

BA (Hons) Acting Module Information

Year 1 - Programme Credit Structure

Discipline Specific Modules

Acting 1	36 credits
Movement 1	12 credits
Voice 1	12 credits

Performance and Production Modules

Performance Project 1	12 credits
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Second Skills

Dance 1 (Minor study)	12 credits
Singing 1 (Minor study)	12 credits

Shared Modules

Professional Development 1	12 credits
The Context 1	12 credits

Discipline Specific Modules

Acting 1

The aim of this module is to give you a practical and pragmatic understanding and acquisition of the skills required for an action-based approach to acting, including analysis, reflection, and the manner in which specificity forms the basis of “truth” in acting. This will include the exploration of improvisation and play, Meisner Technique, performing text-based naturalistic scenes and acting through song.

On completion of this module, you should be able to understand the principles of good improvisation techniques and interpret direction in a manner that results in the creation of a believable character, both vocally and physically. You will be able to perform effectively as part of an acting ensemble and identify your own personal acting strengths and limitations.

Movement 1

This module aims to give you an understanding and acquisition of practical movement skills for the actor. You will learn how to use your body to be as expressive, believable and articulate as you can be through a series of workshops, building trust in your own body and those in the rest of the company. You focus on the body in relation to the world around it, exploring the connection between imagination and the physical inhabiting of the world of play. You are introduced to Rudolf Laban’s work as a means of identifying the expressive range of physical efforts.

At the end of this module, you should be able to use the inter-relationship between acting, voice and movement in rehearsal and performance. Along with physical and spatial awareness as part of creating a character, you will know how to use all the senses as well as inner feeling and imagination to retrain the body to move with ease and balance in the imagined world. You will be able to deliver a physical warm up for a company.

Voice 1

The aim of this module is to introduce you to the fundamentals of voice work for the actor. You will undertake exercises and instructions in utilising your voice to its full potential. Certain disciplines of bodywork are used to support vocal dynamics.

On completion of this module, you should be aware of the principles that will allow you to reach your full potential as a singer and performer. You will understand the phonetic analysis of the spoken word in Received Pronunciation and Standard American, and be able to apply this in appropriate contexts. You will identify your own vocal issues and be able to devise your own individual voice warm up, targeting these.

Performance and Production Modules

Performance Project 1

This module is designed to provide you with the opportunity to bring all of the elements of your first year studies together to develop one major piece of performed work. You will recognise the importance and function of each process of the production/performance from the perspective of your own discipline by working collaboratively as a producing ensemble.

By the end of this module, you should be competent in practical activities and managing your own time as part of a production team. You will demonstrate a basic understanding of the administration of theatre and performance and the technical practicalities leading to a performance, including the creative/rehearsal process undertaken.

Second Skills

Dance 1

This module aims to provide you with fundamental dance skills required for a range of performance contexts. You will learn basic technical moves in ballet, jazz and tap understanding their different demands. By the end of this module, you should be able to use warm-up and cool down techniques, and perform movement sequences with focus and clarity.

Singing 1

The aim of this module is to develop your singing technique for both musical theatre and popular song whilst maintaining a healthy voice. It also aims to encourage the use of singing as a significant means of expression in both individual and social terms.

At the end of this module, you should be able to understand and control the physical mechanism of your singing voice. You will be able to demonstrate melody, harmony and different vocal structures adapting to the demands of differing musical styles and in different singing contexts, employing safe practice at all times.

Shared Modules

Professional Development 1

This module aims to give you the knowledge, understanding and intellectual skills required to develop your personal and professional career in the performing arts, including basic technical and production roles and responsibilities.

On completion of this module, you will have improved communication skills through working effectively as part of a team. You will understand what it takes to organise an event evaluating your own learning and planning processes whilst employing interpersonal skills.

The Context 1

The aims of this module are to give you an understanding of the contemporary landscape of the performing arts, the histories and practices that have affected the development of Acting and study skills appropriate for the performing arts.

On completion of this module, you will be able to understand the broad shape and nature of contemporary performing arts. You will be competent at using a variety of methods and strategies for undertaking research and analysis whilst clearly communicating findings and academically referencing your work.

