

ROYAL CENTRAL
SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MA ACTING FOR SCREEN

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION AND UNITS

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME

As part of the Postgraduate area of Central, you will be part of a thriving community of practitioners - with a shared vision of learning - able to research your own particular field, and push forward the boundaries within your own chosen area of practice. As a participant in the international MA Acting for Screen supported by this school-wide framework for research and experimentation, you will be one of a carefully selected group of theatre and drama facilitators - aiming to imagine the practice of the future.

The MA Acting for Screen is for those seeking an advanced education in acting, with a focus on experiences and skills relevant to acting in film, television and other screen-related media. The course offers you the opportunity to develop your performance abilities and knowledge in relation to a variety of forms of acting for the screen. During the year you will explore the expressive potential of performance and enhance your understanding of the relationship between performer and the camera.

The programme is taught in groups of varying sizes relevant to the area. You will consider the fundamentals of performance such as acting, vocal technique, movement, physical relaxation, and textual analysis. You will study and put into practice techniques for acting in film and television, including the technical adjustment of the voice and body, staying in or quickly getting into character, preparing independently of a director and applying your work to the protocols of film making. Across the year you will work with a variety of Directors and will gain experience of several production contexts and processes.



The Befuddled Box of Betty Buttifint, written and directed by Janis Pugh, public screening

You will participate in a range of performance projects that test and develop your capacities as an actor for the screen. Indicatively, these may include a three minute silent film; drama based short films and the production of scenes for your show reel. In so doing, you will gain an understanding of working on location, in different environments, and with different directors, crews and production personnel. You will gain some knowledge of pre- and post-production protocols, i.e. editing. The final series of short films are screened at a London cinema or screening room to which industry representatives are invited, such as casting directors, agents and producers.

This practice-based work is complemented by individual study and by theoretical discussion and enquiry. You will address historical, ideological and critical contexts within which traditions of screen performance have evolved. Although the primary focus is on performance for screen, you may also engage with other kinds of performance idioms that are relevant to the modern, multi-skilled actor. The contemporary actor

must be resilient and resourceful, able to draw effectively on a wide range of performance-based processes and appropriate critical strategies.

By the end of the programme you should be more creative and resourceful as an actor, and able to draw effectively on a wide range of performance-based processes, disciplines and strategies.



Monkey Boy, public screening

WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

The programme is for those seeking an advanced education in acting, with a focus on skills relevant to acting in film, television and other screen-related media. It is designed for:

- applicants who have at least three years training in a related area such as theatre, performing arts, music theatre or drama
- professional actors especially those who want to extend their understanding of acting for screen
- graduates with a performance background who wish to develop a more specialist profile and want to work in film and/or television
- suitably qualified and prepared students keen to pursue postgraduate studies in London.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF THE PROGRAMME AT CENTRAL

- A professional training for actors has been a vital part Central School of Speech and Drama since its foundation in 1906. This MA in Acting for Screen is an innovative course within a deeply embedded tradition.
- It is a practice-based programme in acting for existing professionals and exceptional postgraduate students who wish to develop their skills through a series of ongoing practical classes and designated performance projects.
- Excellent industry connections.
- This programme enshrines the core values of Central's world-renowned training in acting, voice and movement, but necessarily interrogates these values in relation to the needs of the contemporary screen actor.
- You are given the opportunity to take advantage of Central's research environment to enhance your evolving enquiry into acting at master's level.

EDUCATIONAL AIMS

The aims and learning outcomes of the MA in Acting for Screen are closely informed by Central's M (Masters) Framework principles.

The MA in Acting for Screen at Central enables you to:

- gain knowledge at the forefront of, or informed by, a focussed approach to the academic and professional discipline of acting; with specific reference to screen media
- take risks, be intellectually rigorous and show originality in your application of knowledge in, for example, practical projects and on-going skills development
- understand how the boundaries of acting are advanced through sustained and intense practice and research
- share learning with students on other courses
- in collaboration with peers and independently, show originality in tackling and solving problems and deal systematically and creatively with complex acting-related issues in unpredictable environments
- develop practice and scholarship pertinent to the field with particular emphasis on Screen performance.
- explore existing and emerging forms of acting for screen in a variety of professional and experimental contexts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do if you make full use of the opportunities for learning which the course provides. If you successfully complete the MA Acting for Screen at Central:

You will obtain knowledge and understanding of:

- (A1) engagement with critical debates, concepts and discourses relevant to advanced study and practice in screen acting
- (A2) relevant theories and research methodologies including those most appropriate for students of acting
- (A3) the complex demands made on screen actors in a variety of settings: on location; in the studio; in relation to screen protocol
- (A4) systematic approaches to textual and performance analysis and performance preparation.

You will develop the thinking skills that will enable you to:

- (B1) demonstrate your systematic understanding and critical awareness of relevant theoretical knowledge
- (B2) develop intellectual rigour and conceptual understanding enabling you to: undertake advanced scholarship and sustained research; critically evaluate and reflect upon your own and others' relevant current practice, research and research methodologies
- (B3) engage productively in the performance and evaluation of screen performance, in terms of current epistemologies of acting in screen contexts.

You will develop the practical skills that will enable you to:

- (C1) use and evaluate relevant practices applicable in acting, sometimes experimenting with new and/or original ideas
- (C2) enhance discipline-specific skills (e.g. vocal, physical and acting), systematically demonstrating a rigorous critical awareness of the effect
- (C3) construct character for performance (e.g. through interrogation of 'text', imaginative interpretation, observed behaviours, contextual research) allowing this to inform your performance on screen
- (C4) work successfully as part of a production team.

