

## Programme Specification

Programme	BA (Hons) Acting
Awarding Institution	City St George's, University London
Teaching Institution	The Arts Educational Schools
Type of study	Full time
UK Credits	360
ECTS	180

### Outline

The BA (Hons) Acting offers inclusive, detailed contemporary, actor training for Stage, Film, Television and Radio. Preparing you to become world-leading artists, theatre-makers and performers in all genres, by focusing on the ever-evolving developments in the creative industries. The programme is validated by City St George's, University of London and you will receive a City St Georges, University of London award.

Dynamic, diverse and rigorous, this vocational three-year BA (Hons) Acting course will develop technical skills through practical classes, workshops and performances, motivating and challenging you to become an inventive and imaginative actor. By exploring imagination, improvisation, storytelling, play, text analysis, character realisation, vocal technique and movement skills you will discover how to develop a truthful, responsive and resilient individual acting process.

### Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- Give you a thorough knowledge and understanding of film, television and theatre acting
  - Provide you with a comprehensive work process in the creation of character and the exploration of a text
  - Give you the confidence to work in a broad range of acting styles
  - Give you practical working experience in a range of live and recorded performance contexts
  - Develop an analytical and critical awareness of your own creativity
  - Cultivate a collaborative attitude to the creative process

**What will I be expected to achieve?**

All modules on the programme are compulsory. There are no co-requisite or pre-requisite modules. Some modules include units which are assessed pass/fail and do not contribute to the overall grade for the year. Upgrades from one programme to another are not available.

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

### **Knowledge and understanding**

- Articulate understanding of the historic and social context of the profession as well as the value and process of research.
- Demonstrate clear understanding of your strengths and shortcomings and have confidence in your commercial potential
- Demonstrate thorough practical understanding of the entertainment industry

### **Skills**

- Create a professional workbook from any given script, defining acting tasks by analysing and annotating the text.
- Create a range of fully realized characters through physical transformation.
- Maintain your vocal and physical 'instrument' through regular practice and how to avoid poor or dangerous use.
- Present a practical working application of a range of live and recorded performance contexts.
- Present a practical working application of a number of classical and modern texts and of a range of performance styles.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively alone.
- Respond creatively to a director's instructions.
- Perform with assurance and confidence in front of a camera in a variety locations and circumstances
- Perform with assurance and confidence as an actor through a year of public performances.

### **Values and Attitudes**

- Make artistic choices which are both bold and specific.
- Maintain, as a matter of habit, professional standards of punctuality, reliability and courtesy.

## How will I learn?

This section describes the various methods used to deliver the teaching during your programme.

### Workshops

Workshops are a powerful way for you to express your own ideas, skills and creativity within a group of peers.

The lecturer will have an area of work they wish to explore, and they will usually start the session with games and/or exercises that will prepare the group to focus on that particular area of work. Different lecturers will have different approaches, of course, but usually you will be asked to work in smallish groups to explore and create **as a group** and there will be guidance from the lecturer only when it is necessary. It is important to note that the **exploration** of ideas and skills is the prime objective of workshops. They are designed to help you grow as creative performers and to understand that both success and failure are part of the creative process.

Towards the end of the session each group will usually be asked to show the results of their work. The lecturer will be looking for good group skills; imaginative and explorative input; risk taking; energy and commitment.

### Acting Classes

Acting is a talent which cannot be taught directly as it touches on a person's creativity and inspiration. Every student at the school has displayed an *instinct* for acting at their auditions otherwise they would not have been offered a place on the course. And so actor training helps you to develop various techniques for studying the text, building a character and shaping a scene that will help you become inventive and creative actors when you act.

At ArtsEd, we don't teach a single "method" of acting. We present you with a variety of techniques developed by a range of practitioners that will give you a framework for discovering your own way of doing things. Each student is encouraged to develop a personal process which works for you alone. The lecturer will be looking for openness to each of the techniques and processes; positive exploration of them; a willingness to experiment; hard work; enthusiasm; commitment; and generosity of spirit and supportiveness towards the other students.

### Technique Classes

Technique Classes are designed to develop your practical skills as an actor. They teach you how to use your voice and your body to express your imaginative creativity completely and without hindrance. The actor's voice and body are the tools of their trade, and you

need to understand how these tools work and what they are capable of doing to serve the creative artist in you.

