

ITALIA CONTI

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Acting (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	BA (Hons) Acting (Musical Theatre)
2	Programme code	UF_ACTMTICW
3	Awarding institution	University of Chichester
4	Teaching institution (if different)	Italia Conti (partner only)
5	PSRB accreditation	N/A
6	Programme description (text for website), including information on employability	
The BA (Hons) Acting (Musical Theatre) is a three-year, full-time vocational course, for students wishing to become professional performers working across Live Theatre and Stage Productions (Musicals and Plays), Screen, and Audio in live and recorded contexts. Italia Conti's BA (Hons) Acting (Musical Theatre) course is designed to nurture and develop innovative and individual actors, who embody and apply specialist skills and techniques supported by grounded knowledge of industry practices, contexts, and the emerging requirements that empower graduates for a sustainable career in the performing arts. Through training in acting, singing, voice, movement and dance, students will have what it takes to become employable in a variety of careers in the field. The course is structured to help students progress from developing their technical skills in the first year, to refining and applying those skills in rehearsals and projects in the second year, through to performing in public productions with professional directors in the third year. In third year, students also receive input and support in rehearsals from our skilled practitioners in voice, movement, singing, stage combat and intimacy co-ordination as needed. In the third year, students have the opportunity to further develop their individual creative voice and storytelling through a Practical Dissertation and, throughout the year, they are prepared for entry into the performing arts industry through professional preparation workshops, lectures, and talks. The programme is designed for actor-singers with emphasis on technical training, critical thinking and learning by doing. Our aim is to produce thinking, skilled, creative performers who can frame, manage, and professionally facilitate their practice. We promote the combination of conservatoire-style training with the benefits of a multi-disciplinary arts university education. As a conservatoire-style training relies upon expert-led training and activity, you will have high contact teaching activities with staff. You are also required to further your learning through guided independent study, reading, practice and rehearsal. As the course, and profession, requires 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.

What you will learn:

Year 1 (Level 4)

You will focus on the fundamentals of the core disciplines and skill integration to ensure that you can begin to employ the required skills of the separate genres of Acting and Musical Theatre.

Level 4 focuses upon traditional musical theatre material and stimuli to appreciate historical performance contexts, and lyrical and traditional singing styles. You will explore core musical theatre skills in singing and dance through core musical theatre workshops and classes.

The first year of the course also provides a solid foundation in acting principles. You will be introduced to the core principles of Stanislavski's system, as interpreted by various 20th-century and contemporary practitioners such as Uta Hagen, Michael Chekhov, Meisner, and Bella Merlin, alongside non-traditional processes including Viola Spolin, Sharrell D. Luckett, and Tia M. Shaffer. Through improvisation and text work, you will develop the skills and knowledge needed to create convincing characters.

The core skills (Acting, Singing and Dance/Movement) are brought together in the Musical Theatre workshops (Projects 1 module) where you will learn to apply the skills you have learnt holistically in rehearsal and performance environments with equal emphasis placed on Acting, Singing and Movement.

Contextual Practice is developed to stimulate reflection and critical thinking and facilitate the application of contextual and historical study to practical work training the emerging thinking performer.

Typical projects in this year can include:

- 21st Century texts;
- Solo Song Share;
- Shakespeare;
- Abridged Traditional Book Musical.

Emphasis is placed on the collaboration of acting, movement, voice and singing, and consequently there is a significant amount of time teaching at all levels.

Year 2 (Level 5)

Core technical skills classes continue but become more advanced and more integrated. More sustained and intensive project work is introduced to the curriculum in which the core disciplines become completely interdependent. You are required to sustain and develop character over longer and more challenging performance opportunities to begin to hone skills for professional performance practice in acting and musical theatre contexts.

Building on the fundamentals established in the first year, in Year 2 you are introduced to non-naturalistic texts and advanced naturalistic texts.

Typical projects in this year can include:

- Farce / Restoration Comedy;
- Non-naturalism;
- Solo Story
- Composer Project (e.g., Stephen Sondheim);
- Musical Theatre Cabaret;
- Abridged Contemporary Musical.

Contextual Practice is developed to stimulate reflection and critical thinking and facilitate the application of contextual and historical study to practical work training in the emerging thinking performer, integrating principles of Practice-Research in theatre-making to preparation for the Independent Performance Projects in Year 3.

Year 3 (Level 6)

The third year of training draws together all previous training in preparing for a career as a well-rounded, versatile and highly employable professional Actor and Musical Theatre performer. The priority for this year is to encourage each student's capacity to engage with the profession in multiple ways, maximising your employability.

You will perform in two fully staged productions: one musical, one play, and an Industry Showcase. For your independent performance project, you will be required to create a practical piece of theatre responding to a question, theme or stimulus.