You will develop the broader workplace skills that will enable you to:

- (D1) negotiate the challenges of working in complex and unpredictable situations e.g. making decisions independently or in dialogue with peers and/or external bodies
- (D2) operate successfully as a professional actor (e.g. manage time and deadlines; engage confidently in debate; structure and communicate ideas effectively; engage with relevant industries)
- (D3) take creative risks.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Practical skills are developed through tutor and practitioner led sessions in a series of structured skill based classes, which are then realised through the performance projects. The programme is delivered by a variety of specialists and draws on the expertise of working professionals including actors, directors, casting directors and producers. There may be some collaboration with film schools or other Universities; this is likely to consist of short film making projects and master classes.

A variety of learning styles are embraced on the programme, a distinct feature is the focus on the independent creative artist, which encourages students to be able to understand their own practice, rigorously prepare for performance, respond to the demands and mechanisms of the industry by marketing themselves, updating their show reels, and producing their own work. A focus on process encourages the students to extend their research skills and develop a broad knowledge of production, the current trends and developments in the field.

Students are assessed on a continual basis in classes and workshops throughout the year. The importance of a disciplined and committed attitude to the study is vital and demonstrates an understanding of the work of the professional actor. Emphasis is placed on process and performance; this allows the course team to assess how the student is able to apply the various fundamental skills to performance. Critical reflection is an integral part of the learning; this is assessed through a series of analytical accounts of your practice at the end of each term and after every project. Students are encouraged to write a working journal which forms a crucial role in informing the course team of your working process and the extent of your consideration, investigation and analysis of processes, library research and the development of original ideas.

Throughout the programme the integration of research skills and practices encourage students to extend their knowledge, interrogate and create their own work. The sustained independent project takes place in the fourth term. Students are allocated a supervisor but a large percentage of this project is self-directed.

The programme is assessed through outcomes submitted at the end of each unit, together with a larger-scale personal project (an artefact, dissertation or a portfolio) produced over the fourth term. Written feedback is provided to students on specific units of assessment. Students receive oral feedback on general progress at regular intervals throughout the year.

Each unit within the degree has approximately four or five learning outcomes which are directly drawn from the overall degree learning outcomes. Each unit has formal assessment tasks - with a 'magnitude' (i.e. amount or size of task) - which will give students the opportunity to demonstrate that s/he has achieved the learning outcomes of the degree. Assessment criteria show what students will need to demonstrate - or do - to achieve the learning outcomes and in the assessment tasks (e.g. effective use of research). Assessment (or level) descriptors are directly linked to the assessment criteria and indicate the level the student has reached and therefore the level to which the student has achieved the learning outcomes (and the mark awarded to the unit therefore).

RESEARCH ETHOS

Research in acting is, in part, the work done by actors themselves to develop their craft and to share these developments with others. This is embodied research that is about exploring the foundations, possibilities and limits of the performer's craft. In this sense research can be thought of as a continuation of the training

of the performer, and thus forms a thread through this programme. Other relevant research methodologies which also inform the student's work include historical enquires into performance traditions, empirical investigations of the performer's process, innovative training methodologies, and practice as research which explores theatre and music more broadly.

Research of the former kind includes that of Stanislavski or Michael Chekhov, for example, but it is not necessarily to be found in disseminated written form. New research is to be recognised in the work of performers at the forefront of their art form - for screen actors this often happens in response to technological developments - as well as in publications and formalised practices, and in academic practice as research.

Learning about research methodology on MA Acting for Screen is learning to recognise how the combined mental and physical practices of performance are a form of knowledge, and how, when sufficiently ambitious and advanced, they can become advances in their field. As such it is taught throughout the programme, and is assessed in Performance Projects and Sustained Independent Project.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURES AND REQUIREMENTS, LEVELS, MODULES, CREDITS AND AWARDS: SUMMARY

Unit/element	Credit Rating	Work for assessment	Req. for award	Weighting in final mark for award of MA with distinction	Date of assessment	Nature of feedback
Techniques for acting on Screen	40	Working Journal (Pass/Fail)	Pass	22%		Tutorials & class feedback.
		A 2,000 word critical reflection at the end of term 1 (50%)			Tuesday 16 th January 2018 1.30 - 2pm Electronic submission to Learnzone	A written report.
		A 2,000 word critical reflection at the end of term 2 (50%)			Tuesday 24 th April 2018 1.30 - 2pm Electronic submission to Learnzone	
Critical contexts: Screen Study	20	A twenty-minute presentation and 5 minute Q&A (100%)	Pass	11%	22 nd February or 1 st March 2018	A written feedback sheet
Practices: Acting for Screen (Performance Projects)	60	Performance Project 1 (25%)	Pass	33.5%	Two projects a term, weeks 5 and 10. Critical evaluation hand-in dates: Project 1: January 16th Project 2: March 13th Project 3: June 1st Project 4: June 29th Electronic submission to Learnzone	Written feedback sheets after every performance project.
		Performance Project 2 (25%)				
		Performance Project 3 (25%)				
		Performance Project 4 (25%)				
Sustained Independent Project*	60	One of the following: Artefact supported by 3,000 word critical reflection Or Critical reflection of your practice with specific response to the showreel (3,000 words) and an extensive piece of research of 6,000 words, and a case study of a practitioner in the field (3,000 words) Or A 12,000-word dissertation.	Pass	33.5%	Friday 21 st September 2018 1.30 - 2pm Student Advice Service	Written feedback

Please note that all assessment tasks (e.g. word count, time limit) have a 10% margin either side before marks are docked.

**Subject to Turnitin submission*

(Please see individual unit outlines in document for detail of assessment tasks. Please see M Level assessment criteria and descriptors in this programme handbook to see level of attainment required. Feedback will be aligned to these descriptors. Central's Assessment policy indicates that normally you will receive feedback within 6 weeks of completing assignment - excluding winter and spring vacations. Usually it is earlier than this. Much feedback is within sessions.) The assessment dates are indicative only. Actual dates for a given academic year are published on the School's VLE, Learnzone.

