

Programme Specification

ATG-CertHE-2022: Acting

LU Certificate of Higher Education awarded by Lancaster University (FHEQ Level 4)

Programme Status: Approved | Version: 1

Introduction

This programme specification provides a summary of the main features of the Acting programme and includes the learning outcomes that you as a student are expected to have achieved on successful completion of the programme.

Further detailed information related to this programme and the College can be found in the following resources:

- Programme Handbook
- B&FC Admissions Policy
- Work based and placement learning handbook (for foundation degrees)
- Student guide to assessment and feedback

Key Programme Information

Programme Code	ATG-CertHE-2022
Programme Title	Acting
Teaching Institution	Blackpool and The Fylde College
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accreditation	None
UCAS Code	
Language of Study	English
Version	1
Approval Status	Approved
Approval Date	30 August 2022
JACS Code	Other: Other
Programme Leader	Michael Holdsworth

Programme Awards

Award	Award Type	Level	Awarding Body
LU Certificate of Higher Education	Level 4 Target Award	Level 4	Lancaster University

Programme Overview

The Cert of HE Acting is a 1-year course intended to provide a foundation in acting to prepare you for further studies, advanced acting training and a career in the performance industry. This includes providing you with a forum to develop practical skills, knowledge, confidence, and experience. The Creative Arts are a major part of Britain's identity and Blackpool has been at the heart of entertainment for many decades: the town is synonymous with traditional performance formats as well as innovative, exciting, and perhaps, eccentric creative work. We think this is a perfect environment for you to develop your creative voice while also learning the key craft skills needed to be an actor and to produce work that is commercial and engages different audience demographics.

The programme is designed to look both backwards and forwards: backwards by drawing on a culture and heritage that is steeped in great writers and traditions and enriches communities and countries. Not only this, but emphasises on long-standing performance crafts and approaches that have been the foundation for actor training – evolving where appropriate – for a long time. Forwards by embracing the ever-changing aspect of performance, especially in an increasingly online and digitised culture in which the definition of what performance means and what a performer can do is being challenged year by year.

You will study basic performance skills such as vocal and movement techniques and create a personalised training score for your own goals, you will explore the foundations of Stanislavski's naturalistic performance techniques and their modern interpretations, and you will start to be exposed to a range of contemporary theatre makers. You will be introduced to professional codes of rehearsal and performance and experience a thorough rehearsal process.

Admission Criteria

You require:

- A minimum of 48 UCAS points in an appropriate discipline
- Mathematics and English Language GCSEs at a minimum grade of C/4 or equivalent

We will also review your creative work to assess your previous experience and will be available to talk through any questions you may have.

Anyone who can demonstrate relevant work/life skills or knowledge can also be considered on an individual basis.

If English is not your first language, you will need to achieve an IELTS score of at least 5.5.

Career Options and Progression Opportunities

The level 4 Certificate of Higher Education Acting provides a solid grounding in the subject discipline and is aligned to level 4 of the BA (Hons) Acting which means you can choose to apply to study level 5 of the corresponding programme at B&FC or apply to other HE providers (subject to meeting their requirements for admissions and/or RPL).

The Certificate of HE Acting also provides a strong platform to secure industry based work as holiday reps, cruise ships entertainers, theatre in education or the community and devising performance material. Employment opportunities may also be enhanced through exposure to the audition process and links with agents.

Performance roles place greater emphasis on practical skills which align closer with the level four curriculum and include portfolio careers. Portfolio careers are common in the performance industries. This means having several streams of income at the same time, often combining jobs with other freelance work. Freelance work can also incorporate seasonal entertainment work in the tourism and events industries.

Programme Aims

- To provide an alternative route into HE for those who wish to pursue education relevant to their level of study and ability, which serves as a foundation for further study and/or the professional workplace.
- To develop the skills, knowledge and personal/professional confidence that will enable students to identify, generate and access opportunities in the creative and related industries or further studies.
- Encourage appropriate self-reflective approaches to creative practice, professional development, research, analysis and presentation.
- To introduce a broad range of transferable skills (including digital skills and entrepreneurship) which can be applied to employment in other sectors and further studies.
- To introduce students to skills, practices and techniques which inform creative, intelligent and imaginative responses to performance material.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 4

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

1. Perform individual and collective tasks that are derived from a process of investigation and interpretation of source materials (performance texts, existing literature).
2. Apply appropriate theatre vocabularies, skills, structures, working methods and research processes to individual and collaborative performance material.
3. Identify key components of performance from a range of industry disciplines and conventions to develop new performance work.
4. Generate performances from a collection of interpretive skills, practices and techniques (physical/oral/spatial) to engage with an audience.
5. Evaluate past and present performances using appropriate self-reflective approaches to practice, production, research, analysis and presentation.
6. Investigate the history and traditions of theatre and performance to inform the development of a personal methodology and professional approach to the study of acting and musical theatre.

