



Faculty of Arts, Science and Technology

# BA (Hons) Acting & Creative Practice

## Student Welcome Pack 2018 -2019



# BA (Hons) Acting & Creative Practice

**Congratulations** on making it onto the course!

Welcome to BA (Hons) Acting & Creative Practice in the Faculty of Arts Science and Technology (FAST) at The University of Northampton. This programme is designed to give you the necessary skills to become a professional actor. You will learn all the techniques you need to work successfully with a director on text-based productions, on screen and in radio. In addition, the course will give you the ability to apply these skills to the creation of original material. Therefore, you will also be able to audition for companies who want actors who are able to contribute creatively to the artistic process. You will also be given the skills to start your own theatre company and develop your own career so that you can be self-employed as an actor alongside employed work. If you apply what you have been taught with the necessary dedication, then you should be able to make a career out of doing what you enjoy most – performing.

I hope you really enjoy the next three years in Northampton. It will be hard work but fun and rewarding too. You will make life-long friends and learn life-long skills. If you ever have any problems or concerns then please make your first port of call your personal tutor, who will always be happy to help. All lecturers have 'sign up time' on the door of MR9, when they guarantee to be in the office should you wish to speak to them.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Sally Cook*

Sally Cook

**Programme Leader**

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## Course Structure

### Year 1

ACT1001	Acting Methodologies 1
ACT1002	Vocal Techniques for Actors 1
ACT1004	Actor's Body & Movement
ACT1006	Creative Theatre Practices 1

### Year 2

ACT2002	Vocal Techniques for Actors 2
ACT2004	Media Acting
ACT2006	Creative Theatre Practices 2

### Year 3

ACT3006	Creative Theatre Practices 3
ACT3007	Acting for Social Change
ACT4001	Negotiated Project

### Year One

During this year you will focus on learning the fundamentals of actor training. You will be introduced to a detailed approach to Acting with a text and study methods to stimulate your creativity. You will be introduced to foundation techniques for voice and body learning how to communicate through your instrument. You will explore key theories & histories of Drama. There are also classes in basic stage combat. This year's work will culminate in a public performance.

### Year Two

During this year you will develop your ability to work with scripted and devised material. Your performance skills will be applied to new areas such as acting for screen, radio, and Shakespeare. You will also develop work that is post-modern, site specific and immersive. Vocal skills include learning to acquire accents and your physical skills include classes in advanced stage combat. You will present work throughout the year and it culminates in a public performance.

### Year Three

This year focuses on getting you ready for employment & representation in the industry. You will work on a portfolio of audition pieces, create a piece suitable for touring & upload your CV, voice reel and show reel onto a personal website. There are **three** public performances throughout the year and a London showcase. You will graduate with equity & spotlight membership.

## Daily training

Daily training starts at 8:30 every morning with physical and vocal exercises. This is an essential part of the course therefore good attendance is very important. We want to instil you with a strong professional attitude, which starts with self-discipline.

## Things you will need:

- *Loose comfortable plain black clothing* must be worn to all classes. We recommend 5 x tops - you will get sweaty - and 2 x bottoms, which can be bought cheaply.
- *Bottled water*, with a sports cap, is acceptable & encouraged. There is a water fountain where you can top up your bottles.
- All outdoor footwear must be removed on entering the studios. *Indoor shoes* such as plimsolls or dance shoes are allowed but trainers are not and working bare foot is encouraged.
- *A note pad, pencil, rubber and pen* are needed in classes and rehearsals to take notes. You are not allowed to take notes on your mobile phone. All phones must be switched off and left in your bag at the beginning of each class.

## Core texts:

These books will be referred to in the 1st year & are essential reading:

- *The Stanislavski Toolkit* by Bella Merlin (2007)
- *Finding your Voice: a step-by-step guide for actors* by Barbara Houseman (2002)

## Pre-course activities:

Read the texts above and watch as much theatre as possible, listen to radio dramas (Radio 4), watch TV dramas and films.

## Theatre trips:

We arrange for a number of theatre trips to supplement your learning (extra curricula). You will need to put aside a total of about £90 to pay for these over your first year. Please take this into account when budgeting. (You could always add the price of a theatre ticket to your Christmas list!)

**Welcome to Acting & Creative Practice – we look forward to meeting you soon!**

	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	
9am – 10am	<p><b>Student Union Sessions</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">FRESHERS: Union Day</a></u></p> <p>Market Square, Northampton Town Centre</p> <p>Monday 24-09-2018 10:00 until 16:00</p>		9:00 – 12:00  Skills session Waterside Campus LH128			
10am – 11am		9:30 – 10:30 Programme leader welcome & get to know each other session MR1 Avenue Campus		10:00 – 11:00 Daily Training MR1	10:00 – 11:00 Daily Training MR1	
11am – 12am		10:30 travel to Waterside Campus with tutor		11:00 – 1:00 Devised project rehearsals & Tutorials with your personal tutor ISHAM DARK	11:00 – 1:00 Devised project rehearsals ISHAM DARK	
12am – 1pm		11:30 – 12:00 Expectations session Waterside Campus SN101	12:00 – 1:00 <b>LUNCH</b> Waterside Campus	12:00 – 1:30 <b>LUNCH</b> Waterside Campus		
1pm – 2pm		1:00pm meet outside Creative Hub & travel to Avenue Campus	1:30 – 2:00 Meet your 'buddy' <i>ISHAM DARK</i>	1:30 meet outside Creative Hub Walk to Royal & Derngate Theatre	1:00 – 2:00 <b>LUNCH</b> Avenue Campus	1:00 – 2:00 <b>LUNCH</b> Avenue Campus
2pm – 3pm		2:00 – 2:30 Tea with your Buddy	2:00 – 3:00 Welcome to Royal & Derngate Theatre from theatre staff	2:00 – 5:00 Programme Essentials MR1	2:00 – 3:00 Devised Project Performances ISHAM DARK	
3pm – 4pm		2:30 – 4:00 Learn your daily training routine MR1	Free time to get to know Northampton			
4pm – 5pm		4:00 – 5:00 More getting to know each other & introduction to devised project MR1			3:00 – 3:30 Q & A ISHAM DARK	
5pm – 6pm						