REGULATIONS FOR ASSESSMENT

Full assessment regulations are published for students. This is a summary only.

- You must pass every unit to achieve the credit required for the MA.
- A percentage mark is given for each unit. The pass mark for each unit is 50%.
- Unless otherwise stated, you must pass each separate element of assessment in the unit in order to pass the unit as a whole. The value of each separate task in the assessment of the unit is listed in the unit outline.
- If you fail a unit, you may be reassessed once. For that reassessment, the maximum mark given is 50%.
- For the award of an MA with distinction, you must achieve an average mark (weighted in proportion to credit) of 70% or more, *and* a mark of at least 60% in the final 60-credit Sustained Independent Project (SIP).
- The weight given to each unit in calculating awards will be in proportion to the credit which the unit carries in relation to the award for which the students is a candidate. Thus a 20 credit unit contributes $\frac{20}{180}$ of the overall average mark for an MA or $\frac{20}{120}$ of the weighted overall average mark for the award of a PG Dip.
- A MA will be awarded if you achieve 180 credits of the prescribed curriculum.
- A PG Dip will be awarded if you achieve 120 credits but do not pass the Sustained Independent Project (SIP).

OPTIONS

The MA Acting for Screen does not offer options currently. All units are therefore *core* components of the course.

PLACEMENT AND WORK-BASED LEARNING

This course does not comprise any mandatory placement or work-based learning.

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) AND THE CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

This course does not require students to undergo a criminal records check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for registration on the course.



SUPPORT FOR YOUR LEARNING

In addition, your learning will be supported by the following school wide resources:

- induction to the School and the course
- provision of Student Handbook
- provision of Learnzone, a virtual learning environment (VLE), with a dedicated area for each course,
- provision of sessions regarding career development
- National Union of Students at Central
- access to full range of library and IT resources
- access to Senate House Library (University of London)
- library and computer inductions
- access to Learning Centre (including dyslexia testing and support)
- staff member with specific remit to support students with a disability.
- e-mail bulletins from the staff members
- Centre for Excellence in Training for Theatre
- excellent specialist learning facilities e.g. video editing suites, practical spaces, access to costume hire and props store
- a range of inductions (e.g. for library and computers; for international students).

Academic and progress supervision tutorials:

- Each Masters student will have two (or more) individual tutorials during the year in addition to those allocated for the core, 60-credit Sustained Independent Project (SIP).
- Notes of academic tutorials should be made. Unless stated otherwise, these will be drawn up by the student and e-mailed to the tutor who will also store them. See Appendix A for a baseline Tutorial Record Form.

- E-mail or telephone ‘tutorials’ are included as part of allocated tutorial time.
- All Sustained Independent Project (SIP) students may ask for draft writing to be looked at by the tutor, just as rehearsals or exhibitions may be visited. The normal expectation is that writing will be seen only once and it is not necessary for a tutor to see the entire submission prior to hand in.
- With the exception of Sustained Independent Project (SIP), students will make use of formative peer assessment for the viewing of draft assignments. It is anticipated that study groups will be established as part of MA inductions. Should there be an exceptional issue arising after peer viewing of drafts have taken place, a tutor may be asked for advice. There is scope for unit-specific variation to this guidance (for example, in Critical Contexts).
- Tutor feedback on draft essays will comprise broad comments on areas for improvement e.g. that the argument is not sustained or does not unfold fluently; an overall comment about technical errors such as referencing. Specific examples of kinds of improvement may be made by using a ‘modelling’ example.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Applicants will normally have either undertaken conservatoire training, have professional acting experience or have a degree in the broad field of performance and drama studies. Students from other disciplines may be considered if you have sufficient experience of theatre.

Applicants will normally be able to demonstrate the following:

- relevant qualifications (e.g. undergraduate degree or equivalent) or professional experience which has prepared you equivalently for advanced study
- appropriate written reference
- evidence of a specific commitment to the course with an understanding of relevant issues and practices
- evidence of appropriate level of skills/competencies
- evidence of the ability to work in collaboration with colleagues and, where relevant, with external parties
- evidence of a capacity to work at masters’ level e.g. engage with complex matters in the field; demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge.

Invitation to interview/audition and admission will be based on the reasonable expectation from your application that you have the potential to complete and contribute positively to the degree and that you would benefit from masters level study.

We actively seek a cohort that is diverse in ethnicity, dis/ability, age range and heritage.

Admission with prior experiential learning and/or academic credit

The programme’s admissions tutor will consider applications for admission with prior experiential learning and/or academic credit subject to the School’s policies in this respect. Candidates may not substitute more than one third of the course (i.e. 60 credits) with prior experiential learning and/or academic credit.

Attainment of English Language Level

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to obtain and present as part of their application a valid Test Report from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as administered by the British Council. Applicants will normally be expected to achieve an Overall Band Score of 7.0, and a minimum score of 7.0 in Listening, 7.0 in Academic Reading, 7.0 in Academic Writing and 7.0 in Speaking.

HOW IS THE QUALITY OF THE COURSE DEMONSTRATED AND MAINTAINED?

The methods by which quality and standards are maintained include:

- assessment moderated by external examiners
- feedback from and consultation with students through course committees, surveys and informal discussion
- annual monitoring of the course, through consideration of statistics, feedback, graduate destinations
- review of the curriculum and organisation of the course every five years
- The involvement of teaching staff in practice, research and staff development.

The quality of the MA Acting for Screen has been demonstrated through:

- excellent completion statistics
- students have performed in television series such as Casualty, Doctors, Doctor Who, Missing, Call the Midwife, Black Sails, Downton Abbey, The Crown, Three Girls, Trial and Retribution, films such as Theory of Everything, The Danish Girl, A Night Out.
- the quality and reputation of the professional contributors, which has included Alison Steadman, Richard Loncraine, Bella Merlin, Jeremy Zimmerman, Jane Dietch, Dallas Smith, Eamonn Walker, David Leland, Leslie Sharp, Julia Crampsie, Philippa Lowthorpe, Gordon Kennedy, Jennifer Withers.

