



Module Specification

Acting and Professional Practice

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 26 May 2023

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Acting and Professional Practice

Module code: UATNKJ-40-2

Level: Level 5

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: Bristol Old Vic Theatre School

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: This Module continues the Acting Practice strand of the degree allowing you to further understand the demands upon an actor in rehearsal and performance across stage, screen and audio work. You will be encouraged to develop existing skills as well as take on board new approaches to performance that encourage you towards greater emotional courage and resilience, enhanced listening skills and specificity.

Acting and Professional Practice also continues the work from year one in Reflective

and Creative Practice relating it to your place in the rehearsal room and wider industry. You will begin to prepare for your 'launch' into your professional careers in the theatre, film and drama industry with a series of classes and workshops, supported by your own research. You will develop an understanding of the mechanics of the industry - the role of casting directors, directors, producers and production companies. You will build practical knowledge of how the industry works. Acting and Professional Practice introduces a broader knowledge of specific performance methodologies, both past and present and will integrate skills and knowledge from other modules including Movement for Actors 2 and Voice and Singing 2.

Features: Two Text Projects are undertaken; Shakespeare and European Texts such as Ibsen, Chekhov and Gorky are studied, enabling you to tackle complex plays through rehearsal and performance as well as study and question terms such as realism and naturalism in the modern world and within your own practice. You will be encouraged to explore and question the problematic notion of 'the canon.' The work in these projects will assist you to develop a more advanced critical understanding of the themes, issues and narratives that surround a text and performance histories.

You will undergo a specific Acting for Screen and Audio Project; building on classes as part of the Acting Practice 1 module. You will learn through practical recording work in initial preparatory sessions, group classes and rehearsals then move on to performing an audio or TV script. You will be directed by a member of staff and supported by a production team usually made up of your existing cohort. You will be introduced to production conventions and studio/location etiquette and the disciplines and acting methods that are particularly applicable to screen and audio work.

You will be introduced to self-taping and undertake a series of classes, which will enable you to carry out self-taping independently, in anticipation of the industry standard expected in year 3.

You will have professional practice workshops and internal auditions, both stage and screen based throughout the year allowing you not only to put into practice what you

have learned but also to prepare you for auditions and meeting agents in Year 3. These will prepare you to create marketing collateral (for instance, considering what makes a good headshot, identifying potential photographers, learning about Spotlight).

Educational aims: The educational aims of the module are:

Extend your understanding of the methodologies and techniques of acting for stage and screen and audio.

Further integrate your knowledge, skills and imagination to achieve authenticity and embodiment of a role in acting.

Broaden your experience and range of dramatic texts and directorial approaches.

Develop your technique for self-taping and audition castings.

Develop an understanding of industry protocols and practices.

Begin the process of empowering you to consider yourself within the context of these industries.

Outline syllabus: Indicative Content:

Text Projects - Shakespeare and European Classic (Chekhov, Ibsen, Gorky, etc.).

Acting Techniques for Stage and Screen and Audio.

Professional Practice Workshops (including Q&As).

Mock Auditions and Castings.

Intensive self-tape workshops and practice

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: You will learn through group classes, individual and group project work and rehearsals. Much of your learning will be in the form of in-class teaching and rehearsal. Verbal feedback on your performance will be provided by your tutors and directors. You will be expected to engage in self-directed learning including essential reading, research preparation and presentation.

You are introduced to the industry through seminars and discussions with tutors and industry professionals. These sessions will include Equity, Spotlight, online presence and other classes on how to present to the industry. You will learn through mock interviews and auditions and receive formative feedback.

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

MO1 Integrate skills and knowledge in acting, voice and movement to enable further and fuller embodiment in the creation of a role for stage, screen and audio.

MO2 Create self-tapes independently and technically to an industry standard expected in year.

MO3 Integrate skills and knowledge to conduct research into the industry, its standards, practices and structures.

MO4 Critically evaluate the themes, issues and narratives that surround a text and performance histories.

MO5 Apply appropriate techniques for effective communication with other members of the production team.

MO6 Identify and analyse material suitable for all appropriate audition/interview situations involved with professional engagements.

Hours to be allocated: 400

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 150 hours

Face-to-face learning = 250 hours

Total = 400

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Acting and Professional Practice is assessed through a number of performances via Text Projects as well as recordings of Screen and Audio work. Each showing requires you to employ a range of techniques appropriate to the piece and directorial approach. This reinforces the vital role of repetition and reflection for the deepening of embodied learning. You will receive formative verbal feedback throughout the rehearsal process and summative written feedback from your director at the end of the project.

You will undergo a series of mock interviews and auditions and receive formative feedback.

You will continue to keep a working reflective journal throughout the second year. Drawing on all of your classes, rehearsals, productions and workshops. The journal is handed in at the end of the year and the work culminates in a structured feedback session with a tutor in which you distil key insights from your journal for moving forward into Year 3 and your launch into the profession. You are assessed on your capacity to self-reflect in your journal and in the discussion, and not on the quality or design of your journal.

