

Programme Specification

Programme	BA (Hons) Musical Theatre
Awarding Institution	City St George's, University of London
Teaching Institution	ArtsEd
Type of study	Full Time
UK Credits	425
ECTS	212.5

Outline

The BA (Hons) Musical Theatre is a 3 year full-time musical theatre training programme designed to prepare graduates for successful careers in professional musical theatre. The programme is divided into three parts, each part equating to a year of study. Each year is normally 33 weeks, divided into three terms of approximately 11 weeks, with 10 teaching weeks and one performance and/or assessment week. On average there are a minimum of 36 hours of timetabled teaching per week.

The programme is validated by City St George's, University of London and you will receive a City St George's, University of London award.

Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- Enable you to perform to a professional standard, safely and with confidence
- Develop students' skills in dance, singing and acting to the highest level of which you are capable
- Prepare students for a performance career in the musical theatre industry

What will I be expected to achieve?

At the end of the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre you will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

- You will have developed a thorough knowledge and understanding of the industry and of current musical theatre creative practice
- You will be able to demonstrate a command of your subject by critical reflection and appraisal based on technical and contextual studies and in practice

Skills

- You will have developed your imaginative, expressive and technical skills in all three core musical theatre disciplines to a professional level
- You will have acquired the professional employment skills to enable you to secure and maintain a career in the professional arts and entertainment industry

Values and Attitudes

- You will have developed a collaborative attitude to the creative process
- You will have developed personal values and qualities which will enhance your professional and personal life

How will I learn?

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

Technique Classes

Technique Classes are designed to develop your practical performance skills. These classes will require a certain amount of repetition as you practice control and gain an understanding of how your body works. You will often work as individuals within a group of individuals all performing the same task. Although the tutor will give you personal attention at times, it is your own commitment to the exercises that will pay the biggest dividends.

The tutor will be looking for concentrated effort; commitment to the work; growth in your understanding of the techniques and the development of control.

Examples:

Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary

Speech and Voice, Accents

Ensemble Singing

Solo singing

Individual coaching for performance e.g. repertoire & acting tutorials

Rehearsals and Performance

Rehearsals are a vital part of the training and they are designed to expand your knowledge of performance styles and rehearsal methods. You will take part in many performances during your training, although only in Year 3 will these be public. Performance in all its forms gives you the opportunity to apply the skills and techniques you are acquiring at every stage of your training.

Different periods of history and cultures have produced a variety of forms of musical theatre and you will learn to understand the different “styles” of performing that will be needed in your career. Project rehearsals will involve research into the period or culture; study of the text; creation of character and exploration of style. 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, choreographer and MD.

Your tutors will be looking for commitment; hard work; evidence of private study; a positive attitude and the development of your skills.

Examples:

Presentation e.g. performing a song to tutors and fellow students in Performance Class

Self-directed study e.g. learning of lines, choreography, and music

Years 1 & 2

Rehearsals leading to internal project showings of original choreography and extracts from musicals and plays.

Rehearsals leading to internal showings of Musical Theatre Skills Consolidation from musicals.

Year 3

Individual Tutorials leading to performance in auditions

Rehearsals leading to public performances of fully staged musicals

Acting Classes

In acting classes you will workshop exercises to develop your imagination, concentration, observation, and technique. You will be given the opportunity to explore rich variety of practices and techniques for (amongst others) studying the text, building a character and understanding and shaping a scene that will enable you to become a more inventive and creative actor. The tutor will be looking for an openness to each of these techniques and processes; a positive exploration of them; hard work; enthusiasm; commitment and generosity of spirit towards the other students.

Workshops

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

The tutor will have an area of work they wish to explore and they may start the session with games and/or exercises that will prepare the group to focus on that particular area of work. Different tutors will have different methods of working. You may be asked to work in smallish groups to explore and create as a group (*e.g. Physical Theatre Practice, Character Creation*) with guidance from the tutor, or you may work one to one with the tutor, exploring ways to approach a variety of material (*e.g. Lift Off, Song Workshop*), and there will be guidance from the tutor only when it is necessary.

