

Programme Specification

Programme	CertHE in Musical Theatre Foundation
Awarding Institution	City St George's, University of London
Teaching Institution	The Arts Educational Schools
Type of study	Full time
UK Credits	120
ECTS	60

Outline

The CertHE in Musical Theatre Foundation is a 1-year full-time training programme designed to give you an insight into life at drama school, and to prepare you for vocational training at Honours level. The programme is validated by City St George's, University of London and you will receive a City St Georges, University of London award.

The Foundation year is normally 30 weeks, divided into three terms of approximately 13 weeks, 11 weeks and 6 weeks respectively. On average, there are a minimum of 30 hours of timetabled teaching per week. Since a core aim of the course is to prepare you for entry to 3 Year Honours programmes, most of which complete their audition cycle in the Spring of each year, teaching is top-loaded into terms 1 and 2 to maximise teaching time before the majority of your auditions take place. Term 3 helps develop your performance and preparation skills away from the entry requirements for a BA Hons Programme, focusing on broadening training to ensemble performance.

Acceptance onto the CertHE: Musical Theatre Foundation does not guarantee entry to the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre programme.

Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- Enable you to decide whether musical theatre training at Honours level will suit you

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- Prepare you for auditions for vocational musical theatre training programmes and other higher education courses
- Develop your communication and presentation skills
- Develop your competence in dance, singing and acting
- To develop and broaden your ability to focus all three disciplines to one story telling aim

What will I be expected to achieve?

Through participation and engagement with the training on the CertHE in Musical Theatre Foundation you will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

- The range of Musical Theatre vocational training available in the UK
- Some of the key current musical theatre creative practice
- Which area of higher education would be best suited to you

Skills

- The ability to reflect on your own progress and practice
- Progress in your imaginative, expressive and technical skills in all three core musical theatre disciplines

Values and Attitudes

- A collaborative approach to the creative process
- Personal values and qualities which will enhance personal life and attitude to study and training

How will I learn?

The teaching ethos is the same throughout the course, although each of the three core musical theatre disciplines may involve different methods and approaches. This section describes the range of learning formats you may experience at ArtsEd. If you are not sure about your role in a learning situation, please speak to the tutor concerned or to your Course Leader.

Technique Classes

Technique Classes are designed to develop your technical and practical skills in the core disciplines of dance, singing and acting. 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 all performing the same task. Although the tutor

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will give you personal attention and correction, 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

Acting, Speech and Voice

Ensemble Singing

Solo singing

Workshop Classes

Workshops offer a way for you to express your own ideas, skills and creativity within a group. 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 small groups to explore and create as a group with guidance from the tutor, or you may work one to one with the tutor, exploring ways to approach a variety of material. Guidance from the tutor will only be given when 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.

Tutors will be looking for openness to new techniques and a positive exploration of them; imagination; risk taking; hard work, energy and commitment, and generosity of spirit towards the other students.

Examples:

Dance auditions

Audition songs

Acting pieces

Musical Theatre skills consolidation

Song Workshop

Fitness and Stamina

Rehearsals and Performance

Rehearsals are designed to introduce you to different performance styles and rehearsal methods. Performance projects give you the opportunity to apply the skills and techniques you are acquiring as you progress through the programme.

Project rehearsals will involve research into the period or culture; study of the text or source music; creation of character and exploration of style. There are many different approaches to the rehearsal period and the lead creative of each project 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:

Musical Theatre Skills Consolidation

Acting Project

Cabaret

Lectures and Talks, Seminars, Tutorials

Lectures & Talks	Led by ArtsEd staff and external speakers, designed to introduce you to the broad range of options available to you for vocational training at Honours level, and in some cases, Masters level, upon successful completion of the CertHE Foundation.
Seminars	Interactive sessions where the speaker may give a short presentation to introduce a topic or a number of topics. The students may then 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. Health & Safety, Nutrition and Injury Prevention</i>
Tutorials	Provide an opportunity for the Course Leader to offer support and advice to students, and to provide information to the students as a group. Group tutorials 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.