Assessment Task: Portfolio of performances, auditions, a self reflective journal and discussion:

Performance – Text Projects.

Performance – Screen and Audio.

Performance – Self-Taping.

Self-Reflective Journal and Discussion.

Text Projects:

You will undertake Two Text Projects: Shakespeare and European Classic. Each will be rehearsed and performed under the instruction of a tutor or director. The showings of each project will be for an invited audience of tutors who will assess your ability to integrate skills and knowledge in acting, voice and movement to enable further and fuller embodiment in the creation of a role as well as employ arrange of techniques appropriate to the context and directorial approach.

You will receive formative verbal feedback throughout the rehearsal process and summative written feedback from your director at the end of the project.

Audio and Screen Work:

You are assessed on your demonstration of a satisfactory standard of work in radio or television drama production, in particular the application of basic microphone and camera techniques for a recording of a scene for screen, a short play for radio and two contrasting monologues.

Internal Auditions:

In the second and third term of this module you will undergo a series of internal auditions and self-tape tasks. These may include monologues, songs and scene work for an audition panel or for the camera.

Self-Reflective Journal and Discussion.

You will keep a working reflective journal throughout this second-year module. Drawing on the Reflective Practice classes, workshops and aspects of verbal feedback from other modules, students use the journal as a personal resource for future work. The journal is handed in at the end of the module and the work culminates in a structured feedback session in which you distil key insights from your journal for you own development going forward, sharing these with a tutor and responding to questions. You are assessed on your capacity to self-reflect in the

discussion, and not on the quality or design your journal.

Continuous formative feedback will be provided in the form of verbal notes on performance by the tutor. Summative feedback will be provided at the end of the module by a variety of tutors and directors.

Text Projects:

Maximum of 90 minutes per showing.

Audio and Screen Work

Screen Scene - 3 - 5 minutes.

Short Radio Play – approximately 15 minutes.

Two contrasting monologues – approximately 2 minutes each.

Auditions:

Internal Auditions – maximum of 5 minutes.

Self-Tapes – Maximum of 3 minutes.

Reflective Journal - (2000 words minimum – 3000 words maximum).

Discussion - 15 minutes.

Reassessment and Resit Strategy:

If you are unable to participate in or fail to meet the minimum achievement required in a module component, a re-sit of the failed assessment component (or an equivalent task) will be offered. The task will be decided by the Module Tutor, Module Leader and Course Leader and will be appropriate to the component or element you are resitting.

The length of the task will be determined by the nature of the task to be undertaken as the resit.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio of performances, auditions, a self reflective journal and discussion:

Performance – Text Projects.

Performance – Screen and Audio.

Performance – Self-Taping.

Self-Reflective Journal and Discussion.

Text Projects:

You will undertake Two Text Projects: Shakespeare and European Classic. Each will be rehearsed and performed under the instruction of a tutor or director. The showings of each project will be for an invited audience of tutors who will assess your ability to integrate skills and knowledge in acting, voice and movement to enable further and fuller embodiment in the creation of a role as well as employ arrange of techniques appropriate to the context and directorial approach. You will receive formative verbal feedback throughout the rehearsal process and summative written feedback from your director at the end of the project.

Audio and Screen Work:

You are assessed on your demonstration of a satisfactory standard of work in radio or television drama production, in particular the application of basic microphone and camera techniques for a recording of a scene for screen, a short play for radio and two contrasting monologues.

Internal Auditions:

In the second and third term of this module you will undergo a series of internal auditions and self-tape tasks. These may include monologues, songs and scene work for an audition panel or for the camera.

Self-Reflective Journal and Discussion.

You will keep a working reflective journal throughout this second-year module.

Drawing on the Reflective Practice classes, workshops and aspects of verbal feedback from other modules, students use the journal as a personal resource for future work. The journal is handed in at the end of the module and the work culminates in a structured feedback session in which you distil key insights from your journal for your own development going forward, sharing these with a tutor and responding to questions. You are assessed on your capacity to self-reflect in the discussion, and not on the quality or design of your journal.

Continuous formative feedback will be provided in the form of verbal notes on performance by the tutor. Summative feedback will be provided at the end of the module by a variety of tutors and directors.

Text Projects:

Maximum of 90 minutes per showing.

Audio and Screen Work

Screen Scene - 3 - 5 minutes.

Short Radio Play – approximately 15 minutes.

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Auditions:

Internal Auditions – maximum of 5 minutes.

Self-Tapes – Maximum of 3 minutes.

Reflective Journal - (2000 words minimum – 3000 words maximum).

Discussion - 15 minutes.

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio of performances, auditions, a self-reflective journal and discussion:

Resit Strategy

If you are unable to participate in or fail to meet the minimum achievement required in an assessment, a re-sit of the failed assessment component (or an equivalent task) will be offered. The task will be decided by the Module Tutor, Module Leader and Course Leader and will be appropriate to the component or element you are resitting.

The length of the task will be determined by the nature of the task to be undertaken as the resit.

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Professional Acting [BOVTS] BA (Hons) 2022-23