COURSE DIAGRAM

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Unit 1 & 2: 40 (Credits) Techniques for Acting on Screen			
Unit 4: (20 Credits) Critical Contexts: Screen Study			
Unit 5 & 6: (60 Credits) Practices: Acting for Screen (Performance Projects)			
			Unit 7: (60 Credits) Sustained Independent Project

	Techniques for acting on screen (Double unit)	Critical Contexts: Screen Study		Practice: Performance projects (Double Unit)	SIP
Learning Outcomes					
A1		X			X
A2					X
A3				X	
A4	X			X	
B1		X			X
B2				X	X
B3		X		X	
C1	X			X	
C2	X				
C3	X			X	
C4				X	
D1					X
D2				X	
D3				X	X

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Full-time students

You will take all units indicated, according to the published schedule of activities. The table below is *indicative* and the specified weeks/times could change from year to year. The School's VLE, Learnzone, will contain the most up to date timetable.

You may not undertake the Sustained Independent Project (SIP) unit before completing the coursework for all previous course units.

Your tutor will liaise with you during the spring term in order for you to select your options in advance of the summer term.

TERMS (10 weeks)	INDICATIVE DATES	UNIT / ELEMENT	NOTES
AUTUMN Wk 1 - 10 Wk 2 - 10	October - December	Techniques for Acting on Screen	12 -16 hours of classes per week
	October - February	Critical Contexts: Screen Study	
Wk 2 - 5 & 6 - 9	October - November November - December	Performance Project	Two projects lasting 3 - 4 weeks
SPRING Wk 1 - 10 Wk 1- 10	January - March	Techniques for Acting on Screen	12-16 hours of classes per week
Wk 1 - 6 Wk 6 - 10	January - February February - March	Performance Project	Two projects lasting 4 weeks
SUMMER Wk 1 - 9 Wk 1 - 9	April - June April - July	Techniques for Acting on Screen Performance projects	Two projects across the term. Public screening in July.
(Note: Performing Research conference in week one)			
TERM 4	Independent study July - September	SIP	

Your tutor will liaise with you prior to and during the programme's induction week in order for you to notify your selection of programme units for the year. The programme team needs to receive this information in full at the beginning of the course in order to assist planning.

UNITS

Record System Ref	MAASU701				
Title	TECHNIQUES FOR ACTING ON SCREEN				
Level	7	Credit Value	40	ECTS	20
Hours	Notional student study hours: 400 Timetabled hours: 300 Student managed learning: 100				
Unit Leader	Amanda Brennan				
Course(s) for which the unit is mainly intended*	MA Acting for Screen			<i>Compulsory</i>	
Prerequisite Learning	N/A				

Aims

This unit aims to enable you to:

- broaden your knowledge base regarding the techniques of acting for screen
- explore the principles, potential and dynamics of performance for the screen
- develop your own performance abilities as a screen actor
- apply learning and research about acting for screen in practical contexts
- understand the technical terms and schedule demands of acting for screen
- develop analytic and interrogative skills in relation to your own practice and the practice of others.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will have:

- (A4) systematic approaches to textual and performance analysis and performance preparation.
- (C2) enhance discipline-specific skills (e.g. vocal, physical and acting), systematically demonstrating a rigorous critical awareness of the effect
- (C3) construct character for performance (e.g. through interrogation of 'text', imaginative interpretation, observed behaviours, contextual research) allowing this to inform your performance on screen
- (C4) work successfully as part of a production team
- (C1) use and evaluate relevant practices applicable in acting, sometimes experimenting with new and/or original ideas.

Indicative Unit Content

This unit runs across the first two terms with some specialised workshops in the third term. It is concerned with the principles and core practical techniques of acting and the application of these to a variety of screen media. This includes the fundamental acting skills, such as voice, movement and acting. You will build on previous practical acting experience and examine key differences between acting for theatre and screen/television. This will include understanding technical terms and working with schedule demands such as acting scenes out of context and time order; working within the frame; adapting performance from shot to shot; adjusting the scale of performance and vocal levels to the shot; preparing for shooting; script analysis; making character choices; casting; sight reading, audition skills and preparing for work in the industry. By gaining knowledge of the technical landscape and processes involved you will prepare as an actor/performer for various forms of screen production and learn to critically reflect on your own practice. Emphasis is also placed on preparation for the industry with classes in casting, audition and workshops with industry professionals. A two day conference is held in collaboration with other MA performance courses, during which specialist speakers introduce students to the key considerations for working as an

actor.

How You Learn

- Lectures.
- Industries conference.
- Experimental workshops.
- Masterclass series.
- Student-led studio work.
- Staff-led studio work.

Assessment Summary		
Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)	Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc)	Weight within the unit (e.g. 50%)
Working Journal		Pass/ Fail
Term 1 Critical reflection	2,000 words	50%
Term 2 Critical reflection	2,000 words	50%
Assessment Detail		
<p>This unit is assessed through the following elements:</p> <p><u>Term 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • critical reflection of 2.000 words showing how you have worked towards meeting the learning outcomes for the unit in relation to the work of Term 1 • working journal. <p><u>Term 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • critical reflection of 2.000 words showing how you have worked towards meeting the learning outcomes for the unit in relation to the work of Term 2 • working journal (cont.). 		
Assessment Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in relevant practice-based techniques. • Taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately. • Successful collaborative processes • Tackling and solving problems and dealing with complex situations in professionally related environments 		