These classes will require a certain amount of repetition as you practice control and gain an understanding of the instrument that is you yourself. You will often work as individuals within a group of individuals all performing the same task. Although the lecturer will give you personal attention at times, it is your own commitment to the exercises that will pay the biggest dividends.

You will be required to concentrate on your own work and progress. The lecturer will be looking for concentrated effort; commitment to the work; growth in your understanding of the techniques and the development of control and use of your voice and body.

### **Project Rehearsals**

Project rehearsals are a vital part of any actor training, and they are designed to expand your knowledge of performance styles and rehearsal methods. Different periods of history and different cultures have produced a variety of forms of theatre and together with the requirements of film and TV you will need to understand the different styles of acting that will be needed to be a complete performer. There are many different approaches to the rehearsal period and each project director will have their own way of doing things. You should remain open and positive to the particular methods of the individual director.

Project rehearsals will involve research into the period or culture; study of the text; creation of character and exploration of style. The lecturer/director will be looking for commitment; hard work; evidence of private study; a positive attitude and the development of your acting skills.

### **Lectures, Seminars and Tutorials**

<b>Lectures</b>	To communicate a lot of information to a lot of people. Actors need to have a broad knowledge of the world in order to have a wide understanding of human behaviour. Since a lecture is designed to expand your knowledge, all that is required of you at the time is to listen, take notes and ask constructive questions.
<b>Seminars</b>	Interactive sessions where the speaker may give a short presentation and then introduce a topic or a number of topics. You may then be asked to discuss these topics in small groups and share a summary of their discussion with the rest of the groups.
<b>Tutorials</b>	Provide an opportunity for the Head of Year to offer support and advice, and to provide information as a group. Group tutorials with the Head of Year take place weekly throughout the course and provide a forum for discussion of any aspect of the training, as well as support in preparation for written work.

## Learning Hours

The programme is delivered over three years. Each year comprises 33 teaching weeks, divided into three terms. Contact hours are very high: a minimum of 35 hours per week, in a timetable which can start as early as 8.15 and finish at 6pm. The module specifications outline the components and teaching pattern for each module.

Module	Credits	Lecturer-led hours	Self-directed study	Total learning hours
<b>Year 1, Level 4</b>				
BA1: Projects 1	30	200	100	300
BA2: Acting 1	40	312	88	400
BA3: Voice 1	20	180	20	200
BA4: Movement	20	165	35	200
BA5: Contextual Studies 1	10	47	53	100
	<b>120</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Year 2, Level 5</b>				
BA6: Projects 2	50	455	45	500
BA7: Acting 2	15	127.5	22.5	150
BA8: Voice 2	20	180	20	200
BA9: Movement 2	20	135	65	200
BA10: Professional Practice	15	110	40	150
	<b>120</b>	<b>1017.5</b>	<b>192.5</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Year 3, Level 6</b>				
BA11: Public Productions and Films	100	845	155	1000
BA12: Professional Employment Skills	20	94	106	200
	<b>120</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>1200</b>

## How will I be assessed?

Training for a vocational course in acting or indeed, any performance medium, is experiential and you will often be assessed on your practical work. There are four types of assessment on the BA (Hons) Acting programme.

### Performance

You will be required to create characters and present them to camera or to a live audience, and the lecturers will assess you on your vocal, physical and performance skills.

### **Rehearsal Process**

Your director will assess your process during the rehearsal and preparation period for performances.

### **Classwork**

You will be assessed on the work you put into preparation for the classes in each module by the module lecturer, and on the attitude, behaviour, skills and creativity you demonstrate during these classes. This mark incorporates effort and attendance as well as the level of attainment reached.

### **Written Assignments**

You will undertake independent research, write working journals and collect information for professional practice portfolios. Written assignments are assessed as pass/fail – you are required to pass them, but no marks are awarded, and the written work carries no weighting in your final degree mark.

## **What do I have to do to pass?**

The minimum pass mark for each component or module of the course is 40%. To pass each year and progress to the next, you must have acquired the credits required and passed all components of each module in accordance with the requirements for the module as set out in the Module Specifications.

