

# Programme Specification

<b>Programme</b>	MA Acting
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	City St George's, University of London
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	The Arts Educational Schools
<b>Location</b>	Catholic Centre, Chiswick
<b>Type of study</b>	Full time
<b>UK Credits</b>	180
<b>ECTS</b>	90

## Outline

Our MA course offers rigorous and intensive vocational actor training focused on developing your potential as a highly skilled, creative and autonomous actor. The programme is validated by City St George's, University of London and you will receive a City St Georges, University of London award.

You will be given the skills and techniques to explore psychological and physical processes to engage in live & screen performance in innovative and stimulating ways.

Through working with classical & contemporary texts, creating your own performance opportunities and analysing your relationship to your craft, you will be challenged and motivated to realise your abilities. By the end of your one-year training you will be equipped to take your place as a creative practitioner and prepared to adapt to the contemporary, ever-changing creative industry.

## Programme aims

The programme aims to:

- Facilitate the development of autonomous, confident and resilient creative artists, capable of engaging in a range of performance processes with integrity, professionalism, assurance and flexibility
- Inspire you to take bold, creative risks, and to develop your ability to work outside the parameters of your habitual range of expressivity



- Develop a rigorous and profound understanding of the technical skills required of a professional actor
- Develop the actor's ability to respond in the work with honesty, clarity, and spontaneity
- Develop the actor's capacity to work within an inclusive, co-operative & responsive ensemble, understanding the needs of the group whilst maintaining your personal process.
- Develop a reflective practice, through which you can interrogate, assess and evaluate your work, and form strategies to build an autonomy within your process.
- Inspire you, the actor, to value your ability to make your own work and form your own companies.

## What will I be expected to achieve?

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

### Skills

- Explore and perform a range of roles in which you are able to operate under psychological and physical ways of being outside of your habitual
- Build and maintain your vocal and physical skills through disciplined and regular practice.
- Develop and enhance your capacity for embodied awareness and action to facilitate moment to moment response with your fellow actors
- Work independently as well as collaboratively to develop your contribution to any given performance
- Adapt your performance style to work within different environments and media
- Create and develop original performance

### Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate a critical and objective facility as a creative performer
- Demonstrate a deeper understanding of yourself and your inner creative impulses and the ability to harness this creativity to facilitate a concrete realisation in performance
- Demonstrate an extensive industry knowledge and the ability to utilise such knowledge, where appropriate, to establish new companies and instigate new work
- Develop your understanding of yourself as a self-employed business entity within the wider industry

- Develop strategies to foster resilience for yourself as an actor within process and within the industry

### **Values and Attitudes**

- Demonstrate a highly developed respect for and generosity towards the ensemble and an understanding of your role and responsibilities within that ensemble
- Develop trust in your personal creative abilities and to respond in the work with bravery, confidence and adaptability
- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of professional discipline, which extends beyond the practical considerations of timekeeping, reliability and courtesy, and involves a total commitment of the individual to the creative enterprise.
- Develop a high level of trust with the other actors on the course and a high level of permission and willingness to risk true self-expression.
- Value the actor's responsibility to maintain and further interrogation of process and to regard the actor's craft as a life-long exploration

## **How will I learn?**

This section describes the various methods used to deliver the teaching during your programme. Tutors from different disciplines may also work together in classes or with individuals to develop cross-discipline knowledge *e.g. A voice tutor with a director work on a scene.*

### **Workshops**

In these classes a product is built over a number of sessions. You will work in groups or individually, developing your own material under the supervision and guidance of a tutor. *e.g. Acting Skills, Screen Acting*

### **Rehearsals**

Scenes are rehearsed, the form of the class changing with the requirements of the rehearsal. Early rehearsals use the seminar and workshop format, developing into small group/tutorial format later in the process. *e.g. Contemporary/Shakespeare*

### **Technique Classes**

These classes teach technical facility through repetition. They offer you the opportunity to practice regularly and to develop exercises creatively. *e.g. Physical Skills, Voice*

### **Lecture/Seminars**

Most often used by industry speakers, lectures present lots of information to you as a group. *e.g. Professional Practice, Business Skills*

### **Tutorials**

Methods are adapted to the specific needs of individual students, conducted on a one to one or small group basis. *e.g. Professional Employment Skills, voice, singing*

### **Pre-requisite modules, co-requisite modules and upgrades**

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

Upgrades from one programme to another are not available.

### **Learning hours**

The MA Acting is a one-year full-time programme. The taught element is delivered from September to June, followed by a period of self-directed study leading to submission of a final written assignment in September.

Module	Credits	Tutor-led hours	Self-directed study	Total learning hours
MA1: Acting	60	443.5	156.5	600
MA2: Movement	20	137.5	62.5	200
MA3: Expressive Voice	20	138	62	200
MA4: Reflection	30	18	282	300
MA5: Performance	40	280	120	400
MA6: Professional Employment Skills	10	35	65	100
	<b>180</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>1800</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 five assessment methods on the MA Acting programme. Further information about assessment can be found in the Assessment and Feedback Policy.

