework

A series of classes beginning with an introduction to the fundamental skills required for performing on radio - through critical analysis of professional radio broadcasts and practical experimentation in the studio. Using text and improvisation, the student becomes aware of the characteristics of his/her own voice and goes on to discover its infinite potential. Aspects covered in this module include the actor's microphone technique, solo work, ensemble work, preparation of texts, good studio practice, lifting the text from the page, truthful delivery and creating character and mood.

Vocal Skills: : Voice / Speech / Text

Credits: 20

Assessment: 100% Coursework

A series of practical classes and tutorials, which consolidate and extend the work covered in Year 1. Initial focus will be on increasing skill, range and muscularity particularly with reference to using the voice in a range of different spaces and media as well as work on accent and dialect acquisition. Alongside this, the student will develop their understanding of the semantic and sensory structures contained in a range of increasingly demanding texts – leading to a presentation of work to an external coach.

Movement Skills

Credits: 20

Assessment: 100% Coursework

A series of practical classes to explore and experience different movement styles, learning dance sequences at rising levels of intricacy and speed. Analysis of the dances' stylistic components whilst setting them in their historical and cultural context. Further exploration into building a character using the physical theatre genre. Towards the end of the year the student will devise and perform a movement presentation based on a given text.

Stage Combat

A series of practical classes to further develop the student's knowledge and skill in stage combat techniques including fencing and unarmed combat, culminating in the higher level examinations of the Academy of Performance Combat.

Alexander technique

A series of sessions building on the work undertaken in Year 1 and 2 students continue to develop this awareness, learning to apply the principles of the technique in class in a more precise and detailed way.

Singing

Credits: 10

This module aims to further develop individual singing technique and its necessary relationship to acting and performance.

This module has two components:

1) Singing

Assessment: 50 % Coursework

A series of individual sessions which seek to consolidate and strengthen the work undertaken in Year 1 whilst developing an individual repertoire through appropriate use and ownership of technique, with an understanding of the particular performance demands made of the actor singer.

2) Acting Through Song

Assessment: 50 % Coursework

A series of practical classes and rehearsals in which the student explores the demands of character development and ensemble work through the medium of song. The genre and material are matched to the particular strengths of the cohort. Whilst the student will be expected to remain faithful to the key imperatives of character ownership and truthful narrative, this project will seek to develop the techniques needed by an actor for solo and group singing in the theatre.

Contextual & Professional Studies

Credits: 10

The module has three components:

1) Contextual Studies

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Building on the previous year's work, students will be invited to explore further the theatre practitioners and theorists whose work has significantly changed existing theatrical and dramatic forms, conventions and practice. In particular, the emphasis is on 'active learning' with students taking responsibility for solo and small group research projects which are then presented to the rest of the group.

2) Text Analysis

Assessment: 100% Coursework

This component is taught primarily through group readings and discussions of 20th Century plays. The primary aim is to give students greater confidence in handling text by developing their understanding of how playscripts are constructed and extending their appreciation of the concept of authorial intent. The module also seeks to broaden the student's exposure to the dramatic canon by exposing them to plays which have significance in the development of modern drama, improve their sight reading skills through script in hand performances within the classroom and give a broad context to the history, geography, sociology and politics of the plays presented.

3) Audition Technique

Assessment: Pass/Fail

This component is designed to offers students the appropriate strategies, techniques and overview of the audition processes they are likely to encounter in theatre, television, film and radio. Students will be asked to take part in audition(s) held by a professional casting director(s).

End of Year Assessment

Credit: 20

Assessment: 100% Performance

Students undertake research, rehearsal and production of a self – generated performance that makes full use of the training undertaken, culminating in a performance in front of audience.

Year 3

Bridge Project

Credits: 10

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment & Public Performance

Developing work undertaken in the Shakespeare module, students will rehearse scenes and/or an abridged version of a heightened language text (typically: Shakespeare, Jacobean, Restoration, Spanish Golden Age) leading to a short run of performances in front of an invited audience.

Public Performance 1 - 5

Credits: 20 each

Students are given the opportunity to assimilate, develop and integrate skills acquired in Year 1 and 2 - through rehearsal and performance under professional working conditions.

Through undertaking five consecutive performance modules – each of which entailing the rehearsal and performance of a full length play in front of a public audience. Students will encounter a variety of roles, styles and venues through which their readiness for professional work may be tested and subjected to exacting critical scrutiny.

The production programme for 2019-2020:

- Stupid Fucking Bird by Aaron Posner
- Bus Stop by William Inge
- London Wall by John Van Druten
- Arcadia by Tom Stoppard
- Dance Nation by Clare Barron
- Dealer's Choice by Patrick Marber
- Tartuffe adapted by John Donaldson.
- Motortown by Simon Stephens
- Wonder of the World by David Lindsay-Abaire.
- Half Full by Milli Bhatia (new writing in collaboration with the Royal Court)
- Ripples by Tracy Harris (new writing in collaboration with the Sherman Theatre)
- Moon Licks by Charlotte Josephine (new writing in collaboration with Paines Plough)
- After Rhinoceros, The Red Pill by Nessah Muthy (new writing in collaboration with The Gate Theatre)

Contextual and Professional Studies

Credits: 10

This module offers students the opportunity to test the techniques acquired through the Audition Techniques component in Year 1 and 2 in audition and casting situations which approximate usual professional practice. It also prepares students for the particular circumstances of the graduating actor showcases.

This module has two components:

1) Showcase

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Particular emphasis will be placed on preparation for the Showcase presentation which takes place in Cardiff and London during the Spring term. Additional rehearsals for the Showcase will be offered in the weeks prior to the presentation

2) Audition Technique

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Students will be asked to take part in audition(s) and/or masterclasses taken by professional directors, casting directors and agents.