Programme Structure

Module	Level	Credits	%	Category	Description	Length/Word Count	Grading Method
Stage 1							
ATG402: Core Acting Skills (Mandatory)	4	20	50%	Practical: Practical Skills Assessment	Training Score	15	Letter Grade
			50%	Practical: Performance	Performance Portfolio	10	Letter Grade
ATG403: Modern Performance Techniques (Mandatory)	4	20	50%	Practical: Performance	Performance Portfolio	10	Letter Grade
			50%	Practical: Practical Skills Assessment	Masterclass	8	Letter Grade
ATG404: Exploration and Play (Mandatory)	4	20	50%	Practical: Performance	Assessment of practical skills presented in a movement portfolio	15	Letter Grade
			50%	Practical: Performance	Assessment of vocal skill through presentation of a vocal portfolio.	10	Letter Grade
ATG407: Collaborative Theatre Maker (Mandatory)	4	20	50%	Practical: Studio Work	Process Portfolio	3000	Letter Grade
			50%	Practical: Performance	Performance Portfolio	500	Letter Grade
ATG408: Naturalistic Project (Mandatory)	4	20	70%	Practical: Practical Skills Assessment	Rehearsal process portfolio	1500	Letter Grade
			30%	Practical: Performance	Performance in a full length play.	40	Letter Grade
C401ACT: Engaging the Archive (Mandatory)	4	20	100%	Coursework: Research Portfolio		3000	Letter Grade

Study Workload

There is no escaping the fact that acting, and performance in general, is a very competitive industry. This means that in order to gain an advantage and equip yourself for employability you need to make sure that you are the best product you can possibly be. A part of that is a dedicated programme of study that takes time.

The development of an artist's career is lifelong, it doesn't switch off simply because you are not in work or in university. If you are committing to a career in performance this is likely to intertwine with your lifestyle and as such personal management is needed.

You will study 6 modules during the academic year and at any one time the highest number of modules you are studying will be 4. This is because some modules only take place in one semester while others take place throughout the year.

Each of the modules you study represents 200 hours of study. This includes contact time with tutors and time spent preparing assessments.

You should expect roughly 18 hours a week of contact throughout the first and second years of study, reducing to 12 hours a week in third year when more autonomy is expected. This time is blended between workshops, lectures and tutorials. Sometimes other forms of contact may include seminars and online events but these will be less frequent.

Your independent study should be spent in a range of locations from your home, to workshop environments, to the LRC centre. The reading lists provided with your module documents are essential to your development, and the tutor for each module may request you to engage in further reading as well – especially for project modules where the reading list will likely vary each year.

Programme Delivery: Learning and Teaching

Our creative community of practice embraces the potential for cross-curricular working whilst retaining the specialisms of discrete disciplines. We also embrace project and problem-based learning in relation to community, connectivity, and process.

Process: Creative thinking from inception to completion. Exploration and application of practical skills and various media

Connectivity: Creative connections networking; physical; environmental; industrial and spiritual connections; global interdependency and sustainability.

Community: Building creative communities of practice; local; national; international; virtual and physical communities to support inspire and live well.

The Certificate of HE Acting promotes independent activity, inclusivity, and customisation via student-centred learning, teaching and assessment strategies. This is intended to widen participation and access through an ability to tailor and adapt the programme to a greater range of learning environments. Stimulus material within the programme, such as play texts, is chosen to reflect cultural and demographic diversity. Throughout the programme you will have opportunities to engage in dialogue which explores the relationship between the "absolute truth" of "naturalism" and psychological realism and co-create solutions to drive social change for sustainability and challenge how "truth" is represented on stage.

The Certificate of HE Acting is also designed to provide you with the skills required to be a performer in today's creative, performing arts and entertainment industries, with a specific emphasis on four key areas, each of which are relevant to the areas in which you may find future work:

The development of acting skills to make work.

Providing the skills to present yourself in a range of contexts.
Evolving an approach that gives you the versatility to re-evaluate your own creative practice alongside the ever-changing world.
Develop research skills to underpin your creative work

All modules, sessions and assessments on the Certificate of HE Acting align to at least one of these four areas. They are structured in such a way as to encourage you to take risks, gain experience and develop you as a performing artist. These sessions will take the form of practical workshop exploration and you will experience other contexts including classroom 'traditional' lecture environments, seminars, supportive tutorials and student-led activities as part of your time with us.

The Certificate of HE Acting takes pride in its use of constant, on-going feedback which will support your progression in both written and practical work. Via rehearsals, classes, workshops, lectures and one to ones; you will be coached, guided and challenged in the development of your practical and academic work.