Professional Preparation and Employability workshops will hone audition technique in the core disciplines, to ensure that, when you leave, you have all the skills necessary to embark upon a successful professional career. This also extends to preparation for all wider soft-skills and supporting areas for professional practitioners including sourcing and choosing headshots, joining and populating Spotlight, creating personal showreel performance reels and meeting with leading industry creatives, agents and casting directors to begin networking.

You will continue training in Acting, Acting for Screen, Singing and Dance for Actors to support you in implementing professional skills and performance in practice. Regular classes ensure that students graduate 'match fit' and ready to audition and perform in professional contracts.

The final year bridges the gap between the classroom and professional world. You will participate in three professional shows, working with outside industry directors. Both Italia Conti and students invite agents, casting directors and other industry professionals to support representation and exposure.

The course aims to:

- develop skilled and individual performing artists, who feel comfortable, committed, and engaged in both musical and non-musical performance contexts, while meeting professional industry standards;
- nurture personal strategies for building character and connecting to performance texts across various styles and artistic variations encompassing classical text,

contemporary text, plays with music, musical theatre, folk and art song, and contemporary commercial music;

- hone specialised skills in acting, voice, movement, singing, and dance, with the ability to synthesize these skills in professional performance practice;
- facilitate transition into any professional performance environment and across forms;
- cultivate transferable skills, particularly in communication and self-presentation, teamwork, independent research, and critical analysis, enabling success in various fields;
- contextualise the historical and cultural framework of performance practice.

You will receive a detailed module briefing 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.

Cumulative practice in this programme is defined as follows:

You are assessed on an ongoing basis in your practical classwork in the studio, the skills acquisition over the modules, the progress and development towards the learning outcomes and your process of engaging with the work and feedback as directed. Classwork will also include incremental tasks that are prepared week by week such as learning and preparing material, practice performances of performance work in progress, sharings/presentations, and may also include constituent written or presented research, analysis and self-reflective/evaluative tasks within this.

Summative assessment in each module occurs primarily at the end of term 3 at each level in order to allow students the maximum amount of time to achieve the learning outcomes.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Head of the relevant department to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme.

7	Programme awards		
7a	Name of final award	Level	Credits awarded
	BA Acting (Musical Theatre)	6	360
7b	Exit awards	Level	Credits awarded
	DipHE Acting (Musical Theatre)	5	240
	CertHE Acting (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 24 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 only, on site (Italia Conti, Woking).	

10	Entry requirements
• Applicants must be 18+ by the 31st of August in the year of entry (17+ for Scottish applicants). • Successful audition through Italia Conti • Equivalent to 64 UCAS points (e.g. 2 'C' grades at A Level or equivalent achievement in Level 3 vocational qualifications including but not limited to BTEC, UAL, RSL, OCR Diplomas/Extended Diplomas, Access to HE qualifications and T-Levels.) • English and Maths at GCSE Grade 4 or above (or recognised equivalent Level 2 qualifications) • IELTS Level 6 (for applicants for whom English is not their first language and who do not have GCSE English or equivalent) • Legal right to reside/study in the UK for the full period of the programme Admission through recognition of non-standard entry qualifications/experience may also be considered on a case-by-case basis for candidates who demonstrate exceptional talent or who can satisfy the panel of their ability to successfully complete the programme. Non-standard entry is assessed at audition and interview. Students without a Level 2 English qualification may be asked to complete a non-standard entry written task.	
EU: N/A unless evidence of pre-settled / settled status can be supplied.	
International: N/A unless evidence of pre-settled / settled status can be supplied.	

11	Programme aims and outcomes
	Knowledge
1	Comprehend a range of performance practices, including singing and musical theatre, and their integration with world drama history.
2	Master key acting theories with an emphasis on vocal and physical techniques, applying them to professional acting and musical theatre contexts.
3	Understand the history and evolution of significant events, texts, and figures in both acting and musical theatre.
4	Possess knowledge of vocal and physical anatomy, ensuring safe and healthy singing and acting practices.
5	Analyse the historical and cultural contexts of diverse performances.
6	Employ technical vocabulary and professional behaviours pertinent to both acting and musical theatre performance development.
	Cognitive
1	Reason critically.
2	Analyse and interpret.
3	Apply theoretical concepts.
4	Identify and solve problems.
5	Reflect, draw conclusions, and make plans.
6	Synthesise information from various sources.