Groups and/or individuals will usually be asked to show the results of their work during or at the end of the session.

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. The tutor will be looking for good group skills; imaginative and explorative input; risk taking; energy and commitment.

Lectures, Seminars and Tutorials

Lectures	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, <i>e.g. Current Musical Theatre Creative Practice (Year 2)</i> .
Seminars	Interactive sessions where the speaker may give a short presentation and then introduce a topic or a number of topics. The students may then be asked to discuss these topics in small groups and be asked to share a summary of their discussion with the rest of the groups towards the end of the session, <i>e.g. Contextual Studies</i> .
Tutorials	Provide an opportunity for the Head of Year to offer support and advice to students, and to provide information to the students 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 for students in preparation for written work, <i>e.g. Critical Reflections, Professional Practice Portfolios, Health and Safety and Wellbeing talks</i> .

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	Tutor-led hours	Self-directed study	Total learning hours
Year 1, Level 4				
MT1: Year 1 Performance	35	201.5	148.5	350
MT2: Year 1 Dance	40	400	0	400
MT3: Year 1 Acting	40	257.5	142.5	400
MT4: Year 1 Singing	40	125	275	400
MT5: Year 1 Contextual Studies	5	20.5	29.5	50
	160	1004.5	595.5	1600
Year 2, Level 5				
MT6: Year 2 Performance	35	214.75	135.25	350
MT7: Year 2 Dance	35	350	0	350
MT8: Year 2 Acting	35	271.25	78.75	350
MT9: Year 2 Singing	35	125	225	350
MT10: Year 2 Contextual Studies	5	39	11	50
	145	1000	450	1450
Year 3, Level 6				
MT11: Year 3 Performance	60	463	137	600
MT12: Year 3 Skills	45	283	167	450
MT15: Year 3 Professional Employment Skills	15	67	83	150
	120	813	387	1200

How will I be assessed?

Performance: Projects & Productions

Years 1 & 2: Three in-house projects - one acting, one singing and one dance (modules MT1: Year 1 Performance and MT6: Year 2 Performance). You will be assessed by the creative team on your rehearsal process and by the Heads of Department (or nominee) on your standard of performance.

Year 3: three productions, comprised of two public productions of fully staged musicals and a showcase presentation (filmed showreel). You will be assessed by the creative team on your rehearsal process and by the Heads of Department (or nominee) on your standard of performance. Public productions are marked 100% on performance, and the Showcase is marked 20% for performance and 80% for rehearsal process.

In addition to the learning outcomes described in the relevant Module Specification, the following general criteria based on the requirements of professional rehearsal and performance:

Rehearsal	Performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment, preparedness for work; self-directed study • Concentration; application; personal motivation • Receptiveness to the process • Ability to accept, and act upon, notes and corrections • Ability to accept, and act upon, notes and corrections • Ability to work within the group (listening; sensitivity; responsiveness; generosity; co-operation). • Development of flexibility and spontaneity • Capacity to experiment and take risks • Awareness of the working process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spontaneity, openness, bold choices • Ensemble skills: listening, responsiveness, co-operation and focus • Connection to the material, indicated by: emotional connection, concentration and truth • Understanding of character, context, musicality and style • Application and accuracy of technical skills

Preparation and Technique: Mid-year classwork marks (Year 1 & 2 only)

Tutors give students indicative grades for their work half way through the year that don't contribute to your degree. Mid-year classwork grades are awarded based on the student's response to, and development through, the process.

End of Year Assessments

In the second half of the summer term first and second year students have formal assessments in each of the assessed technique components before a panel of assessors. The panel will be made up of course tutors and may also include an external assessor.

Note: If a student achieves 45% or less in any core subject this signals a lack of progress and will trigger a meeting with the Course Leader. See sections below under 'What do I have to do to pass' for more detail. Full assessment regulations can be found within at the back of the handbook.

