

LAMDA803 - Acting in Classical Theatre

A synopsis of the curriculum

Students will engage with works from a range of Classical Texts. Some aspects of delivery may be delivered via digital tutorials and online workshops ('blended learning'). Many aspects may be taught through blended learning: students will work on a range of texts (online and in the studio) which may include Shakespeare, texts from the Jacobean era, Spanish 'Golden Age', Restoration 'Comedy of Manners' and French Classical Theatre. Texts will be carefully selected to reflect our commitment to a decolonised curriculum.

Practical class work will normally consider the development of a character, through character investigation off contextual research, interaction and observation with reference to the work of Stanislavski and Rudolf Laban but the specific practitioners, plays, modes of delivery, and techniques content covered will be outlined at the commencement of study.

The rehearsal and performance process will be used to investigate the context of the text and draw out character work and interplay key to achieving a credible presentation of the original piece. Students should be prepared to be assessed on a live, digital or blended presentation following revised audience capacity guidelines. The health and safety guidelines relating to Covid-19 will determine the exact split between onsite and socially distanced/digital delivery.

Alongside the direct text work, acting craft skills will be taught and exercises will explore focus, characteristics, and the specific emotional and physical life of a given character. Some of this work will be achieved through class work and some through scene study and workshops (this may be via blended learning incorporating online and onsite delivery). Techniques that will normally be investigated are shown below and rehearsal work will require the student to draw on these skills to create and sustain a credible character.

The learning outcomes are achieved through interactive play, group work and sustaining focus (online and onsite as revised health and safety guidelines allow) allied with the development of strategies for critically evaluating the intricacies of different classical texts to enable the actor to bring characters to life through an advanced synthesis of practice.

Delivery
Students work with staff in tutor-led sessions that may be delivered following social distancing guidelines and online where required. The module content in 2020/21 may be delivered through a mixture of academic lectures, practical workshops, online delivery and students' independent work. This module usually comprises of 1000 hours of study (this may be adjusted), approximately broken down as follows:
Approx. 729 hours of online/onsite class work including rehearsals, independent research tasks and showings
Approx. 280hours of private study
Health and safety guidelines relating to Covid-19 will determine the exact split between onsite and socially distanced/digital delivery.

This is primarily a taught programme of study with much of the learning undertaking place in online/onsite class work, rehearsals and performance/ sharings of work. This level of direct teaching is essential in the process of investigating and staging classical texts which have value

and meaning to the student. This is reflected in the balance of taught contact hours to private study time. Private study includes script reading, line learning and research activity.

It is through the detailed investigation of the text and character that the individual actor is able to create a sustained and believable performance. The methodology of rehearsal into showings of the work allows the individual to demonstrate their process in uncovering the nuances of the role and how best to deliver a performance of depth and breadth and be informed through detailed research. Discussions online and onsite during the rehearsal period between directors and actors reveals and demonstrates the level to which the individual student has considered the background and context of the work and shows how well they are able to critically engage with the piece in pursuit of the character.

Assessments (performances/sharings, presentations, classes, and rehearsals may be assessed online/via recording as well as in live onsite settings)
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80% Rehearsal and Performance/Sharing of each classical text studied (tests all the learning outcomes)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop Productions – 60% (Autumn/ Winter/ Spring Terms)• Thesis Presentation – 10% (Summer Term)• Shakespeare and Classical Text in Performance – 10% (Summer Term) 20% Assessed practical class work. (tests C1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 of the subject specific learning outcomes) |
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Class Work – 20% (Autumn/ Winter/ Spring Terms)
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Please note: In the Academic Year 2019-20 LAMDA has reviewed and presented alternative assessment methods for all summative assessments across all the programmes where Covid-19 affects delivery. This is to ensure that LAMDA can offer a fair and consistent assessment opportunity for all students, including those who may need to re-sit, defer, retake a module or interrupt study. This also allows LAMDA to continue to deliver assessments in a fair and consistent manner if adjusted delivery does need to be rolled out into 2020-21. Details of alternative assessments that may delivered can be found online in the LAMDA Covid-19 Alternative Assessment Strategy 2020 .