### **Classwork**

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

### **Rehearsal Process**

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

### **Performance**

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

### **Written Assignments**

You will undertake independent research, write working journals and reflective essays, and collect information for professional development plans.

### **Reflective performance**

You will undertake independent research, and present your research as part of a Reflection Event for the Critical Appraisal 2 in term 3.

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

The minimum pass mark for each unit or module of the course is 50%. You will be assessed according to the criteria set out in each module and the grade descriptors above.

In order to qualify for the award of MA Acting, you must satisfy the pass requirements for all modules within the programme and achieve 180 credits overall.

The overall aggregate mark for the Master's degree shall be calculated using overall percentage grades, according to the following weighting:

<b>Module</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Credit</b>
MA1: Acting	30%	60
MA2: Movement	15%	20
MA3: Expressive Voice	15%	20
MA4: Reflection	10%	30
MA5: Performance	30%	40
MA6: Professional Employment Skills	Pass/fail	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>

The Professional Employment Skills module is pass/fail and does not contribute to the final mark but must be passed.

## What degree can I get?

In order to qualify for the award of MA Acting, you must satisfy the pass requirements for all modules within the programme and achieve 180 credits overall. There is no provision for awarding a distinction on this programme, all awards will be classified 'Pass' or 'Fail'.

## Compensation between modules

There is no provision for compensation within or between modules on the MA Acting.

## Resit 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 50. Please refer to City St George's Assessment Regulations for further information.

## Careers

The aim of the MA 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. Case studies include:

**Daniel Weyman (2002)** theatre credits include the West End and many major UK theatres including Regent's Park Open Air and Bristol Old Vic. He has been nominated for Best Performance in a Play at the TMA Awards. On TV he has played regular characters in Foyle's War and Silent Witness. Recent work includes Gentleman Jack, A Very English Scandal and The Lord of the Rings: The Rings Of Power. Daniel won the Audio Narrator of the Year at the Audio Production Awards.

**Mueriann Bird (2012)** – Mueriann kick-started her career on the stage in The National's Translations No.1 UK and Ireland Tour. She then continued onto The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart at The National Theatre of Scotland/New York in 2017. She's no stranger to the screen either, appearing in JK Rowling's Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald in 2018, and plays reoccurring character, Lucinda Brown in TV show Outlander on Starz.

**Rameet Rauli (2013)** – Soon after graduating, Rameet became a hit TV star on Nickelodeon's Ride, playing reoccurring character, Anya. She then continued her TV

success in Call the Midwife (BBC One) playing Ms Huq, Warren (BBC One) as Prisha and Find Me in Paris (Nickelodeon) playing reoccurring character, Lex.

**Mateo Oxley (2013)** began his career with Punchdrunk at the National Theatre and appeared in the National's recent revival of Angels in America. On TV Mateo can currently be seen playing Princess Beatrice's Italian boyfriend Edoardo Mapelli-Mozzi in Channel 4's The Windsors.

**Jasmine Raymond (2019)** already has several TV and film credits in her first nine months out, including feature films The Last Letter from Your Lover (Netflix), Pinky (ESA Pictures), commercials for Burger King, Halifax Building Society, and she plays Gail in Ted Lasso, a Warner Brothers production for Apple TV.

Some of the 2019 graduates collaborated to form a theatre company, and their production of Shaping Dust won the Actor's Centre Alan Bates Development Award and later transferred to The Cockpit.

#### **From our 2022 cohort:**

- Haina Al-Saud (2022) has played lead roles for Tiata Fahodzi (Lyric Hammersmith) and Tamasha Theatre Companies. She went on to play Norma in Duplicity for Beginners (Blue Orange Theatre) and Gayle in Irvine Welsh's 'Crime' Season 2 (ITV/Britbox). Additionally
- Flo Crompton played Charity in 'The Lesson' (Theatre 503)
- Alex Kidder played Lou in musical 'Mary and The Matrons' (Exeter Northcott Theatre)
- Ainy Medina played Rose in 'Archie' (ITV) and the title role in Cinderella (Chipping Norton)
- Joao Soares Dos Reis played in feature film 'We Live In Time' (Film4/Studio Canal)

#### **From our 2023 cohort:**

- Dominic Hyam played Elliot in 'White Guilt' (London New Wave Film)
- Kay Dimech featured in Shame on Dry Land (Fedra Films) and The Home Straight (Lampa Stampa)
- Sam Heap starred in Once Upon a Bridge as 'The Man' at the OSO Theatre which featured on Sky, ITV and BBC.
- Keisha Afua played Alice in 'The Lancashire Witches' (The Cockpit)
- Ciara Amas performed in 'We All Know How This Ends' (Stratford East)

## **Study Abroad/Work Placements**

Study Abroad or Placement options are not available for the MA Acting programme.

## Accreditation and Professional Recognition

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.