End of Year Classwork Marks

Towards the end of the summer term students are given grades for class work in all core components; this grade incorporates effort and attendance as well as the level of attainment reached.

Professional Rehearsal Requirements

In addition to the learning outcomes described in the relevant Module Specification, the following general criteria based on the requirements of professional rehearsal applies to **classwork, end of year and mid-year assessments:**

- Commitment, preparedness for work; self-directed study
- Understanding of ensemble skills: listening, responsiveness, generosity, co-operation and focus in group work
- Development of sustained concentration in class, rehearsal and performance
- Awareness and receptiveness to the process
- Ability to accept, and act on, notes and corrections
- Progression: growth and development of skills and knowledge
- Development of flexibility and spontaneity;
- Sense of performance: spontaneity, naturalness and fluency
- Capacity to experiment and take risks
- Connection to the material, indicated by: emotional release, concentration and believability
- Understanding of character, situation, musicality and style
- Application of technical dance skills in Jazz, Ballet and Tap
- Accuracy and fluency in reproduction of taught dance combinations
- Application of technical voice and movement skills
- Application of technical singing skills: use of dynamics, projection, vocal strength, pitch, tone and range.

Written Assessments

With tutorial support, students will write a Critical Reflection for one project or production each year, reflecting on their rehearsal process and performance. Each year students will prepare a Professional Practice Portfolio containing notes on lectures and seminars, reflections on their technical training, and written feedback on their assessments.

What do I have to do to pass?

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 Specification.

	Module	Weighting	Credit
Year 1	MT1: Year 1 Performance	25%	160
	MT2: Year 1 Dance	25%	
	MT3: Year 1 Acting	25%	
	MT4: Year 1 Singing	25%	
	MT5: Year 1 Contextual Studies	Pass/fail	
Year 2	MT6: Year 2 Performance	25%	145
	MT7: Year 2 Dance	25%	
	MT8: Year 2 Acting	25%	
	MT9: Year 2 Singing	25%	
	MT10: Year 2 Contextual Studies	Pass/fail	
Year 3	(Year 2 Final Mark)	20%	120
	MT11: Year 3 Performance	60%	
	MT12: Year 3 Skills	20%	
	MT15: Professional Employment Skills	Pass/fail	
		Total	425

All Contextual Studies modules and Professional Employment Skills are pass/fail and do not contribute to the final mark.

How will I get feedback on my work from the tutors?

Monitoring of 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 and you will receive one-to-one tutorial support in the following components of the programme:

Projects and Productions

You will receive written feedback from the lead creative and a Head of Department (or nominee) after each of the Year 1 and 2 project showings. In Year 3, you will receive written feedback from the creative team on your rehearsal process, and from the Heads of Department (or nominee) and the Course Director on your performance.

Mid and End of Year Assessments

In Year 1 and Year 2, you will each receive written feedback from the core subject tutors in February after mid-year classwork evaluations. Areas of success will be highlighted and you will be given targets to work towards. In addition, you will receive written feedback from external assessors and Heads of Year after end of year assessments.

Classwork

You will receive tutorial support from module and component tutors at the end of each unit of work, and tutorials can be arranged with Heads of Year and/or Heads of Department by approaching the member of staff directly.

What degree can I get?

In order to qualify for the award of BA (Hons) Musical Theatre, you must satisfy the pass requirements for all modules within the programme and achieve 425 credits overall.

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

Module	Classification Weighting
Average of the three percentage marks achieved for the Year 3 Performance module <i>Public Production 1, Public Production 2, Showreels</i>	60%
Aggregate mark for the Year 3 Skills module <i>Singing, Acting, Dance</i>	20%
Final mark for Year 2 <i>Performance, Dance, Acting, Singing</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) Musical Theatre 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) Musical Theatre 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 University [Credit Framework](#).

Students must complete the full three years of the programme, as outlined in the Programme Specification, to be awarded the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre degree.