

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	CASS
<b>Programme:</b>	BA Performance and Theatre Arts
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	3
<b>Course Title:</b>	Foundations of the Performing Arts
<b>Course Code:</b>	THR 3100
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr. Michael Barclay
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
<b>Lectures:</b>	20
<b>Practical Tasks/Assignments:</b>	15
<b>Performances/Rehearsals:</b>	10
<b>Independent/Guided Learning:</b>	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall, Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**Course Description:** This course introduces student to the basic principles of breathing, relaxation, vocal techniques and the oral interpretations of play texts and poetry. Students will explore the fundamentals of speaking in front of an audience. Drama games, storytelling, role-playing, playwriting and improvisation are used to explore the basic tenets of performance, with a specific focus on training the actor's voice for performance.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Aims and Objectives:** This aim of this course is to introduce students to the basic skills needed to be able to perform in public. Students will be exposed to a variety of techniques and the practice of vocal interpretations of contemporary and classical texts. Much of the course involves practical work such as concentration, physical, vocal and improvisational exercises in the development of the creative imagination for performance. Storytelling, speaking poetry, acting from a range of poetical and prose texts and development of different interpretations will all be explored through class exercises, individual and group projects.

**Programme Outcomes:** 3A(i); 3B(i); 3B(ii); 3C(i); 3D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:  
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to: By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic proficiency and discipline of fundamental vocal skills.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of textual interpretation and its historical and contemporary contexts.
- Demonstrate the ability to interpret a variety of texts and respond to coaching and direction.
- Demonstrate constructive behaviour and attitudes towards the collaborative activity of rehearsal and performance.

**Indicative Content:**

- Creating a free voice, devoid of tension.
- Kinaesthetic awareness, how the body moves in space and in relation to others.
- Creating your own story, from your life's experiences.
- Engaging with textual interpretation of classical and modern monologues, dialogues and scene work.
- Interpretation and speaking poetry.
- Introduction to performance critique.

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Special Assessment Norms for Theatre approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

**Teaching Methodology:**

This course is workshop based. Students will be taught through a series of class exercises. This will consist of vocal exercises, drama games, improvisation, monologue delivery and group scenes. Students will then build their performance skills through the application of these exercises into their monologue and scene work. Skills for improved animation of speaking and gesture are challenged within the final project. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory, except in the case of grave illness or personal hardship.

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Indicative Text(s):**

Berry, Cecily, *Voice for the Actor*. London: Jossey Bass, 1991

Houseman, Barbara, *Finding Your Voice*. London: Nick Hearn Books, 2002

Ewan, Vanessa, *Actor Movement: Expression of the Physical Being*. London: Methuen, 2014

Powell, Michael, *Acting Techniques: An Introduction for Aspiring Actors*. London: Methuen, 2010.

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Course Description		Y
Aims and Objectives		
Teaching Methodology		