"Work in progress" showings will be an essential element of each practical assignment and the feedback from these events will enhance and inform your constant development, and you will have the opportunity to put your abilities to the test in final projects.

The programme combines subject and technical knowledge with practical and transferable skills development aligned to occupations in the industry and opportunities for further study. Your learning experience will be further enhanced through industry contacts and real-world learning opportunities facilitated by the course team who are actively engaged in the industry. The combination of a higher education qualification with an industry focus, delivered by BSoA will enable you to develop as creative practitioners and performers who are embarking on an entry-level careers in the industry or have the ability to progress on to further studies.

Programme Delivery: Assessment

We want you to produce creative work that follows professional practices. In order to do this you will undertake a range of activities and roles associated with the conception, production, presentation creation and evaluation of performance work within the context of acting and performance.

During the course you will be assessed formatively (does not count towards final grade) and summatively (counts towards final grade) in a range of different ways. These are:

Written Work (Essays and reflections)

Performance Portfolios (which will be delivered in conditions that the module tutor will make clear, but will usually involve practical exams)

Reflective submissions (such as online Canvas posts and annotated scripts)

Presentations

Performance Projects

Online multimedia submission

Process (which may involve the above, but also considers your practical and verbal contributions towards projects, as well as your overall code of practice and discipline)

The reason we use these methods is because they represent, as close to possible, the kind of things that will be expected of you in formal professional environments and the activities that will grant you the ability to have a sustained career. These formats allow you to demonstrate work- and self-presentation, written and spoken comprehension and communication, inter-personal skills, team-working and creative problem-solving.

Programme Delivery: Work Based and Placement Learning

Blackpool is a distinct, historic, traditional and exciting place to be studying acting. Our school is within walking distance of a whole array of creative, heritage and outstanding performance and entertainment venues that provides a great platform for live briefs and case studies. There are many Concerts, Comedy Events, Musicals; Plays and Exhibitions in the celebrated performance venues across Blackpool including multiple performance venues in the Blackpool Winter Gardens as well as the Blackpool Grand Theatre, the purpose built stage situated on Blackpool Central Promenade and the Blackpool Ballroom, which famously host Strictly Come Dancing as well as many other performance events. This means that our programmes have constant opportunities to work together to support these performances, enabling students to network and can lead to paid employment whilst studying and after Graduation.

The programme has strong partnerships with arts organisations based in the North West which have led to the creation of exciting collaborative projects with Left Coast, Blackpool Winter Gardens, Blackpool Tower Ballroom and the Blackpool Pleasure Beach. These relationships provide fantastic performance opportunities for our students to work with innovative and current practitioners providing incredible performance opportunities outside of the programme.

You can expect guest lectures and workshops in person and via skype from current industry professionals. Our graduates are working out in the industry and many of them are keen to return to the campus to share their expertise and experiences.

Career development

Through the structured tutorial system, time will be allocated for career development activities to provide opportunities for you to focus on applying your learning and experiences to your future career intentions. Information and resources for career development is provided by B&FC's established and experienced Careers Team. B&FC's online Career Centre resources support career development and you can access employability programmes and develop your CV for review by the Careers Team.

Study Costs: Equipment Requirements

All resources such as rehearsal space and library facilities are included in the programme cost itself.

As a performance course that specialises in acting we do recommend – but do not require – that you have the following items available to wear when necessary

- A set of loose-fitting black casual clothing suitable for movement work
- At least one pair of soft dark shoes
- At least one formal or semi-formal shirt
- At least one pair of formal dark shoes
- If anticipating playing female roles, character shoes.

Students may wish to purchase a laptop to facilitate their work at home, however computers are available in the LRC and college laptops accessible through the library loan system.

Study Costs: Additional Costs

There are several field trips opportunities to theatres in Blackpool and throughout the North West. These trips are organised at ongoing intervals within your programme. The intention of these trips is to assist or facilitate and consolidate your learning. They are not mandatory and where they may assist your learning, they are not the only means to assist learning to an equivalent level. The trips are often at a discounted price between ten and twenty pounds dependent on interest.

It is likely that annually there will be a significant trip to London to see a West End show, and to take part in a workshop based on the show with a Q&A with an Industry professional. The cost of this is approximately £270, which includes travel cost and an overnight stay. This trip is not mandatory but is a great enrichment to the course and can be a real opportunity to visit agencies and network with Industry professionals.

Related Courses

B&FC's Blackpool Schools of Arts features a number of offerings directly aligned to the BA (Hons) Acting Degree:

Level 3 UAL Performing and Production Arts

Cert of HE Musical Theatre

BA (Hons) Acting

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre

BA (Hons) English Language, Literature and Writing

BA (Hons) Fashion and Costume for Performance

BA (Hons) Filmmaking

These programmes of study have close relationships with the Acting degree and, in some cases, share some delivery.