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**NATIONAL  
COUNCIL FOR  
DRAMA  
TRAINING**



**CITY UNIVERSITY  
LONDON**

**TRINITY**  
COLLEGE LONDON

Registered Examination Centre 5368



**ARTS  
EDUCATIONAL  
SCHOOLS LONDON**

prospectus



# acting

Actors have always been a vital part of any culture because they have a unique ability to express a truthful understanding of the human condition. The stories they enact can inspire, amuse, re-assure, shock, amaze or even edify an audience. It's a very responsible job and in order to do it convincingly, actors need to be given the appropriate training in a range of performance contexts, including live performance, film, television and radio.

Students in receipt of a Dance and Drama Award (see Grants and Awards section) who successfully complete the course will follow the National Diploma in Professional Acting (3 years), or the National Advanced Certificate in Professional Acting (1 year by Trinity College London) in addition to the opportunity to gain a degree.

Both courses are fully accredited by the National Council for Drama Training and the Department for Education and Skills. A British Equity Card (full Equity status) is granted to all full-time acting course graduates.

## Acting Courses Offered

BA (Hons) Acting for Film and Television/Three-year National Diploma in Professional Acting .....

MA in Acting/One-year National Certificate in Professional Acting .....

BA (Hons) in Performance Studies/One Year Post Diploma Course .....

All degrees are validated by City University



# BA (HONS) ACTING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION / 3YR NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL ACTING

## THE MODERN ACTOR

This is the acting course for the modern actor. ArtsEd has listened to the industry and redesigned its course to fit the demands made on an actor in the twenty first century.

Whilst most drama training concentrates on producing theatre actors ArtsEd has seen that 60% of paid work comes from screen acting of one sort or another.

So we have expanded the amount of work that our students do in front of the camera to 50%. Whilst still giving the student a thorough foundation in classical and contemporary theatre acting, we have strengthened the film and television training throughout the course - enabling our actors to understand that the most profound and important difference between

film and television acting, to that of acting on stage, is a different 'process' of preparation.

Get this process right and the actor can succeed in the modern industry.

Whilst good acting is good acting, the screen actor has to understand that they have to use a totally different process to that of the stage actor to produce a believable character. In theatre, the actor goes into a private space with the other actors and the director to rehearse the play together. The director skilfully draws the performance out of the actor with improvisations and acting exercises designed to free the actor's imagination.

The actors work with each other, developing their characters. So, by the first night all the actors know what the others will be doing at any given point. The process is organic and linear, and thoroughly explored in the theatre training on this course.

## It is totally different for the screen actor

The screen actor has to do most of their character development on their own, without the stimulus or help of a director, and without knowing who is playing the other parts in the film or how they might play them. They may do the scene where they break up with their husband before the scene where they meet and fall in love with him. The screen actor has to prepare and develop the character's story and emotional arc completely alone.

The screen actor has to be able adapt to playing intimately with virtual strangers, on time pressured sets, revealing a character's frailties in close up whilst surrounded by the film crew. They not only shoot scenes in the film out of sequence; they may even shoot a single scene out of order. And all of this needs to be done truthfully, in character.

## ArtsEd gives the student the process and skills to achieve this

The screen actor needs to be able to do lots of preparation on his or her own. ArtsEd enables the actor to stimulate their imaginations alone and gives them a range of methods and techniques to reveal the character to the camera. The screen actor has to be able to concentrate on what they are thinking, as the character, at every moment of the scene - for at least twelve hours a day, remaining calm, relaxed and focused in the most stressful environments.

By putting the students through many hours of shooting they develop a profound grasp of what they need to do to reveal a character on screen. They will discover how to reveal thoughts to the camera, how to be emotionally alive and in the moment, and how to shape and judge their performance for the frame size the director has chosen.

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# Ba (HONS) ACTING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION / 3YR NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL ACTING

Most importantly, they will learn how to focus their vocal range for the camera, putting their energy into their thoughts and not their voices. They also get to crew their own projects giving them a crucial insight into how a real film set actually works, giving the student an appreciation of the rhythm of film making. Knowing what is happening around you gives the actor the confidence to know how to reveal their character on screen.