Year 2 - Programme Credit Structure

Discipline Specific Modules

Acting 2 36 credits

Voice and Movement 2 12 credits

Performance and Production Modules

Public Performance Project 24 credits

Second Skills

Musical Theatre Workshop 12 credits

either

Creating and Facilitating 12 credits

or

Dance 2 12 credits

Shared Modules

Professional Development 2 12 credits

The Context 2 12 credits

Discipline Specific Modules

Acting 2

This module builds on the foundations developed in the first year and expands on the range of acting techniques explored. Your experience of performance contexts will broaden by developing approaches to critical emotional circumstances and working with heightened texts (primarily Elizabethan and Jacobean) with more challenging characters that require physical, vocal and acting adjustments from you, whilst still maintaining believability. You will also create and execute devised narratives and adapt to the media of screen and radio. At the end of this module, you will be able to apply acting technique to successfully engage with characters. emotional circumstances truthfully. You will undertake significant challenges in creating a character appropriate to the text and media, and articulate your casting potential according to “type.”

Your improvisational technique will improve and you will be able to tell a story effectively through your own devised work. You will be highly competent in physical and vocal approaches to acting and be able to analyse and criticise your own work as it progresses.

Voice and Movement 2

This module aims to expand your range of vocal and physical expression, providing approaches to more advanced voice work including different accents, dialects and consistent character vocal and physical changes and adjustments. It aims to develop your ability to meet the challenges of heightened text, such as Shakespeare. You will add more formal movement to such texts and do technical exercises with costume, props and set, adding stability to physical and vocal transformations, as well as an introduction to social dance.

By the end of this module, you will be able to identify and reproduce RP vowels and consonants and develop another accent/dialect to audition standard. Working with heightened texts you will use advanced skills in performance, looking at verse structures with vocal and non-verbal story telling. You will be able to bring together all of the skills which articulate the fusion of creativity and technique through performance. You will apply research preparation and observation accurately in the truthful creation of character.

Performance and Production Modules

Public Performance Project

The aims of this module are to provide you with a public performance opportunity, simulating the professional process. You will develop ideas and skills and work collaboratively with other students following a clear focused brief. You will learn the nature and scope of approaches and various genres and media applicable to live performance.

You are encouraged to develop a range of communication skills, planning, and rehearsal and presentation responsibilities of a greater standard than previously encountered on the programme. You will learn professionalism and prepare for level three and beyond.

By the end of this module, you should have developed your level of competence in performance and all of the different processes that you must go through, including; understanding of the creative/rehearsal process, the administration and technical production processes. You will be able to work creatively and efficiently as part of a production team, managing your own time effectively and critically reflecting on your own and the work of others.

Second Skills

Musical Theatre Workshop

The aims of this module are to give you a practical understanding of musical theatre performance, providing you with an extended knowledge of repertoire. You will learn a range of technical stylistic challenges, musical and dramatic, a range of physical approaches to musical theatre staging and be able to retain complex part-singing, as well as skills in ensemble and chorus work.

You will experience the physical demands of musical theatre staging by learning choreography and you will develop the ability to make large-scale expressive choices creating credible and theatrically effective performance through speech, song and dance.

On completion of this module, you will be able to work as part of a musical theatre ensemble in a variety of genres and styles. You will be able to take direction and make and sustain the dramatic rhythm of complex vocal harmony and choreography, whilst maintaining the actor/audience relationship.

Either option 1 - Creating and Facilitating

The aims of this module are to give you the opportunity to explore ways by which performance is generated and developed, through using a leader and group methods of creation and rehearsal.

Upon completion of this module, you will be able to develop an idea, carry out research and analyse material for production and presentation for a target audience. You will recognise and understand principles of time and space manipulation and explore the balance between pro-active leadership and ensemble contribution to the creation and presentation of performance work.

Or option 2 - Dance 2

This module continues from the first year in providing you with fundamental dance skills required for a range of performance contexts. You will learn dance techniques, styles and approaches for musical theatre and music vocal performance. You will also learn how to develop skills for dance audition at professional level.