Record System Ref	MAASU702				
Title	CRITICAL CONTEXTS: SCREEN STUDY				
Level	7	Credit Value	20	ECTS	10
Hours	Notional student study hours:200 Timetabled hours: 30 hours Student managed learning: 170 hours approximately.				
Unit Leader	Amanda Brennan				
Course(s) for which the unit is mainly intended	MA Acting for Screen				<i>Compulsory</i>
Prerequisite Learning	N/A				

Aims

- Identify and understand key critical issues and debates of relevance to your own practice(s) and those of other scholars and practitioners in your subject.
- Critically explore the contexts, principles and assumptions behind these critical issues and debates.
- Be prepared for advanced practice and study of your field that is informed by a solid theoretical grounding.
- Derive new knowledge from disciplinary practice and reflection.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will:

- (B1) select and demonstrate your systematic understanding and critical awareness of theoretical knowledge relevant to your field and consider how this impacts upon your position as a scholar/practitioner
- (B3) engage productively in the performance and evaluation of screen performance, in terms of current epistemologies of acting in screen contexts
- (A1) engage with critical debates, concepts and discourses relevant to advanced study and practice in a performance related discipline.

Indicative Unit Content

In this unit you will examine the work of selected film, television and other screen practitioners (including directors, writers, cinematographers, and actors) from the perspective of the screen actor. You will also study various film genres and different technical methods as they bear upon screen acting, for example, the work of Mike Leigh, Martin Scorsese, Jean-Luc Godard, Jane Campion, Andrea Arnold, Philippa Lowthorpe. You will view film/video screenings in advance of each session, and discuss issues that arise in seminars. You will also undertake structured research and select specialist areas of study that will form the basis for your assessment.

By gaining an understanding and critical awareness of different types of practice you will be able to locate your own acting processes. The unit takes place in the autumn term.

How You Learn

- Staff led presentation and discussions.
- Film, television and video screenings.
- Student led group work in the format of presentations.
- Individual research.

Assessment Summary		
Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)	Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc)	Weight within the unit (e.g. 50%)
Presentation/ Q&A	20 minutes	100%
Assessment Detail		
This unit is assessed by way of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20-minute presentation in pairs (including film/video extracts of a minimum of 3 minutes.) Followed by a 5 minute Q and A.		
Assessment Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Originality in the application of knowledge in relation to the matter of the unit.• Analytical and critical awareness of relevant contemporary issues.• Intellectual engagement.		

Record System Ref	MAASU703				
Title	PRACTICES - ACTING FOR SCREEN (PERFORMANCE PROJECTS)				
Level	7	Credit value	60	ECTS points	30
Notional Student Study Hours	600 hours				
Unit Leader	Amanda Brennan				

Aims

The unit aims to enable you to:

- understand key practical issues and debates of relevance to your own practice(s)
- develop and apply skills and techniques relevant to the relevant contexts
- engage critically and creatively with current and emergent processes in your field
- undertake sustained practice/s, developing your understanding, application and critical processes of practice within your discipline through an extended range of experience.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the unit, you should be able to:

- (A3) engage with the complex demands made on screen actors in a variety of settings: on location; in the studio; in relation to screen protocol
- (A4) systematic approaches to textual and performance analysis and performance preparation.
- (C1) demonstrate a capacity to apply practical understanding and skills of your field in relevant contemporary contexts
- (C1, D1, D3) demonstrate an ability to operate at a professional level appropriate to your discipline or field e.g. take decisions in complex and unpredictable situations independently and in dialogue with peers and/or external bodies; take creative risks
- (C3) construct character for performance (e.g. through interrogation of 'text', imaginative interpretation, observed behaviours, contextual research) allowing this to inform your performance on screen
- (C4) work successfully as part of a production team
- (B3) engage productively in the performance and evaluation of screen performance, in terms of current epistemologies of acting in screen contexts.
- (B2, D2) Evaluate your specialist practice, interrogating the application of current principles and ideas in your field paying particular attention to extended learning gained through a sustained engagement, possibly in different contexts.

Transferable Skills Developed

Practice in your field; evaluation of practice (self and others).

Indicative Unit Content

This unit runs across the first three terms. You will complete at least five practical performance projects and normally a maximum of six that will vary in approach, style and format. You will work with a range of professionals including directors, writers, editors and other production personnel. There may be some collaboration with London based film schools or University departments. In this instance students must be prepared to travel to the partner institution.

The unit will also entail specialist workshops and master classes that address the particular developmental work in relation to the project in hand, such as devising, Green screen, ADR or physical skills.

Projects may include the following:

1. A 2-minute non-verbal short film project.
2. A devised drama based on the techniques of Mike Leigh.
3. Film script project, which focuses on methods of analysing a script and preparing a role.
4. A short film written by a professional writer, commissioned explicitly to feature MA Acting for Screen students. The process will include a series of workshops and, potentially, a devising phase. The project will be filmed by a professional director and screened at a London based cinema.
5. Show reel project. This will involve the selection of suitable material for each student, which will be filmed on location.

How You Learn

You will learn through engaging with practical activities appropriate to the particular practice of the field. You will learn, also, from an experienced professional (tutor, host, director etc.) with whom you will work.

Assessment Summary		
Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)	Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc)	Weight within the unit (E.g. 50%)
Performance Project 1	Various (see above)	25%
Performance Project 2	Various (see above)	25%
Performance Project 3	Various (see above)	25%
Performance Project 4	Various (see above)	25%
Assessment Detail		
<p>This unit is assessed through the best four performance projects:</p> <p>Each project is assessed though 40 % performance, 50% process and 10% reflection. The process and reflection elements are evidenced though the submission of a working journal for the process and a critical evaluation (500 words for each project) for the reflection. All performance projects are first and second marked.</p>		
Assessment Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in relevant practice-based techniques. • Taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately. • Originality in the application of knowledge in relation to the matter of the unit. • Analytical and critical awareness of relevant contemporary issues. • Intellectual engagement. 		