7	Formulate and test ideas.
8	Research, assimilate information, and report findings.
	Practical skills
1	Create and communicate a performance/ text for professional live or recorded media using improvisation, text, sound, movement or other ideational material.
2	Apply key methods, techniques and approaches drawn from acting theory and practice through a personal performance preparation process to realise professional performance.
3	Identify and investigate practically the expressive potential of performance texts to underpin coherent interpretive choices in the creation of character/performance.
4	Use and synthesise a range of expressive technical skills to realise and communicate interpretive choices for professional performance.
5	Respond in rehearsal and performance with professional creative awareness of other performers, space, audience and productions teams.
6	Use the body safely as an expressive, technical and creative tool, identifying physical shifts that underpin embodied expression in performance.
7	Use the voice safely as an expressive, technical and creative tool, identify sound shifts which underpin accent and dialect acquisition and vocal expression in performance.
8	Gather, sift, synthesise, and organise professional and creative material independently.
	Transferable Skills and Professional Competencies
1	Balance and organise personal and professional issues through self-evaluation, management 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 goals with others, as well as working independently.
4	Identify goals and plan independently for strategic ongoing personal development of skills and competencies.
5	Use information media such as libraries, archives and the world wide Web.
6	Use basic word-processing skills.
7	Create effective presentations.
8	Use advanced verbal and physical communication skills, including the use and analysis of body language.
9	Demonstrate self-promotion, self-presentation and self-marketing skills.

12	Programme requirements (Please include optional modules / replace with L7 for postgraduate provision)	
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
	ICW409	20
	ICW410	20
	ICW411	20
	ICW412	40
	ICW413	20

12b	Level 5: In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete all the following modules, totalling 120 credits:	
Module code	Module name	Credit value
ICW509	Musical Theatre Skills 2 (Acting Musical Theatre)	20
ICW510	Skills of the Actor 2 (Acting Musical Theatre)	20
ICW511	Acting Lab 2 (Acting Musical Theatre)	20
ICW512	Project 2 (Acting Musical Theatre)	40
ICW513	Contextual Practice 2 (Acting Musical Theatre)	20
12c	Level 6: In order to complete this programme a student must successfully complete all the following modules, totalling 120 credits:	
Module code	Module name	Credit value
ICW609	Professional Performance Practice – Productions (Acting Musical Theatre)	40
ICW610	Professional Preparation and Employability (Acting Musical Theatre)	40
ICW611	Professional Skills of the Actor (Acting Musical Theatre)	20
ICW612	Independent Performance Project (Dissertation) (Acting Musical Theatre)	20

13	Structure diagram (Please include optional modules)					
Level 4	T1	ICW409	ICW410	ICW411	ICW412	ICW413
	T2	ICW409	ICW410	ICW411	ICW412	ICW413
	T3	ICW409	ICW410	ICW411	ICW412	ICW413
Level 5	T1	ICW509	ICW510	ICW511	ICW512	ICW513
	T2	ICW509	ICW510	ICW511	ICW512	ICW513
	T3	ICW509	ICW510	ICW511	ICW512	ICW513
Level 6	T1	ICW609	ICW610	ICW611	ICW612	
	T2	ICW609	ICW610	ICW611	ICW612	
	T3	ICW609	ICW610	ICW611	ICW612	

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

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

All modules at each level must be passed in order to progress to the next level of study or to proceed to an award.

All modules run across the full academic year, with teaching, learning and assessment occurring in all the three terms.

All modules at each level must be studied concurrently within the course (co-requisite). All modules at the previous level of study must be passed in order to progress (pre-requisite). No modules may be taken in conjunction with those offered by any other course.

14	Overall student workload
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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 laboratory time specified in their timetables. This also includes placements, work-based learning, visits, online activity and peer learning. Independent learning includes private study and preparation for assessments and examinations.

Level 4

Activity	Hours
Directed learning	900
Independent learning	300
Total hours	1200

Level 5

Activity	Hours
Directed learning	900
Independent learning	300
Total hours	1200

Level 6

Activity	Hours
Directed learning	900
Independent learning	300
Total hours	1200

15	Other information
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A1	Start date	September 2025
A2	Institute/Department	
A3	Programme leader	Harriet Whitbread
A4	UCAS code	
A5	JACS/HECoS Code	
A6	Language of study	English
A7	Subject benchmark statement	Dance, Drama and Performance (2024)
A8	Date initial programme approval	May 2025
A9	Additional programme costs	- Audition fee for selection onto the programme £45. Audition fee waivers may be available. - Refundable Course Deposit Fee – £275, fee waivers may be available

		• Studio / rehearsal wear: estimated around £100- £200 with a detailed kit list provided upon enrolment. • Purchasing of relevant books/play-texts (approximately £25 per term) • Cost of Excursions (appx £30 per annum. Costs depend on show selections and frequency). • Basic costume, props, or rehearsal materials (varies according to student preference) • Locker hire (approximately £40 per year) • Stationery and printing (appx £20 per term) • Travel between sites for sessions and performances – variable. This includes travel into London to attend the Industry Showcase each year. • Theatre visits • PC / laptop / IPAD or tablet capable of running Microsoft 365, with webcam and microphone (if not already built into the webcam. This is necessary for research and coursework, with associated printing costs. • Headphones • Optional Accreditation/Classes (Level 5): around £200 per specialism for additional classes/external exams e.g. Stage Combat. • Professional Headshots (End of Level 5): essential for marketing; costs vary based on photographer selection. Costs usually exceed £250 • Marketing Materials/Registrations (Level 6): costs can exceed £250, including directory entries and professional membership
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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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