Reflective writing

You will be encouraged to write journals for all your classes. Journal writing gives you the opportunity to reflect, to think through challenges and record breakthroughs. These journals are primarily for you, but tutors will regularly ask to see them to ensure you have recorded and understood the feedback you have been given.

Pre-requisite modules, co-requisite modules and upgrades

All modules on the programme are compulsory. There are no pre-requisite or co-requisite modules, and upgrades from one programme to another are not available.

Learning Hours

The number of hours you are expected to study for each module is determined by its credit value. The below table indicates the expectations:

Module	Credits	Tutor-led hours	Self-directed study	Total learning hours
FMT1: Audition Preparation	20	113.5	86.5	200
FMT2: Dance Skills	40	321.5	78.5	400
FMT3: Singing Skills	20	193.5	6.5	200
FMT4: Acting Skills	20	163.5	36.5	200
FMT5: Performance Skills	20	94	106	200
	120	849	357.5	1200

How will I be assessed?

Rehearsal and Performance:

The Performance Skills module you will take part in six in-house projects: in terms 1 and 2 you will rehearse and perform four short projects in your Musical Theatre skills consolidation class, and in the Summer term you will rehearse an acting project. The culmination of the CertHE Musical Theatre Foundation is a cabaret, performed to an audience of tutors, family and friends at a West End venue.

In all performance projects you will be assessed by the creative team on your rehearsal process and by the Heads of Department on your standard of performance. The marks for your first two Song and Dance projects in the Autumn term will be indicative only, and will not carry any weight in the calculation of your mark for the module.

Classwork:

Towards the end of the course, your tutors in Singing Technique, Ensemble, Jazz and Acting will mark your classwork in each discipline. This mark incorporates effort and attendance as well as the level of attainment reached. Assessment is made with reference to the unit-specific learning outcomes described in the relevant module and the following general criteria based on the standards required for acceptance onto conservatoire training programmes:

- Commitment, preparedness for work; self-directed study
- Concentration; application; personal motivation
- Receptiveness to the process
- Ability to accept, and act on, notes and corrections
- Ability to work within group (listening; sensitivity; responsiveness generosity; co-operation).
- Progression: growth and development of skills and knowledge
- Development of flexibility and spontaneity;
- Capacity to experiment and take risks
- Development of awareness of the working process
- Quality of reflective/critical understanding and expression

Written Assignments

You will prepare a portfolio containing notes on your lectures and seminars, mock auditions and audition technique classes, and detailed research and reflection on the direction you wish to take upon successful completion of the course. The portfolio is marked pass/fail, but it is a requirement of the course that this element be passed. The module specifications outline the other journals you are required to keep during your progress through the course. Your tutors will carry out 'spot checks' of these journals at regular intervals, but the journals are not marked.

What do I have to do to pass?

To pass the CertHE in Musical Theatre Foundation, you must have acquired 120 credits and passed each module in accordance with the requirements for the module as set out in the Module Specifications.

Please refer to the Grade Descriptors to understand what is expected of you to achieve each grade band.

Compensation

The assessment regulations for ArtsEd's CertHE programmes allow you to gain your certificate when you have not passed all of your modules but the Assessment Board confirms you have met all of the following criteria pertaining to your level of study. This is known as compensation. To be eligible for compensation you must have:

Passed modules to the value of at least 95 credits and

- Obtained a mark of at least 30% in any failed module up to 25 credits and
- Obtained an average mark of 40% or greater for the whole level (across all 120 credits studied)

Compensation is only applied when the full profile of marks covering all 120 credits is available to the Assessment Board. If compensation is applied, you will not be offered any further reassessment opportunities for the compensated module.