Record System Ref	MAASU704 Sustained Independent Project: Acting for Screen Dissertation MAASU705 Sustained Independent Project: Acting for Screen Artefact MAASU706 Sustained Independent Project: Acting for Screen Case Study			Version:	1.1
				Effective From:	2013/2014
Title	SUSTAINED INDEPENDENT PROJECT (SIP)				
Level	7	Credit value	60	ECTS points	30
Notional Student Study Hours	600 hours The exact breakdown of hourage will be specified in the unit briefing paper. A minimum of ten hours contact time is expected. Each MA has different requirements for teaching depending upon the assessed outcomes of the unit. It is the norm for supervision to be completed by July, however.				
Unit Leader	Amanda Brennan				
Course(s) for which the unit is mainly intended	All MA courses			Core	
Prerequisite Learning	All other units. (Some may run concurrently with the start of SIP.)				

Aims

- Extend your understanding of critical debates and practices within a specific area of drama/theatre/performance.
- Make appropriate, intelligent and informed selections from a wide range of possibilities of approach or research materials.
- Engage in a sustained, focused, independent piece of work that constitutes a summative contribution at the end of your course.
- Develop as a contributor to the field.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- (B2) undertake sustained and extensive research
- (A1, B1) demonstrate your understanding of critical debates and practices in your field
- (D1) demonstrate your capacity to manage complex work independently
- (D1; D3) realise a final piece of work that engages with a relevant specific context or focus, taking appropriate creative risks and that contributes to the field.

Transferable Skills Developed

Independent research, awareness of contemporary and/or historical practice, reflexivity, ability to bring an extended, independent piece of work to completion.

Indicative Unit Content

Students will undertake one of three options with the agreement of the Course Leader where they shall undertake a substantial piece of independent study and research leading to the submission of either:

- A dissertation.
- A portfolio.
- An artefact: a short film. This would be undertaken in groups of 3-5 students. Students will be marked for their individual role in the process. There will be no more than five groups.

How You Learn

You will learn through engaging with an individual, sustained task. This will be supported by a nominated supervisor. The chosen options are selected to enable you to draw on the practice of the course and enhance your research and reflective skills.

Assessment Summary		
<i>Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)</i>	<i>Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc)</i>	<i>Weight within the unit (E.g. 50%)</i>
Artefact (a short film)	10 - 12 minutes	70%
Annotation	3,000 words	30%
<i>OR</i>		
Case Study	3,000 words	20%
Reflective Essay	3,000 words	20%
Extended research	6,000 words	60%
<i>OR</i>		
Dissertation	12,000 words	100%
Assessment Detail		
<p>Students have the choice of three assessment options as outlined below. The choice of assessment option will be agreed with the Course Leader.</p> <p>1. A relevant artefact (a short film) (70%) with complementary annotation of 3,000 words (30%). A joint submission from between three and five students on the course would be accepted. In addition to each student acting, the specific roles would need to be clearly defined prior to being considered by the course leader. An individual could take the responsibility for directing, producing, writing or editing. The individual's use of the allocated hours in creating the artefact must be clearly identifiable. Students are marked individually for each component of the artefact.</p> <p>The artefact would be an original 10 - 12 minute film which would be an original script written or devised, and performed by the students. It is an option for the group to secure post production specialists, such as an editor and sound mixer. Any additional cost, i.e. the hire of a sound studio, ADR, or special effects facilities would need to be incurred by the group, however. Technical resources, camera, basic sound equipment and editing facilities are available from the college at times to be negotiated with the unit tutor and technical resources department. Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each group is allocated 4 days filming and 5 days editing • the films are shot in July. • there is no provision from the wardrobe department for this project • there is no use of construction workshops. <p>The written component of the work will comprise an 'annotation' of the artefact (the film) and will demonstrate sustained written argument.</p>		

OR

2. A portfolio comprising the following elements which together add up to the equivalent of 12,000 words:
- case Study of 3,000 words. An example could be a study of a specific director who is of particular interest to you and whose work you have drawn on during the course such as Mike Leigh, Andrea Arnold, Clio Barnard or Ken Loach. (20%)
 - reflective essay of 3,000 words which focuses of your work on the show reel (20%)
 - piece of extended research of 6,000 words on a relevant topic of your choice (60%).

OR

3. a dissertation of 12,000 words on a relevant research topic of your choice (100%).

Assessment Criteria

- Sustained, independent written argument.
- Originality in the application of knowledge in relation to the matter of the unit.
- Analytical and critical awareness of relevant contemporary issues.
- Intellectual engagement.
- Understanding and effective use of research and advanced scholarship.

For the Sustained Independent Project (SIP), other criteria from the M Framework may be added for assessment as appropriate for the individual course and would then be assessed. For example, “taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately” might be appropriate.

TECHNIQUES FOR ACTING ON SCREEN

Key Texts

- Berry, Cicely. (1992) *The Voice and the Actor*, Virgin
 Brennan, A (2016) *The Energetic Performer*, Singing Dragon.
 Chamberlain, F. (2003) *Michael Chekhov*, Routledge
 Chekhov, M. (1993) *On the Technique of Acting*, Harper Resource
 Churcher, M. (2004) *Acting on Camera: Truth in 24 Seconds*, London Virgin.
 Merlin, B. (2008) *The Stanislavski Toolkit*, Nick Hern