For the screen actor the process is non linear and non organic. It takes enormous courage to reveal one's vulnerabilities to the camera. To develop that courage the student actor has to experience the full range of modules that ArtsEd teaches.

## The Training

ArtsEd concentrates on all the fundamental skills: character creation and analysis, improvisation, story telling, and vocal and physical articulation. The course gives a thorough training in these essential skills giving the actor the classical expertise needed for the theatre. The students learn how to use the creative explorations of Stanislavski, Meisner and Mike Leigh to open up and discover character and action in scripts. They perform in a spectrum of plays: Chekhov and Shakespeare as well as the American classics by Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams; theatre experimentalists such as Pirandello, Brecht and Berkoff as well as British playwrights from Coward to Pinter through to Jez Butterworth. Theatre at ArtsEd is seen as essential for developing an actor's imagination and creative muscle.

The course covers all areas that modern actors need to know: voice overs, additional dialog recording (ADR) and voice for radio as well as Film and Television.

ArtsEd gives the student a thorough and complete training in theatre, radio, television and film. Our students are fully prepared for all the opportunities that will present themselves when they graduate. In an ever-competitive industry the actor has to be able to grasp their opportunities when they arrive. There is no time now to learn on the job as there was even ten years ago. The modern actor has to be fully prepared to be the person created by the writer under the enormous pressure that the modern industry exerts over the actor.

## PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

### Professional and Business Preparation

Students are given a thorough, all round professional training not only in the art of acting but also in the logistics of how to succeed in a heavily competitive industry. With regular lectures from industry professionals, students gain knowledge and understanding of all the business aspects and behind-the-scenes workings of the profession.

They will have extensive training in interview and audition techniques, and learn how to present themselves when meeting agents, casting directors, directors and the media. Advice is also given on their promotional photographs and CV; and in their final year the student creates a working Action Plan for use post graduation.

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# Ba (HONS) acting for film and television / 3yr NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL ACTING

## The Ethos

We ensure that our students are given a positive experience in a supportive environment, so they can believe in their talent and their creativity. The training instils confidence in themselves and their craft to produce the best professional actor for the twenty-first century.

## PUBLIC PRODUCTIONS

### Plays

In the third year each student will be cast in two Main House Theatre productions, directed by professional theatre directors and given full production support. These productions are attended by many agents, directors and casting directors.

## Film and Television

At the end of the second year each student is cast one or more short films. These films are put on a show-reel DVD which is circulated to agents, directors and casting directors. In the third year each student is given one or two parts in another series of short films, which are shot on location, and filmed and edited to industry standards.

## FILM SCREENINGS

The third year films are given a West End screening to an invited audience of industry professionals. A second screening also takes place in Los Angeles. A show-reel of the films is given to each student for professional promotion.

## SHOWCASE

The students are also involved in a West Showcase of short theatre scenes to an invited audience of agents, directors and casting directors. A DVD of excerpts from the films will be available at this event.

For a more detailed description of the Curriculum and Auditions visit [www.artsed.co.uk](http://www.artsed.co.uk)



3YR Acting Students in ARCADIA, 2011. Photograph by Andrew H Williams.



# ma IN acting/ 1YR NATIONAL certificate IN PROFESSIONAL acting

We train actors to live truthfully under imaginary circumstances and give them the skills and techniques needed to do so effectively on stage and screen.

When an actor feels something real in performance, the audience feels something real too. The actor's task is to create this connection by revealing the potential of the human spirit and the realities of the human condition.

This MA course enables mature students to develop their technique as professional actors, and allows them to explore their unique, creative potential as artists. The course seeks to develop your ability to research, experiment, test, reflect, discover, grow and evolve in an environment of constructive criticism.

The atmosphere is non-competitive and encourages artistic and creative risks, guided by specialist tutors and directors.

### Public Productions

Supported by a full production team and production values, each student is cast in a play, for which they audition in front of professional directors. The plays are rehearsed and then presented in one of our two theatres.

### Screen Performance

Short dramatic location-based films, which are professionally directed and shot, are performed and crewed by the actors, providing them with a practical experience of screen performance and technical crewing responsibilities. Students will receive a rough cut DVD of their film footage, which they may then edit and use for professional purposes after they have left the course.

