

ITALIA CONTI

Programme Specification

CertHE Acting (Musical Theatre) (Foundation)

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	CertHE Acting (Musical Theatre) (Foundation)
2	Programme code	
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 CertHE Acting (Musical Theatre) (Foundation) is a one-year, full-time course, leading to a Certificate of Higher Education after successful completion of study. Italia Conti's CertHE Acting (Musical Theatre) (Foundation) course is designed to give you a clear understanding of what the work of an actor (both training' and professional) actually entails and begin to develop the skills that form the foundation of an actors' training. On this course you will be introduced to the basic principles of actor and musical theatre performer training, which will be delivered through the following modules: • Acting Lab; classes which will cover a variety of acting techniques, approaches, and acting fundamentals. • Skills of the Actor; core classes in Voice, Movement and Singing (acting through song) which will build an understanding and the practical foundations of an actor's skills training. • Musical Theatre Skills; core classes in Ballet, Jazz, Singing Technique, Repertoire Studies, and 1:1 singing lessons which will build an understanding and the practical foundations of a musical theatre performer's skills training. • Audition Practice; You will experience the requirements of a professional audition through a variety of lectures, workshops and masterclasses to prepare you for auditions at conservatoires and HE institutions. This module will ensure you have fully prepared your audition materials for three-year actor- and actor-MT performer training courses. • Contextual Studies; classes and workshops that investigating and exploring 'the actor', performance elements, and collaborative practice, as well as providing tasters on both acting and the wider creative/training options available. Additional work on interview and audition preparation with Mock Auditions. • Rehearsal and Performance; Scene Studies and a Project which focuses on implementing skills and developing the beginnings of acting process for rehearsal through to sharings and performance. Our basic approach to actor and musical theatre training is rooted in the principles of Stanislavski, as developed by Uta Hagen for Acting, the Estill model and evidence-based voice pedagogy for Singing, and American Musical Theatre Jazz for Dance. However, Italia Conti courses do not 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 'CerHE Acting (Musical Theatre) (Foundation)' you will have knowledge of the skills necessary to develop as an actor and should have some capacity to apply them. You should also have a solid sense of your own potential as an actor.

The overall aims of the course are:

- To provide you with an introduction to conservatoire-style vocational training, including a greater understanding of what is required of both actors and musical theatre performers in training, as well as a solid understanding of what the industry demands from contemporary performers. This will enable you to make a truly informed decision about pursuing acting, musical theatre, or other creative strands within the performing arts, with insight into the approaches and options best suited to your individual goals.
- To develop your understanding, practical engagement, and implementation of the necessary skills in acting, vocal work, and physical training, establishing a strong intellectual and practical foundation. This will help you build critical and analytical awareness in preparation for a three-year conservatoire-style training or practical university course.
- To prepare you for vocational auditions and wider higher education study by focusing on the fundamental requirements of acting (including improvisation, contemporary and classical monologues), singing, and dance, as well as interview preparation. The course will also help you develop confidence, ease, and an appropriate approach to and communication of text, character, and performance across disciplines, forming the basis of a successful candidate for conservatoire-style training.
- To offer you tasters in specialist skills and other creative career and training pathways. This will not only deepen your understanding of collaboration in acting, musical theatre, and theatre-making but may also ignite an interest in alternative careers within the industry, with guidance and support in pursuing these opportunities.

7	Programme awards		
7a	Name of final award	Level	Credits awarded
	CerHE Acting (Musical Theatre)	4	120
7b	Exit awards	Level	Credits awarded
	N/A		

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

11	Programme aims and outcomes
	Knowledge
1	Understand and apply core principles, theories, styles, techniques, and approaches of expressive acting and musical theatre practice.
2	Identify, discuss, and explore key practitioners, skills, and methodologies that inform both acting and musical theatre training, developing an understanding of the language and vocabulary used in these disciplines.
3	Demonstrate an understanding of professional etiquette, communication, and presentation skills in audition and performance scenarios.
4	Recognise the expectations and requirements of auditions, developing a coherent process to explore and prepare roles in both acting and musical theatre contexts.
5	Understand the technical vocabulary and terminology specific to acting, singing, and dance, applying this knowledge practically in training and performance.
6	Demonstrate an understanding of movement principles, including awareness of physical habits and the ability to inhabit a neutral body to support performance.
7	Develop foundational knowledge of vocal anatomy, speech production, and vocal technique, recognising personal vocal and speech habits.
8	Engage in critical perspectives on contemporary debates related to acting, musical theatre, and performance.
9	Identify broader disciplines that contribute to theatre-making and performance, recognising potential career pathways beyond performing.

	Cognitive
1	Analyse different performance disciplines to identify stylistic and technical details.
2	Undertake background research and analysis to support audition preparation, role development, and performance interpretation.
3	Select and justify suitable audition materials that align with personal strengths and industry expectations.
4	Apply critical thinking and creativity in developing characters, understanding subtext, intention, themes, and symbolism in both spoken and sung text.
5	Reflect on personal development, identifying strengths and areas for improvement within acting, singing, and dance.
6	Evaluate and interpret performance, texts, and creative concepts to inform decision-making in rehearsal and performance settings.
	Practical skills
1	Demonstrate safe and effective preparation for class and performance, including warm-up, cool-down, and self-care techniques to support well-being.
2	Develop and implement physical and vocal techniques that enhance expressive performance across acting and musical theatre disciplines.
3	Work actively as a generous and supportive member of an ensemble, engaging in collaborative creative processes.
4	Create and explore characters and on-stage relationships with a truthful and dynamic connection to text, song, and movement.
5	Align and apply free breathing techniques to support connected and expressive vocal production.
6	Articulate speech and singing sounds with clarity, truth, and appropriate technique in both solo and group scenarios.
7	Engage with fundamental principles of storytelling through both spoken text and song, demonstrating confidence and authenticity.
8	Source and evaluate audition materials independently, applying research and analysis to inform choices.
9	Apply professional etiquette and discipline in auditions, rehearsals, and performances, demonstrating an understanding of industry expectations.
10	Analyse and evaluate performances and creative materials collaboratively and independently to develop approaches to audition and rehearsal processes.
	Transferable Skills and Professional Competencies
1	Identify personal strengths, set goals, and reflect on personal development in response to feedback.
2	Work independently and collaboratively, managing workloads effectively while pursuing creative and professional goals.
3	Express a range of ideas using appropriate physical, vocal, and written communication, demonstrating academic and professional integrity.
4	Access and utilise research from academic and industry sources to develop informed arguments and artistic choices.
5	Evaluate and reflect on personal and peer work, demonstrating critical awareness and responsiveness to feedback.
6	Demonstrate adaptability, resilience, and problem-solving skills that contribute to success in a conservatoire-style training environment and professional industry settings.

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	Module name
	Module 1	Musical Theatre Skills (ActMT-C)
	Module 2	Skills of the Actor (ActMT-C)
	Module 3	Acting Lab (ActMT-C)
	Module 4	Rehearsal and Performance (ActMT-C)
	Module 5	Contextual Practice (ActMT-C)
	Module 6	Audition Practice (ActMT-C)
		Credit value
		20
		20
		20
		20
		20
		20

13	Structure diagram (Please include optional modules)						
Level 4	Induction						
	T1	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Module 6
	T2	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Module 6
	T3	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	

14	Overall student workload
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	750
Independent learning	450
Total hours	1200

15	Other information	
A1	Start date	September 2026
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- £150 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
A10	Accreditation	Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT) Affiliated to FDS: Federation of Drama Schools