

Course Aim and Title	<b>CertHE in Musical Theatre Performance</b>
Intermediate Awards Available	<b>n/a</b>
	<b>Italia Conti</b>
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	N/A
UEL Academic School	<b>School of Arts and Creative Industries</b>
UCAS Code	<b>W313 (for entry in 2024)</b> <b>W31C ( for entry - 2025 onwards)</b>
Professional Body Accreditation	<b>Federation of Drama Schools</b> <b>CDMT</b>
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	<b>Dance, Drama and Performance, 2024</b>
Additional Versions of this Course	<b>n/a</b>
Date Specification Last Updated	<b>September 2024</b>

## Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you a clear understanding of what the work of a professional musical theatre performer (both training and professional) actually entails and begin to develop the skills that form the foundation of a musical theatre performer's training.

During this course you will be introduced to the basic principles of musical theatre training, which will be delivered through the following modules:

- Musical Theatre Skills 1; will introduce you to technical and creative musical theatre skills, with understanding of technical skills explicit and implicit in the practice of dance, singing and acting.
- Musical Theatre Skills 2; will allow you to begin to embody and demonstrate previously understood technical and creative musical theatre skills, with comprehension of the expression and development of individual technical skills in the practice of dance, singing and acting.
- Introduction to Audition Technique; to introduce understanding of the professional etiquette essential to auditions, the vocational and performance skills relevant to an audition context, and the core professional behaviours and expectations for this scenario.
- Audition Practice: to allow you to develop and openly discuss your acquired understanding of professional standard etiquette essential for auditions, and the core professional behaviours and expectations for this scenario, and further develop vocational and performance skills specific to an audition context, Additional work on interview and audition preparation with mock auditions.
- Rehearsal & Performance; to create open and responsive performers and introduce you to the process of a professional rehearsal and performance.
- Contextual Studies; classes and workshops that investigating and exploring 'the musical theatre performer', performance elements, and collaborative practice.

Our basic approach to musical theatre training is rooted in the principles of Stanislavski, as developed by Uta Hagen for Acting, Estill model for Singing, and American Musical Theatre Jazz in Dance. However, neither the Italia Conti 'CertHE in Musical Theatre Performance' nor 'BA (Hons) Musical Theatre' courses seek to mould young performers to any one method or system within their training. Rather, they try to make available to you, as a student, a range of ideas and training methods, so that you may begin to construct a personal way of working, which you can continue to develop at other musical theatre training institutions, drama schools or in other learning environments.

On completing the 'CertHE in Musical Theatre Performance' you will have knowledge of the skills necessary to develop as a musical theatre performer and should have some capacity to apply them. You should also have a solid sense of their own potential as a performer.

The overall aims of the course are:

- To give you an introduction to conservatoire-style vocational training, including a greater understanding of what is required of a musical theatre performer and musical theatre performer in training, as well as a solid understanding of what the industry requires from the contemporary performer, thereby enabling you to make a truly informed decision about pursuing musical theatre, other creative strands within the arts and wider theatre practice – with an idea of the approaches/options available and best suited to the individual in pursuing these goals.
- To develop your understanding, practical engagement and implementation of necessary musical theatre and performance training skills. To create an intellectual and practical foundation in musical theatre work, vocal work and physical work as well as developing critical and analytical awareness preparing you for a three-year conservatoire-style training or practical university course.
- To prepare you for vocational practical auditions and wider HE studies. Focussing on the basic requirements of singing, acting and dance, and interview preparation. Building confidence, ease and an appropriate approach to and communication of the three core disciplines, which form the basis of a successful candidate on a three-year conservatoire-style training course.
- To offer you tasters in specialist skills and other creative career and training options that can both inform your understanding of the musical theatre and theatre making collaboration and potentially ignite an interest in a non-acting career within the industry and offer support and advice in pursuing this.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

#### Knowledge

- Recognise, understand and employ the core principles, theories, styles, techniques and approaches which identify expressive musical theatre practice. (PID)
- Recognise and explain the expectations required within an audition scenario and appropriate communication and presentation skills. (SID, EID)
- Understand, discuss and demonstrate the professional etiquette required within an audition scenario and appropriate communication and presentation skills.
- Identify and use a coherent process to develop and explore a role. (EID, COI)