Resits

If you do not meet the criteria for compensation, resits may be available. A resit is a second attempt at an initial failed assessment without having to repeat the original period of teaching and learning. The resit mode may vary depending on the nature of the initial assessment. You may be required to carry out a separate piece of work if the assessment was a project, a showcase performance or their classwork in the event that the course has finished.

A resit is granted by the Assessment Board which also makes the final decision on re-sit arrangements. Where there is more than one assessment component in a module, an Assessment Board will need to make clear which assessment components you are required to re-sit. Students normally have a maximum of two attempts to pass each assessment component; a first attempt and a resit. Students who have approved Extenuating Circumstances may be granted a further attempt. More detail about re-sits is set out in City St George's assessment regulations.

What qualification can I get?

In order to qualify for the award of Certificate of Higher Education in Musical Theatre Foundation, you must satisfy the pass requirements for all modules within the programme and achieve 120 credits overall.

Module	Classification Weighting
Average of the three percentage marks achieved for Dance Skills <i>Jazz, Ballet, Commercial</i>	20%
Average of the two percentage marks achieved for Singing Skills <i>Singing technique, Ensemble</i>	20%
Average of the two percentage marks achieved for Acting Skills <i>Acting, Speech & Voice</i>	20%
Average of the percentage marks achieved for Performance Skills <i>Song & Dance 3, Song & Dance 4, Acting Project, Cabaret</i>	40%

The class of the award of the CertHE will normally be:

CertHE in Musical Theatre Foundation	Minimum Overall Aggregate Mark
Distinction	70%
Merit	60%
Pass	40%

Course Content

All modules and units are compulsory and must be passed.

Module FMT1:	Audition Preparation
Credit value:	20
Pass/fail units:	Audition Preparation

How do I pass Audition Preparation?

You are required to pass your Audition Preparation portfolio and your classwork, but the module has no weighting in the calculation of the overall mark for the CertHE.

Module FMT2:	Dance Skills
Credit value:	40
Graded units:	Jazz (50%) Contemporary/Commercial (30%) Ballet (20%)

How do I pass Dance Skills?

You must achieve a mark of 40% or above for your classwork in each unit.

Module FMT3:	Singing Skills
Credit value:	20
Graded units:	Ensemble (30%) Singing Technique (70%)
Pass/fail units:	Song Workshop

How do I pass Singing Skills?

You must achieve a mark of 40% or above for your classwork in Singing technique and Ensemble.

Module FMT4:	Acting Skills
Credit value:	20
Graded units:	Acting (70%) Speech and Voice (30%)

How do I pass Acting Skills?

You must achieve a mark of 40% or above for your classwork in Acting and Speech and Voice.

Module FMT5:	Performance Skills
Credit value:	20
Graded units:	Cabaret (40%) Acting Project (30%) Musical Theatre Skills Consolidation 3 (15%) Musical Theatre Skills Consolidation 4 (15%)

How do I pass Performance Skills?

You are required to pass each unit. The marks for the first two Song and Dance projects will be indicative, and will not be included in the calculation of the overall mark for the module. In all Performance Skills projects you must achieve a mark of 40% or above for both your rehearsal process and performance in each project.

All students are also required to produce journals demonstrating research and reflection on all aspects of the training. These are pass/fail assessments and do not carry any weighting in the degree.

Careers

The aim of the CertHE is to prepare you for progression to conservatoire training at Honours level. However, course is also designed to help you to decide whether a career in musical theatre is right for you. The skills and personal qualities developed on the course equip you for work in a huge variety of sectors.

Accreditation

In 2017 ArtsEd joined a group of 20 drama and musical theatre schools in creating the Federation of Drama Schools, which provides a forum for discussion across the sector and hosts a website providing information about each school's courses for potential students.

<http://www.federationofdramaschools.co.uk/>

In 2018 ArtsEd became a founder member of the Alliance of Musical Theatre Conservatoires. The Alliance brings together a group of like-minded institutions who collaborate and share good practice, in order to deliver world class musical theatre education and vocational training.

<https://amtc.uk.com/>