### Industry Showcase

Two hander scenes are worked on by the director of the course alongside individual specialist tutorials. A presentation is shown to an industry invited audience with an opportunity to meet them afterwards. This will take place in a centrally located London theatre at the end of their final term.

### PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Professional and Business Preparation To bring up to date the actor's knowledge and experience of the realities, opportunities and requirements of the industry at large, a number of guest speakers from the industry are invited, at the end of the second term, to give talks and seminars. These may include directors, producers, actors, agents and personal managers, film makers and past students.

### Professional Employment Skills

To ensure that the students are fully prepared to present themselves professionally and favourably at auditions, a performance term module includes: interviews and casting sessions, audition technique, audition tutorials, individual singing repertoire, together with advanced vocal work.



## BA (HONS) IN PERFORMANCE STUDIES (POST DIPLOMA CONVERSION COURSE)

The BA Hons in Performance Studies is a part-time one-year conversion course specifically designed for those who already have an NCDT or CDET accredited three-year diploma in Acting or Musical Theatre, together with at least three years post-diploma professional performance experience.

The course has been running successfully since 2001 and is validated by City University and is the only course offering a part-time BA(Hons) conversion course where students benefit from onsite face to face sessions on a regular weekly basis.

The course converts the diploma awarded by an NCDT/CDET accredited course into a full BA (Hons) degree in Performance Studies through academic study and assessment over one academic year.

### AIMS

This academic course enables the students to reflect with greater depth on various aspects of their previous training and to emerge with a qualification that is broadly recognised and transferable and is a base upon which further study can be built.

It will extend students' theoretical experience of a range of performance styles and their understanding of the value and process of research. It will enable the student to articulate ideas in both oral and written form, to create seminar presentations and to focus on a particular aspect of the performing arts in a final dissertation.

The course is designed for students who wish to go on to further study at Post Graduate level, or to further their

career choices, but it can also be taken just for the love of the subject and for a desire to reconnect to their training in a deeper more analytical way and also to discuss, debate and interact with like-minded people on a regular basis.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is modular in nature and runs for one evening a week over three terms, with a dissertation to be completed over the summer vacation. Modules include Comedy, European Theatre, Subtext in Performance, The Evolution of the Musical, Contemporary Performance Practitioners and Screen Performance. There is also a study skills module which introduces the student to the creation of seminar presentations and to essay writing and leads the student through the initial stages of the course in order to prepare them for the rigours of the later modules and dissertations.

Assessment consists of three seminar presentations, three written assignments and a final dissertation on a performance-related topic of the student's choice.

Students are supported during the course through individual tutorials and group essay writing seminars. Class sizes range from 14-18 and there is a rich diversity of age, gender and of performing arts background, which heightens and provokes rich and challenging debate.

# BA (HONS) IN PERFORMANCE STUDIES (POST DIPLOMA CONVERSION COURSE)

## ENTRY CRITERIA

This course normally requires the following formal qualifications:

- Three year Diploma in Acting or Musical Theatre from any UK NCDT or CDET accredited course since 1995.
- (Either of the above awarded prior to 1995 together with evidence of Appropriate Prior Learning in Performance will be considered for approval.)
- Three years post-diploma professional experience in the performing arts.
- Minimum age of Twenty one years on enrolment.
- Where English is a second language, a TOEFL score of 6 or higher.

## FACILITIES

Arts Educational is a vocational performing arts college and the atmosphere reflects the passion and excitement of the arts. Classes are taken in a good working environment and workshop/lectures make use of the latest interactive whiteboard technology.

PDBA students have full use of the facilities at Arts Ed, including library and cafe. They also have the use of City University's facilities including their campus facilities and library in the City of London. Students graduate with other City University students in a full graduation ceremony in venues such as The Guildhall and Southwark Cathedral.

## WHAT OUR GRADUATES GO ON TO DO

Graduates of the BA (Hons) Performance Studies have progressed to both Masters degrees in such subjects as Arts Administration, Creative Writing, Shakespeare & Theatre, Social Work and Applied Theatre, at Universities such as Goldsmiths, Kent, Birmingham and Central School of Speech and Drama as well as PGCE courses all over the country.

Other students have achieved promotion in related industries such as business, arts administration, directing and teaching.



Stills from last years screening at BAFTA UK and Soho House West Hollywood, LA, July 2011