- Understand and use some of the language employed in a musical theatre setting. (SID)
- Recognise, understand and employ the core principles, theories, styles, techniques and approaches which identify expressive musical theatre practice. (PID)
- Recognise and understand use of the technical vocabulary and terminology in which musical theatre practice is defined and discussed. (SID) (COI)
- Understand and discuss the sophisticated core principles, theories, styles, techniques and approaches which identify expressive musical theatre practice. (EID, PID, COI)
- Understand and fluidly employ use of the technical vocabulary and terminology in which musical theatre practice is defined and discussed. (COI)
- Recognise the expectations of an audition process. (SID, EID, PID, CID)
- Recognise the core principles, theories, styles, techniques and approaches of expressive musical theatre practice and apply them to an audition scenario. (PID) (EID) (CID)
- Explain the professional etiquette required within an audition scenario and appropriate communication and presentation skills. (IC, CC, CID, DP)
- Understand and discuss the expectations of an audition process. (SID, PID, CID, COI)
- Demonstrate the sophisticated core principles, theories, styles, techniques and approaches of expressive musical theatre practice within an audition scenario. (EID, PID, COI)
- Demonstrate the professional etiquette required within an audition scenario and appropriate communication and presentation skills. (EID, SID, PID, CID)
- Identify the wider disciplines that frame the musical theatre performer's performance as contributing to the creation of performance within the Western tradition (DP, CID, COI)
- Identify the core practices, skills and approaches which underpin the training and development of musical theatre performers as professionals within the Western tradition (DP, CID, COI)
- Demonstrate critical awareness of research methodologies and approaches as specific to musical theatre performers and creative work generation, as well as relevant academic approaches (DP, EID, CID, COI)
- Identify and use a coherent process to develop and explore a role. (EID, COI)
- Understand and use some of the language employed in a musical theatre setting. (SID, CID)

### Thinking skills

- Analyse and evaluate all disciplines to identify stylistic and technical detail. (COI)
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- Identify research methodologies and approaches to sourcing appropriate audition materials. (COI, EID, CID)
- Explore and identify appropriate courses that would suit your desired career path. (EID, PID, CID, CC, COI)
- Recognise appropriate and suitable audition material choices for you as an individual. (EID, SID, PID, CID,)
- Analyse your individual cognitive response to an audition process. (COI)
- Reflect on own performance in class and assessment. (EID, SID, CID)
- Identify personal strengths and needs, and reflect objectively on personal development as a musical theatre performer (EID, PID, COI)

- Operate and think reflexively, creatively/imaginatively and critically to develop ideas and construct arguments within the generation of presentations and other written tasks (DP, EID, CID, SID, COI)
- Break down and identify subtext and intention in a way which supports both coherent characterisation and the agreed interpretation of performance. (EID, PID, COI)
- Identify and discuss themes and symbolism within the subject matter. (SID, CID, COI)

#### Subject-Based Practical skills

- Show understanding of preparation for class (warm-up & cool down), and performance in a safe and effective practice. (PID, IC)
- Identify how own self-care, mental and physical wellbeing improve performance (EID, PID)
- Demonstrate understanding of preparation for class (warm-up & cool down), and methods to improve physical performance in safe and effective practice. (EID, PID, COI)
- Demonstrate and show further development of core principles, theories, styles, techniques and approaches which identify expressive musical theatre practice. (EID, CID, PID, COI)
- Recognise independently sourced materials and resources required for the audition processes. (EID, SID, PID, CID)
- Demonstrate understanding of an audition process. (EID, SID, COI, CID)
- Apply the level of professional etiquette expected within a professional audition. (EID, PID, COI)
- Analyse and evaluate performance/texts/ideational materials (and constituent elements) collaboratively and independently to generate ideas and approaches to explore in performance related processes and practices relative to auditions and selecting own material.
- Undertake appropriate and useful background research and analysis. (CID, COI)
- Work actively as a generous and supportive member of an ensemble. (EID, SID, PID, CID)
- Create and explore characters and on-stage relationships that are appropriate to the needs of the piece. (EID, SID, CC, CID)

#### Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Identify personal strengths and needs, contribute/respond to various feedback inputs and reflect on personal understanding goals. (EID, COI)
- Work independently, set goals and manage their workloads. (SID) (COI)
- Reflect analyse and identify to discuss personal strengths, needs and improvements, contribute/respond to various feedback inputs and reflect on personal understanding goals. (EID, PID, COI)
- Work independently, set goals and manage your workload. (COI)
- Identify and analyse researched materials to make an informed and pertinent decision. (EID, SID, PID, CID)
- Analyse researched materials to make an informed and pertinent decision. (CID)
- Evaluate own work and that of others. (EID)
- Identify, access and collate evidence from university and external sources, including textbooks and articles as appropriate, to demonstrate argument, knowledge and understanding