By the end of this module, you will be able to perform complex dance routines in partner work and ensemble in musical theatre. You will know how to use appropriate warm-up and cool down technique, and work in a safe way using correct dance protocol. You will understand the dance audition procedure and your employment potential and be ready for dance calls for professional musical theatre auditions.

Shared Modules

Professional Development 2

This module builds on the foundations developed in the first year providing the knowledge, understanding and intellectual skills of application required for the development of personal and professional skills for specific areas and overall. You will assess the performing arts as a business and begin preparations for your own career.

By the end of this module, you will be able to assess financial and organisational structures in the performing arts economy. You will be able to identify potential business and enterprise opportunities and reflect on your own skills and ability to develop a career plan or a business plan. You will have the skills to manage an enterprise or event through gained inter-personal management and communication skills.

The Context 2

This module aims to further enhance your understanding of the theories and approaches to western theatre and performance practice within the context of the main artistic and intellectual movements. You will look at the theory of contemporary performance practice and your own development as an actor.

At the end of this module, you will be able to understand key themes and concepts associated with theatre and performance, demonstrating the ability to place current practical work and practitioners within a social, cultural and theoretical context. You will know a range of approaches and methods for research and analysis and be able to present articulate arguments using the appropriate strategies and methods.

Year 3 – Programme Credit Structure

Discipline Specific Modules

Voice and Movement 3	12 credits
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Performance and Production Modules

Performance Project 3	48 credits
The Company	24 credits

Shared Modules

Professional Development 3	12 credits
The Context 3 – Research Project	24 credits

Discipline Specific Modules

Voice and Movement 3

This module aims to provide professional vocal and physical support for production work in both of the level three performance modules. It aims to further expand your understanding of a range of approaches, providing tutorial support for you to develop material for your audition portfolio.

By the end of this module, you should be able to employ advanced vocal and physical technique in the context of a professional rehearsal process, including professional conduct whilst working with a voice and/or movement coach. You will be able to use professional specialist input in the development of audition material and clearly articulate your own targets for continued professional development of vocal and physical technique upon completion of the course.

Performance and Production Modules

Performance Project 3

This module aims to provide you with the simulated professional practice context, or by negotiating your own actual one, in which you can work on your performance skills to standards of professional practice. You will be cast in a production showing your perceived casting strengths and this will allow you to build on your audition portfolio for more individual focused material.

By the end of this module, you will be able to apply your synthesised personal acting technique in a professionally directed acting employment arena. You will engage with industry professionals in rehearsal/auditions/workshops using excellent levels of inter-personal skills and maintaining a professional ethical working attitude. You will be responsible for your own portfolio and the selection of personal material.

The Company

The aims of this module are to provide you with the opportunity to be proactive in the planning and realisation of your own performance season. You will develop your own skills as a member of a creative entrepreneurial team and have the opportunity for public performance.

On completion of this module, you should be able to operate effectively in the planning and organisation of a performance from the initial 'idea' to actual performance. You will take charge of your own learning using professional mentors when appropriate. You will employ a developed combined personal acting technique in the context of self-directed study.

Shared Modules

Professional Development 3

This module aims to provide you with the framework of skills, knowledge and understanding for seeking out and securing employment in your chosen area. It aims to establish all of the skills and knowledge developed throughout the three years and provides a clear and practical way forward for gaining your first employment position.

By the end of this module you will be adept at promoting and marketing yourself effectively, understanding your own strengths and weaknesses. You will understand the recruitment process for gaining employment and you should be able to implement a comprehensive, realistic personal business and career plan highlighting a detailed understanding of the industry. The module includes an industry showcase in both Liverpool and London.

The Context 3 – Research Project

This module is designed to allow you the opportunity to use all of your skills and knowledge developed over the practical and theoretical modules. You will undertake a substantial and sustained research project specifically linked to your own future aspirations within the performing arts.

On completion of this module, you will have an advanced understanding of complex ideas and practices relating to the acting industry. You will have advanced levels of research and analytical skills and be able to employ complex methods. In addition, using complex data for reference and manipulation, you will be able to develop coherent and well-formed arguments.

Please note: This document is intended to give you a flavour of the course content in your first, second and third year. All of this information can be subject to change as LIPA programmes change to reflect the changing needs of the arts and entertainment industries.