Suggested Reading

- Alfreds, M (2011) *Different Every Night*. Nick Hern.
 Abbott, J (2012) *The Acting Book*. Nick Hern.
 Abbott, Leslie (1993) *Acting for Film and TV*, Belmont, Star Publishing.
 Barr, Tony (1997) *Acting for the Camera*, New York, HarperCollins.
 Benedetti, R (2000) *Action! Acting for Film and Television Needham Heights*, Allyn & Bacon.
 Blair, R (2008) *The Actor, Image and Action*. Routledge
 Boston, J & Cook R (2009)(Ed) *Breath in Action*. Jessica Kingsley.
- Brestoff, R (1994) *The Camera Smart Actor*, Smith and Kraus.
 Caine, M (1997) *Acting in Film*, New York, Applause Theatre Books.
 Carlson, S (1999) *Hitting Your Mark*, Studio, Michael Wiese Productions.
 Houseman, B (2008) *Tackling Text & Subtext*. Nick Hern.
 Kemo, R (2012) *Embodied Acting*. Routledge
 Linklater, K (1976) *Freeing the Natural Voice*. Nick Hern.
 Mamet, D. (1999) *True or False*, Faber and Fabere Body Speaks. Methuen.
 Merlin, B (2016) *Facing the Fear*. Nick Hern
 Moseley, N (2016) *Actioning*. Nick Hern.
- Weston, J.(1996) *Directing Actors*, Michael Wiese.
 Zarilli, P. (1995) *Acting (Re)Considered A Theoretical and Practical Guide*, Routledge.
 Zinder, D. (2002) *Body Voice Imagination: A Training for the Actor*, Theatre Arts Books.

CRITICAL CONTEXTS: SCREEN STUDY

Key Texts

There is suggested reading for each week as suggested below.

Week 2.

- Allen, R. C. and Gomery, D. (1993) *Film history: theory and practice*. 1. ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.
 Thompson, K. and Bordwell, D. (2010) *Film history: an introduction*. International ed., 3rd ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
 Burgess, J. and Green, J. (2015) *YouTube: online video and participatory culture*. Cambridge ; Malden, MA: Polity

Week 3

- Bordwell, D. and Thompson, K. (2013) *Film art: an introduction*. 10th ed. New York, N.Y: McGraw-Hill.
 Stam, R. (2000) *Film theory: an introduction*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell.

Week 4

Martin, A. (2014) *Mise en scène and film style: from classical Hollywood to new media art*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ; New York: Palgrave Macmillan (Palgrave Close Readings in Film and Television).

Week 5

Rowne, N. (ed.) (1998) *Refiguring American film genres: history and theory*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Nelmes, J. (ed.) (2012) *Introduction to film studies*. 5th ed. Oxon ; New York: Routledge.

Bordwell, D., Staiger, J. and Thompson, K. (2006) *The classical Hollywood cinema: film style & mode of production to 1960*. London: Routledge.

Hill, J. (1986) *Sex, class, and realism: British cinema, 1956-1963*. London: BFI Pub.

Week 6

Chatman, S. (2000) *Story and discourse: narrative structure in fiction and film*. paperback printing [reprint]. Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Pr.

Film theory and criticism: introductory readings. 4th ed (1992). New York: Oxford University Press.

Bal, M. and Boheemen, C. van (2009) *Narratology: introduction to the theory of narrative*. 3rd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Fabe, M. (2014) *Closely watched films: an introduction to the art of narrative film technique*.

Week 7

Gibbs, J. (2002) *Mise-en-scène: film style and interpretation*. London: Wallflower Press (Short cuts, 10).

Hope, T. and Kaufman, A. (2014) *Hope for film: from the frontline of the independent cinema revolutions*. Berkeley: Soft Skull Press, An imprint of Counterpoint.

Holm, D. K. (2007) *Independent cinema*. Harpenden: Kamera.

King, G. (2005) *American independent cinema*. London: Tauris.

Week 8

Stafford, R. (2007) *Understanding Audiences and the Film Industry*. London: British Film Institute (Understanding the moving image).

Jancovich, M., Faire, L. and Stubbings, S. (2003) *The place of the audience: cultural geographies of film consumption*. London: British Film Institute.

Week 9

Curtin, M., Holt, J. and Sanson, K. (eds) (2014) *Distribution revolution: conversations about the digital future of film and television*. Oakland, California: University of California Press.

Week 10

Elsaesser, T. and Hagener, M. (2010) *Film theory: an introduction through the senses*. New York: Routledge.

Biltreyest, D. and Vande Winkel, R. (eds) (2013) *Silencing cinema: film censorship around the world*. New York, New York: Palgrave Macmillan (Global cinema series).

Dennison, S. (ed.) (2006) *Remapping world cinema: identity, culture and politics in film*. London: Wallflower.

Nagib, L. (ed.) (2012) *Theorizing world cinema*. London: I.B. Tauris (Tauris World Cinema Series).

Weissenborn, U. (1998) *'Just making pictures': Hollywood writers, the Frankfurt School, and film theory*. Tübingen: G. Narr (Mannheimer Beiträge zur Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft, Bd. 36).

Supplementary Reading.

Dancyger, K. (2011) *The technique of film and video editing: history, theory, and practice*. 5th ed. New York: Focal Press.

Murch, W. (2001) *In the blink of an eye: a perspective on film editing*. 2nd ed. Los Angeles: Silman-James Press.

Corrigan, T. and White, P. (2011) *The film experience: an introduction*. Boston: Bedford/St.Martins.

Elert, N. V., Vasudevan, A. and Shrimpton, L. (eds) (1997) *International dictionary of films and filmmakers*. 3rd ed. Detroit: St. James Press.

Jenkins, H. (2008) *Convergence culture: where old and new media collide*. Updated and with a new afterword. New York, NY: New York Univ. Press.

Kilbourn, R. J. A. (2010) *Cinema, memory, modernity: the representation of memory from the art film to transnational cinema*. New York: Routledge.

PRACTICES: ACTING FOR SCREEN

Key Texts / Supportive Reading.

Leigh, M & Raphael, A. (2008) *Mike Leigh on Mike Leigh* Faber and Faber

Levy, F. (2004) *Short film:101* Perigee Books

Please see the key texts for Unit 1: Techniques for Acting on Screen.

The supportive reading is selected according to the nature of the project.

