

This course overview provides a detailed summary of the MA Musical Theatre course 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. In order to progress through the courses students normally have to pass all modules and achieve 180 credits.

Course Overview

The programme is designed to bridge the gap between a degree or other relevant experience, and the high standard expected by employers in the professional musical theatre industry.

You will be taught through a variety of different methods including individual and group research, tutorials, class work, practical rehearsal, workshops with industry professionals, closed and open performances, feedback and self-evaluation.

The training is delivered by an established team of professional practitioners, supported by visiting tutors, directors, musical directors, choreographers, casting directors and agents – crucially linking the training with current professional practice.

The masters programme encompasses the following six core modules, which are taught over the course of a year.

Advanced Acting Skills

40 credits

Text and Rehearsal

Practical classes, workshops and rehearsals create the working environment through which you as an actor will investigate the challenges, opportunities and imperatives of a given text or texts with particular emphasis on character development and relationships.

Improvisation

Through a series of different teaching environments you will explore as an actor the challenges, opportunities and imperatives offered through improvised and spontaneous performance.

Contextual and Professional Studies

A series of practical sessions and rehearsals designed to prepare you for professional auditions for theatre and television and for your final Showcase presentations, which take place in front of an invited professional audience.

Advanced Vocal Skills

20 credits

Through a series of practical classes in spoken voice you will learn the techniques expected of an actor/singer about to enter the profession. The course initially focuses on removing unhelpful physiological habits before enabling you to explore and extend your voice in preparation for training to use your spoken voice effectively in performance without supervision. Includes dialect and accent work.

Advanced Singing Skills

40 credits

Technique and Repertoire

You will develop an informed and secure singing technique in all aspects of the singing voice through practical exercises and repertoire study. Particular emphasis is given to appropriate physiological use and informed analysis of repertoire.

You will also be equipped to continue your own professional development through independent identification, evaluation and application of best practice and innovative methodologies.

Acting Through Song

This project will seek to exploit the expressive and narrative potential of song, retaining essential musical integrity whilst remaining faithful to the key acting imperatives relating to character ownership and relationships.

Ensemble Singing and Musicianship

You will investigate how your own voice and technique blend successfully with others through effective work on harmony and ensemble skills, and musicianship.

Advanced Movement and Dance Skills

20 credits

Dance

Through practical classes you will develop different dance styles (ballet, jazz, contemporary and tap), and learn choreographic sequences at rising levels of intricacy and speed. You will receive specific movement tuition and rehearsals designed to prepare you for professional auditions and specific productions.

Movement Skills

You will discover your personal resources for free and expressive movement and how to employ them effectively in theatrical communication. You will explore and develop an understanding of the importance of a physical approach to the training and life of an actor/singer/dancer, allowing you to work using your own initiative at the highest level.

Public Performance

40 credits

You are provided with the opportunity to rehearse and perform a number of roles under professional direction and production conditions, often under the observation of potential employers. A wide selection of material is performed in a range of performance contexts, requiring rapid assimilation and synthesis of skills derived from your training whilst employing appropriate discernment and judgement.

Contextual & Advanced Professional Studies

20 credits

This module will prepare you for work within the Musical Theatre profession through the acquisition of an advanced and comprehensive knowledge of industry structures and protocols, combined with an ability to critically reflect upon your own potential, skills, development and sustainability within this context.