

ITALIA CONTI

Programme Specification

FDA Musical Theatre

Academic Year 2026/27

Programme approved by University of Chichester



Italia Conti is an Associate College of
University of Chichester

Programme descriptor

Programme summary information		
1	Programme title	FdA Musical Theatre
2	Programme code	IC4W
3	Awarding institution	University of Chichester
4	Teaching institution (if different)	Italia Conti (partner only)
5	PSRB accreditation	Italia Conti is accredited by the Council of Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT)

6	Programme description (text for website), including information on employability
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The FdA Musical Theatre is a two-year, full-time course vocational course.

Italia Conti's FdA Musical Theatre course is designed to nurture and develop innovative and individual musical theatre performers, who embody and apply specialist skills and techniques supported by grounded knowledge of industry practices, contexts, and the emerging requirements that empower graduates for further study and/or sustainable career in musical theatre.

Studying Musical Theatre at Italia Conti will fully prepare you for musical theatre performance, developing your practice and thinking in an integrated way. Through training in acting, singing and dance, you will develop what it takes to become a Musical Theatre artist of the future. Consistency and creativity, paired with the critical approach you need to study Musical Theatre, will provide you with expertise applicable to a variety of careers in the field.

Students studying on the FdA have the exciting opportunity to work alongside other likeminded students studying on other Musical Theatre Programmes. These co-learning opportunities extend to combined opportunities for performance, shared supervised use of performance and rehearsal space and work-integrated shared learning experiences. An example of such a co-learning opportunity exists in dance technique classes. It is a common practice to separate the learning of dance technique by level of technique and ability. This means that a first year FdA student may work alongside a first year BA (Hons) Musical Theatre student in an advanced ballet technique class. This is wholly appropriate co-learning and mirrors industry expectations and standards.

Level 4 – Year 1 (Foundational Skills)
The foundations of dance, singing, acting techniques are embedded into the first year, with collaborative and integrated workshops beginning to draw together the disciplines. Contextual Practice is developed to stimulate reflection and critical thinking and facilitate the application of contextual and historical study to practical work.

Level 5 – Year 2 (Integration and Consolidation)
Further skill development in dance, singing, acting continue through into the second year to consolidate and progress the three integral disciplines. However, collaborative and integrated practice is now a more prominent focus to fully draw together the disciplines and study stagecraft in preparation for more sustained performance work and projects. Contextual Practice begins to

explore practice-as-research methodology to support theatre-making and devising as key skills for the self-sufficient performing artist.

The course aims to ensure that successful graduates:

- Develop a practical understanding of practices, techniques, key components of performance and the process by which it is created to perform as a triple threat performer to professional industry standards
- Acquire specialised skills in dance, singing and acting disciplines, are able to integrate these skills in professional musical theatre practice and engage creatively and critically with the skills and processes of performance and production
- Demonstrate and inhabit transferable graduate skills, especially in communication, organisation and self-presentation, teamwork, independent research, critical analysis and reflection on action which will allow them to operate successfully in a variety of fields
- Contextualise and evaluate the historical and cultural framework of performance, text, technique and practice to facilitate intelligent engagement with critical and theoretical perspectives

Students that complete the FdA Musical Theatre have several options for completing a Level 6 qualification through APL/RPL routes onto other validated programmes, including the BA (Hons) Professional Arts Practice (Top-Up) or BA (Hons) Musical Theatre at Italia Conti. These options would all require one year of further study and may include professional performance opportunities and performance to Industry (showcase).

7	Programme awards		
7a	Name of final award	Level	Credits awarded
	FdA Musical Theatre	5	240
7b	Exit awards	Level	Credits awarded
	CertHE Musical Theatre	4	120

8	Exemptions from the Academic Regulations
Students on this course are expected to maintain a 90% attendance rate in order to progress effectively through the levels of study and achieve the learning outcomes. Attendance is compulsory on an intensive timetable which runs for a minimum of 25 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 (professional conduct) 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 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.	

9	Mode of study
Full-time, onsite (Woking)	

10	Entry requirements
Home: • Successful audition at Italia Conti	

- 16+ by the 31st August in the year of entry
- Level 2 English at GCSE Grade 4 or above or recognised equivalent qualifications.
 - 64 UCAS points:
 - A level: CC
 - T Level: CC
 - Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma: MPP
 - Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma: MM
 - Other Level 3 Diplomas including OCR, UAL, RSL

Or;

- admission through recognition of non-standard entry qualifications/experience
- IELTS Level 6, with no less than 5.5 in any component (if applicable)
- Legal right to reside/study in the UK for the full period of the programme.

EU: N/A unless evidence of pre-settled or settled status can be provided

International: N/A

Access to HE: M = 15 credits, P = 30 credits (64 UCAS points)

11	Programme aims and outcomes
	<i>Knowledge</i>
1	Understand a range of performance practices, disciplines and styles from the history of Musical Theatre and the constituent elements of singing, dance and drama.
2	Define and discuss key methods and concepts of performance theory and their practical contemporary application in vocal, dance and acting practice.
3	Identify the history and context of the significant texts, events, practitioners and movements affecting the theory and practice of musical theatre.
4	Understand and analyse the function of vocal and physical anatomy and physiology, and demonstrate safe and healthy practice in respect of these.
5	Evaluate the historical and cultural context of any given performance.
6	Recognise and apply the technical definitions, terminology and vocabulary employed within the field of professional performance development and production.
	<i>Cognitive</i>
1	Demonstrate effective critical-reasoning and problem solving.
2	Analyse, evaluate and interpret given texts and material.
3	Apply theoretical concepts to practical and written work.
4	Critically reflect, draw conclusions, and consider concepts for their validity, application and value.
5	Synthesise information from a range of sources.
6	Formulate and test ideas.
7	Research and assimilate information and report findings.
	<i>Practical Skills</i>
1	Create and communicate a performance/performance text for live performance using improvisation, text, music, choreography or other ideational material.
2	Apply key methods, techniques and approaches drawn from vocal, dance and/or acting theory through a personal performance preparation process to realise professional performance.
3	Develop, refine and apply a range of expressive, stylistic and technical skills to realise and communicate informed interpretative choices for multi-disciplinary professional performance.
4	Identify, realise and communicate the expressive potential of performance
5	Respond in rehearsal and performance to professional relationships with performers, production teams, audience and space.