SUSTAINED INDEPENDENT PROJECT

Key Texts/ Supportive reading

The key texts and supportive reading will be entirely dependent upon your choice of subject matter. It is expected that you will use texts and resources referred to earlier in the course as well as material new to you at this point in the programme.

The assessment criteria for individual units are selected from these criteria.

Assessment criteria

Not all the assessment criteria apply to each unit although all will be incorporated *across* each Masters course. (The three compulsory units include all these criteria already.) The assessment criteria to be considered will be clear in each unit outline. Tutors will give feedback relevant to these criteria with references to specific examples from your work.

Work is assessed on evidence of the extent to which you have met the learning outcomes demonstrated through:

- sustained, independent written argument
- progress in relevant practice-based techniques
- taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately
- originality in the application of knowledge in relation to the matter of the unit
- analytical and critical awareness of relevant contemporary issues
- intellectual engagement
- understanding and effective use of research and advanced scholarship
- recognising practice that is at the boundaries of the specialism
- successful collaborative processes
- tackling and solving problems and dealing with complex situations in professionally-related environments.

Assessment descriptors (relating to the assessment criteria)

Work that is marked near a borderline is likely to have characteristics of work in the next closest bracket, but these are outweighed by characteristics described in the bracket in which the work is placed. The languages of these descriptors will be used by staff in feedback to make clear the level the student has reached. In addition, tutors will make reference to the learning outcomes and whether these have therefore been achieved.

80% and over (distinction)

Your written work demonstrates a fluent, lucid and advanced argument of a near-publishable level. You show exceptional evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have demonstrated a highly impressive exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas with acuity. There is clear and sustained evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated excellent qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues throughout the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement are exceptional; you have developed original knowledge making use of extensive and highly complex research. You display strikingly effective practice, demonstrating an advanced understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You work at the highest of standards in group situations (if relevant), exercising most effective collaborative strategies. There is evidence of exceptional ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is characterised by its sustained excellence and is of equivalent achievement to striking professional practice at the forefront of its field.

70% and over (distinction)

Your written work demonstrates sustained, advanced argument at an academically high level. You show outstanding evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have demonstrated an impressive exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas with acuity. There is clear evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated very good qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement are impressive; you have developed areas of original

knowledge, making use of extensive and complex research. You display most effective practice, demonstrating an advanced understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You work at high standards in group situations (if relevant), always exercising effective collaborative strategies. There is evidence of clear ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is characterised by excellence and is of equivalent achievement to professional practice at the forefront of its field.

60% and over

Your written work demonstrates a sustained and clear argument. You show very good evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have demonstrated an effective exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas appropriately. There is clear evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated good qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement are good; you have made often made use of detailed research. You display effective practice, demonstrating a good understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You work well in group situations (if relevant), frequently exercising effective collaborative strategies. There is evidence of good ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is of a good standard and, on several occasions, is equivalent to professional practice at the forefront of its field.

50% and over

Your written work demonstrates a developed argument that is reasonably sustained. You show evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have demonstrated exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas appropriately. There is evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated reasonably good qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement are adequate; you have made use of research at times. Your practice is at a reasonable standard, and you have demonstrated an understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You contribute to group situations, adopting reasonably effective collaborative strategies for most of the time. There is evidence of some ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is of a fair or good standard and, on occasion, is equivalent to professional practice at the forefront of its field. It is likely to be reasonably strong in some areas but less developed in others, and it may be inconsistent.

40-49% (fail)

Your written work demonstrates an argument but one that is only sporadically sustained. You show limited evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have only occasionally demonstrated exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas appropriately. There is limited or little evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated limited qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement were not always adequate; you have made little use of research. Your practice is not always of a reasonable standard, and you have rarely demonstrated an understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You contribute to group situations, although you do not often adopt effective collaborative strategies. There is limited evidence of ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is only of a fair standard and is rarely equivalent to professional practice at the forefront of its field. You have not sufficiently demonstrated that you have met the learning outcomes of the unit, although it is likely that your work shows potential.

Less than 40% (fail)

Your written work does not sufficiently demonstrate an argument. You show insufficient evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have rarely or never demonstrated exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas appropriately. There is little or no evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have rarely

demonstrated qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement were inadequate; you have made little or no use of research. Your practice is not of a good enough standard, and you have not demonstrated an understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. Your contribution to group situations is very limited, as are your effective collaborative strategies. There is little or no evidence of ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is not equivalent to professional practice at the forefront of its field. You have not demonstrated that you have met the learning outcomes of the unit.

The following additional information from will be included on the course virtual learning environment (VLE), Learnzone for students

- relevant parts of the assessment strategy and weightings
- student support and the template for tutorial record-keeping
- details about staff contacts.

KEY FACTS

PROGRAMME NAME	MA Acting for Screen
TEACHING INSTITUTION	The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London
AWARDING BODY	University of London
FHEQ	The MA Acting for Screen is a qualification at Level 7 in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, carrying 180 credits at level 7.
AWARD(S)	MA (180 credits) A PG Dip may be awarded on the basis of 120 credits to a student who has not passed the 60 credit Sustained Independent Project.
FINAL AWARD NAME	Master of Arts in Acting for Screen
MODE OF STUDY	Full-time only
EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER SCHEME (ECTS)	The MA is a qualification at the end of the second cycle as defined within the European Higher Education Area, carrying 90 ECTS credits
ACCREDITATION	N/A
LANGUAGE OF STUDY	English
EXTERNAL BENCHMARKS	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ).

COURSE APPROVAL

Version no:	2.0
Approved:	TBC
Entry from:	2016/2017 onwards

EXTERNAL EXAMINER INFORMATION

Name	Position	Organisation	Tenure (MM/YY)
John Abbott	Head of Acting	ArtsEd	09/13 - 12/17

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September 2016