



## **Module Specification**

### **The Actor's Instrument**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** The Actor's Instrument

**Module code:** UATALA-40-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 40

**ECTS credit rating:** 20

**Faculty:** Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

**Department:** ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Professional Acting (BOVTS)

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** Not applicable

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** In addition the learning outcomes, the educational experience may develop, and practise, but not formally discretely assess the following:

Highly developed communication skills.

**Outline syllabus:** This module is designed to develop the core physical and vocal equipment of the actor, and as such, it is necessarily a longitudinal module effecting a gradual change in the actor's body and voice and the actor's understanding of his/her overall instrument. At an advanced level this informs the actor's ability to consider critically his/her control and modulation of the instrument in the service of original presentation of demanding material. Voice and Movement classes and tutorials form a key regular element of the timetable throughout the course, and Voice and Movement staff attend regular internal auditions and Text Project showings to assess student progress judged against the learning outcomes for the module.

During the course of this module, students participate in regular specialist classes and tutorials in:

Voice Production and Speech;

Vocal Interpretation of Text;

Phonetics and Accent (including RP);

Verse-speaking;

Singing;

Actors' Movement – physical release and expressiveness;

Alexander Technique;

Body Conditioning;

Ballet

Dance, (which may include elements of Jazz, Laban, and Musical Theatre as appropriate).

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The syllabus for this module will be delivered across the length of the course through a variety of teaching methods including: individual tutorials, group classes, project rehearsal and production rehearsal. In addition, students will learn to identify and initiate vocal and physical technique appropriate to the demands of recorded media through experience in the Voice Over

Studio and either in the TV Studio or TV location environment. Students will receive practical guidance in their use of appropriate Vocal and Physical Technique for the different Genres and Media.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and workshops; fieldwork; external visits; work based learning; supervised time in studio/workshop.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated in the table below. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices you make.

Placement learning: may include a practice placement, other placement, year abroad.

The MFA in Professional Acting is delivered as a full time programme. Students are expected to be in attendance at the School for 40 hours a week for 40 weeks.

For this module scheduled hours consist of a combination of; timetabled classes, tutorials, scheduled group work, rehearsal time, with near daily class time devoted to Voice, Movement, and Voice & Movement combined.

In addition students spend several hours per week in private study.

Anticipated discrete class hours for this module are likely to be in excess of 10 hours per week for 30 weeks. In addition there will be substantial project supervision and tutorial contact from module tutors throughout the programme, reflecting the integrated nature of the programme.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** An advanced experiential specialized knowledge of current practice for developing the actor's voice and body for performance in the following areas:

physical alignment and relaxation,  
physical and vocal expressiveness,  
maintenance of body condition to meet professional performance levels of  
stamina and energy.

**MO2** A conceptual understanding and practical ability to unite thought,  
movement and voice constructively in original performance of complex dramatic  
text

**MO3** Specific practical performance skills, including:  
practical knowledge of phonetics and the phonetic alphabet and an ability to  
apply this in the service of a practical analysis of accent in order to produce  
sustained playing in a non-default accent;  
an ability to sing expressively;  
an advanced ability to use physicality as a creative tool in rehearsal and  
performance,  
an advanced ability to modify physical and vocal technique to meet the differing  
requirements.

**MO4** Physical and vocal stamina.

**Hours to be allocated:** 400

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 304 hours

Face-to-face learning = 96 hours

Total = 400

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at  
readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** This module has one assessment task and is Pass/Fail.

In order to assess, Voice and Movement tutors will attend Text Project presentations

and student internal auditions during the course of the module and in addition observe progress during class and tutorial work. There will be meetings between the student and the relevant tutors at formal assessment points over the course of the module to discuss and record the student's progress judged against the learning outcomes for the module. The result of these assessment points (of which there are normally not more than three) are cumulative in nature and give rise to a final mark/grade at the end of the module.

It will be apparent from the mode and circumstance of assessment that Actors Instrument assessment is part of the holistic approach of a Conservatoire education. Assessment of the Actor's Instrument focuses on the required Learning Outcomes of the module, but is also integrated within an overview assessment of the student's fitness to work as an actor to an advanced standard.

Students will be assessed during each stage of the module by Voice and Movement tutors to monitor the development of their actor's instrument. In assessing a student's work, attention will be given to:

Responsiveness and application during class and tutorial sessions;  
Appropriate use of Voice and Body during Text project and Performance presentations

**Assessment tasks:**

**Performance (First Sit)**

Description: Project

Assessment by members of the Voice and Movement departments takes place informally during Class, and formally through Text Project presentation and Internal Audition. Assessment by the Singing department takes place informally during Class and, where appropriate, through Internal Audition.

This results in an overall co-ordinated assessment at three specific points during the year, leading to a final mark at the end of the module.

(Pass/Fail)

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Performance (Resit)**

Description: Project

Assessment by members of the Voice, and Movement departments formally through Text Project Presentation and Internal Audition. Assessment by the Singing department takes place where appropriate, through Internal Audition.

This results in an overall co-ordinated assessment at three specific points during the year, leading to a final mark at the end of the module.

(Pass/Fail)

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Professional Acting [BOVTS] MFA 2023-24