- Express a range of ideas using appropriate spoken and written English, demonstrating understanding of academic writing conventions and styles as specific to the subject discipline.
- Demonstrate appropriate academic integrity, avoiding plagiarism and/or collusion and/or other forms of academic misconduct, by use of citation and reference as appropriate for the degree subject, using their own academic voice
- Work independently and collaboratively, negotiating and pursuing goals and the needs of the project with others. (SID, CC, CID, EID)

## Learning and Teaching

There will be a variety of types of sessions; primarily practical work where students will be doing exercises in a group studio workshop, but also talks and individual tutorials. There will also be reflective and critical sessions which are designed to assist students with preparing for the next steps of their training, preparing them for auditions, interviews and developing their personal statement.

Knowledge is developed through

- Guided reading
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback
- Classes, workshops, lectures and skills-based activities with feedback
- 1:1 and small group tutorials

Thinking skills are developed through

- Classes, workshops, lectures and skills-based activities with feedback (script analysis etc.)
- Reflective activities with feedback

Practical skills are developed through

- Classes, workshops, lectures and skills-based activities with feedback
- 1:1 and small group tutorials
- Rehearsals and performances with feedback

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- The demands of the study medium (i.e high contact-hours, rehearsal process/periods, etc.)
- Class work
- Project work

## Assessment

Each student will also receive a detailed briefing sheet or scheme of work at the beginning of each term, which will outline the specific content of each class series within each module, and the learning outcomes and assessment practice within each of these.

In general, students will be assessed on Learning Outcomes (as per the Module Specifications) pertaining to 'Knowledge', 'Thinking Skills', 'Practical Skills' and 'Skills for Life and Work', via the following methods:

- **Cumulative Practice (Rehearsal process/class work)**
- **Sharings/performance**
- **Presentation**
- **Essays**
- **Written reflective analysis and evaluations**
- **Reflective Portfolio**

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader and/or Head of Year to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

## Work or Study Placements

N/A

There is no compulsory and/or optional work/study placement within this course.

## Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3 | Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course. |
| 4 | Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.  |
| 5 | Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.                                       |
| 6 | Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.  |
| 7 | Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.   |

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:



Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
4	PA4077	Musical Theatre Skills 1	20	Core	N
4	PA4078	Musical Theatre Skills 2	20	Core	N
4	PA4079	Introduction to Audition Technique	20	Core	N
4	PA4080	Audition Practice	20	Core	N
4	PA4081	Rehearsal & Performance	20	Core	N
4	PA4082	Contextual Studies	20	Core	N

All modules are core modules, which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the Cert HE award. There are no optional modules for this course.

Please note that this course includes workshops and classes which deliver complimentary skills. These classes may be compulsory sessions but are not assessed within the course, and may vary from year to year.

The overall credit-rating of this course is **120 credits**. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

## Course Specific Regulations

As a student on this course, you are expected to maintain a 90% attendance rate in order to progress effectively through the course and achieve the learning outcomes. Attendance is compulsory on an intensive timetable which runs for a MINIMUM of 30 contact hours per week over at least 36 weeks and typically more, with additional self-led study hours. Attendance of less than 90% may be considered a disciplinary matter and may after due process lead to termination of studies on the course.

The course runs according to specific academic regulations and policies which may diverge from standard UEL frameworks in order to uphold the professional vocational standards expected and to ensure the principles of holism, integrated skills development and embodied learning are fully supported.

## Typical Duration

The expected duration of this course is **1 year full-time**.

The time limit for completion of a course is two years after first enrolment on the course.

## Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL website ([www.uel.ac.uk](http://www.uel.ac.uk))
- Italia Conti Academy website (<https://www.italiaconti.com/cert-he-musical-theatre>)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

- Purchasing of relevant books/play-texts
- Cost of excursions, theatre trips.
- Basic costume, props or rehearsal materials, dance kit and dance shoes – a kit list will be supplied to you with your offer letter. Approximate cost: £250
- PC / laptop capable of running Microsoft 365, with webcam and microphone (if not already built into the webcam)
- Headphones

## Alternative Locations of Delivery

The course is delivered by the Musical Theatre Department at Italia Conti in Woking, Surrey London. As with all courses delivered by Italia Conti, classes, rehearsals, workshops and performances may be scheduled to take place at Italia Conti, 2 Henry Plaza, Victoria Way, Woking, GU21 6BU, or at one of Italia Conti's annexes.