Assessment criteria for each element of the programme are set out in the module specifications. Grade descriptors for classwork, rehearsal and performance, and for written assignments are at the front of the handbook.

The Contextual Studies, Professional Practice and Professional Employment Skills units are pass/fail and do not contribute to the final mark. [OBJ]

## **How will I get feedback on my work from the lecturers?**

Monitoring your progress is continual, and you will receive verbal and written feedback throughout the programme. You should receive written feedback on your assessments within 20 working days of the assessment or final performance.

## What degree can I get?

In order to qualify for the award of BA (Hons) Acting, you must satisfy the pass requirements for all modules within the programme and achieve 360 credits overall.

The overall aggregate degree marks for the Honours degree will be calculated as follows:

Module	Classification Weighting
Average of the percentage marks achieved for the Public Productions and Films module <i>Theatre Production 1, Theatre Production 2, Film Production 1 – Showreels, Film Production 2 – Original Screenplays, Showcase</i>	80%
Final mark for year 2 <i>Projects 2, Acting 2, Voice 2, Movement 2</i>	20%

The class of the award of an Honours degree shall normally be:

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre	Minimum Overall Aggregate Mark
Class I (First)	70%
Class II upper division (2.1)	60%
Class II lower division (2.2)	50%
Class III (Third)	40%

An award of Ordinary Degree is not available for this programme.

## Exit Points

You may have to leave the programme early due to injury or other personal circumstances, leaving you unable to continue the course after a deferral. It is possible for exit awards to be awarded to these students, which supports them to transfer the exit award into an alternative institution and complete the degree later should you wish to do so.

At the discretion of the Course Leader and Assessment Board, students leaving early may be awarded:

### A Certificate of Higher Education (Year 1)

To those students who successfully complete Year One of the BA (Hons) Acting programme. To be awarded a Certificate of Higher Education, students must have successfully achieved at least 90 credits at Level 4 and a total of 120 credits overall.

### A Diploma of Higher Education (Year 2)

To those students who successfully complete Year Two of the BA (Hons) Acting programme. To be awarded a Diploma of Higher Education, students must have successfully achieved at least 90 credits at Level 5 and a total of 240 credits overall.

The requirements of such Exit Points are detailed in City St George's [Credit Framework](#). You must complete the full three years of the programme, as outlined in the Programme Specification, to be awarded the BA (Hons) Acting degree.

## Compensation between Modules

There is no provision for compensation within or between modules on the BA (Hons) Acting.

## Re-sit Provision

Students normally have two attempts at an assessment (first attempt and resit). If you do not have approved Extenuating Circumstances, your mark will be capped at 40. Please refer to City St George's Assessment Regulations for further information.

## Careers

The aim of the BA (Hons) Acting programme is to prepare you for a career as a professional actor. We have an enviable record of success in achieving that aim, evidenced by our graduate destinations. Official data collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency and published on the Discover Uni website demonstrates that the average income of our students, six months after graduation, is £34,000, as compared to an average of £20,000 for all performing arts courses. Recent highlights have been 2023 graduates Riess Fennell in RSC's 'School for Scandal' and Joshua Williams as Mercutio in Jamie Lloyd's Romeo and Juliet, 2020 graduate Leo Woodhall in the much-awaited 2024 Netflix series 'One Day', 2021 Graduate Dionne Brown as the lead in Channel 4's 'Queenie', 2021 graduate Ryan Adams a series regular in a new US series called *The Ark*, the Jack Tinker 2022 rising star award for 2020 graduate Sam Creasey in *The Book of Dust*, Lashana Lynch (2010) starring in *Matilda*, *Captain Marvel* and James Bond *No Time to Die*,

Study Abroad or Placement options are not available for the BA (Hons) Acting programme.

## Accreditation and Professional Recognition

All ArtsEd degree courses are validated by **City St George's, University of London**, a leading international University and the only university in London to be both committed to academic excellence and focused on business and the professions.

ArtsEd's provision is accredited by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT). ArtsEd is a member of the Federation of Drama Schools.

Equity, the actors' union, has joined with Spotlight to create a new "universal standard" in order to remove uncertainty for students and establish an up-to-date list of accredited drama schools. ArtsEd's provision is compliant with the published standards.