

ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE OF MUSIC & DRAMA COLEG BRENHINOL CERDD A DRAMA CYMRU

MA Musical Theatre
One Year Full Time from January

Course Overview

The programme is designed to bridge the gap between a degree or other relevant experience, and the standard expected by employers in the professional musical theatre industry.

You will be taught through a variety of different methods including individual and group research, tutorials, class work, practical rehearsal, workshops with industry professionals, closed and open performances, feedback and self evaluation.

The training is delivered by an established team of professional practitioners, supported by visiting tutors, directors, casting directors and agents - linking the training with current professional practice.

The masters programme encompasses the following five core modules, which are taught over the course of a year.

Acting Skills

40 credits

Character and Relationships

Practical classes, workshops and rehearsals create the working environment through which you as an actor will investigate the challenges, opportunities and imperatives of a given text or texts – with particular emphasis on character development and relationships.

Improvisation

Through a series of different teaching environments you will explore as an actor the challenges, opportunities and imperatives offered through improvised and spontaneous performance.

Contextual and Professional Studies

A series of practical sessions and rehearsals designed to prepare you for professional auditions for theatre and television and for your final Showcase presentations, which take place in front of an invited professional audience.

Vocal Skills

20 credits

Through a series of practical classes you will learn the techniques expected of an actor/singer about to enter the profession. The course initially focuses on removing unhelpful physical habits before enabling you to explore and extend your voice in preparation for training to use your voice effectively in performance without supervision. Includes dialect and accent work.

Singing Skills

40 credits

Technique and Repertoire

You will develop a secure singing technique through both practical exercises and repertoire – with particular emphasis on the appropriate use of breath and the structure of sound and musicianship. You will also be equipped to continue your own professional development through independent identification, evaluation and application of best practice and innovative methodologies.

Acting Through Song

This project will seek to exploit the expressive and narrative potential of song whilst remaining faithful to the key acting imperatives relating to character ownership and relationships.

Choral Singing

You will investigate how your own voice and technique blend successfully with others through effective work on harmony.

Movement and Dance Skills

20 credits

Dance

Through practical classes you will develop different dance styles, (jazz and tap) and learn dance sequences at rising levels of intricacy and speed. You will receive specific movement tuition and rehearsals designed to prepare you for professional auditions and specific productions.

Movement Skills

You will discover your personal resources for free and expressive movement and how to employ them effectively in theatrical communication. You will explore and develop an understanding of the importance of a physical approach to the training and life of an actor/singer/dancer, allowing you to work using your own initiative at the highest level.

Public Performance

60 credits

Assessment: Cabaret (30%), Showcase Presentation (30%), Full Staged Production (40%)

You are provided with the opportunity to rehearse and perform a number of roles under professional direction and production conditions, often under the observation of potential employers. A wide selection of material is performed in a range of performance contexts, requiring rapid assimilation and synthesis of skills derived from your training whilst employing appropriate discernment and judgement.

This course overview provides a summary of the MA Musical Theatre programme from January 2011. Please note that while the information reflects the programme offered to date, some details may be subject to amendment and change in future years.