6	Respond to and apply verbal and written feedback on classwork, rehearsal and performance to improve own performance practice.
7	Use the voice and body safely as an expressive technical creative tool.
8	Gather, sift, synthesise, and organise material, repertoire and stimuli independently.
Transferable Skills and Professional Competencies	
1	Balance and organise personal and professional priorities through self-evaluation and self-management to organise time, prepare for tasks and meet deadlines.
2	Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
3	Work effectively, collaboratively and creatively as part of a team, negotiating and pursuing shared goals with others.
4	Identify goals and plan independently for strategic ongoing personal development of skills and competencies
5	Use information media including libraries, journals, internet resources and digital media.
6	Use and develop effective digital literacy skills including word-processing, presentation creation and performance self-taping.
7	Develop advanced verbal, physical and non-verbal communication skills

12	Programme requirements	
12a	Level 4: In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete all the following modules, totalling 120 credits:	
	Module code	Credit value
	Fundamental Dance Skills (FdA)	20
	Fundamental Singing Skills (FdA)	20
	Fundamental Acting Skills (FdA)	20
	Fundamental Contextual Practice (FdA)	20
	Fundamental Musical Theatre Performance Practice (FdA)	40
12b	Level 5: In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete all the following modules, totalling 120 credits:	
	Module code	Credit value
	Advanced Technical Skills (FdA)	60
	Advanced Musical Theatre Performance Practice (FdA)	40
	Advanced Contextual Practice (FdA)	20

13	Structure diagram (Please include optional modules)					
Level 4	Induction					
	T1	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
	T2	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
	T3	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
Level 5	T1	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3		
	T2	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3		
	T3	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3		

14	Overall student workload
We promote the combination of conservatoire-style training with the benefits of a multi-disciplinary arts university education. As conservatoire-style training relies upon expert-led tuition and activity, you will have a high number of weekly contact teaching activities with staff. You will also be required to further your learning through guided independent study, reading, practice and rehearsal. As the course, and profession, require intensive physical training and practice, you will be encouraged to maintain healthy nutrition, develop physical conditioning, technique and protective practices, and most importantly to monitor your mental and physical wellbeing as a performer. Overall student workload consists of directed and independent learning, with each credit equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. Whilst actual contact hours may depend upon the modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities. Directed learning includes scheduled lectures, practical classes, workshops and studio rehearsal time specified in their timetables. This also includes work-based learning, visits, online activity and peer learning. Independent learning includes private study and preparation for assessments and examinations. Although students are streamed on ability in certain disciplines, e.g. ballet and / or tap, all students are expected to achieve the same Learning Outcomes and Assessment criteria and will be set the same assessment tasks. Streaming supports the student to achieve and develop their skills at an appropriate pace.	

Level 4	
Activity	Hours
Directed learning	600
Independent learning	600
Total hours	1200

Level 5	
Activity	Hours
Directed learning	600
Independent learning	600
Total hours	1200

15	Other information	
A1	Start date	September 2 nd 2024
A2	Institute/Department	
A3	Programme leader	Dan Fulham
A4	UCAS code	IC4W
A5	JACS/HECoS Code	
A6	Language of study	English
A7	Subject benchmark statement	Dance, Drama and Performance (2024)
A8	Date initial programme approval	
A9	Additional programme costs	Audition fee for selection onto the programme £45 <i>NB Audition Fee waivers are available (means tested)</i>

		Texts, course equipment, and studio/rehearsal wear (including correct shoes, practice skirts) are compulsory, and a kit list is sent to all enrolling students when they accept their place. This includes correct shoes and practice skirts. Costs vary considerably according to student preference. A typical student on the Italia Conti Musical Theatre courses will go require multiple pairs of dance shoes over the duration of their course Purchasing of relevant books/play-texts (approx. £20 per term) You are advised to procure a computer, laptop or similar to carry out word processing, research and to watch audio-visual recorded performance work. Incidental props and costume on a voluntary basis (Levels 4 and 5) Theatre Visits (on a voluntary basis) Residence and living costs as there is no on-site campus accommodation. Optional hire of locker (an annual fee; approximately £40/ year). Costume and prop deposit(s) for the use of Italia Conti loaned production resources. Stationery and printing, photocopier credit (approx. £20 per term) At the end of the Level 5, students should expect to pay for professional headshots for personal professional marketing purposes. You should expect to travel to external venues for sessions and performances. Students are able to access additional extracurricular skill development classes, one to one singing lessons and elective performance projects that are not assessed by this programme, and are not mandatory for successful completion, for a fixed additional fee payable directly to Italia Conti. These are offered as an enrichment opportunity for our students.
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A10	Accreditation	Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT) Affiliated to FDS: Federation of Drama Schools
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