

Module code	ATP419	Level	4
Module title	Actor and Camera	Credit value	20
Common/Core/Elective	Core	ECTS Credits	10
		Notional learning hours	200
Courses on which the module is taught	BA Acting for Stage & Screen	Teaching Period	Spring

1. Module description

A large part of a performer's creative life can be spent in television, film and corporate film work. In this module, you will start to acquire an understanding of the vocabulary and basic techniques of screenwork. It aims to introduce you to the skills necessary to work both in front of and behind the camera, The module will optimize the use of digital cameras, sound recording and editing equipment. You will begin to develop an understanding about how different forms of filmmaking require different skills and approaches.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:

Collaboration (ML01)

Explore collaboration and networking opportunities to generate ideas for acting and digital storytelling

Digital Data and Tools (ML06)

Use digital tools and data in the production of performance

Discipline Skills (ML08)

Use established acting for lens knowledge, techniques and tools for practical purposes

Human and Environmental Impact (ML010)

Explore the impact of storytelling production on people and on the environment

3. Learning and teaching methods

This module offers a practical exploration of approaches for acting for camera.

In what is a workshop-based approach you will be you will be taught voice, text and acting skills required for acting for camera. You will also learn to self-tape using industry-standard techniques. Throughout the module you will engage in the process of developing scenes from screenplays through practical rehearsals leading to a final filmed project. In order to support your learning you will be expected to do independent preparation for workshops and assessments.

At the beginning of this module we will discuss and confirm the principles of safe practice that we operate in BA Acting for Stage & Screen at Regent's University:

Much of the work engaged in during the course of your studies will involve complex and difficult themes and activities. It is important that we acknowledge that all members of our community, staff and students should feel safe in any work and environment that they are exploring. The following principles are adopted by all staff and students on the programme.

- Everyone working and learning together is entitled to do so in a safe space: a space free of bullying and harassment of any kind.
- Everyone will honour our differences and collaborate in the true spirit of ensemble, promoting creative challenge whilst retaining the utmost respect for each other.
- Everyone will treat one another with courtesy and respect at all times, and if we are subjected to or witness bullying or harassment, we will speak out knowing that voices and concerns will be heard and taken seriously.
- Everyone will actively promote a positive, optimistic and mutually supportive approach to work and study.

Interpersonal Safe Practices

BA Acting for Stage & Screen can involve interpersonal practices which involve physical contact and close physical proximity. In order to ensure safe practice(s) the following principles are adopted by all staff and students on the programme.

- Physical contact between teacher and student is sometimes necessary for student learning (e.g. to correct posture). It's purpose and form should be explained to the student by the teacher and the student's consent obtained in advance of physical contact taking place. In the context, as in all others, teachers will be sensitive to feedback from their students and will respond respectfully and accordingly.
- Teaching staff are responsible for ensuring safe practices in studio workshops. Where an exercise is likely to involve physical contact between students, teaching staff will risk assess and explain the parameters for the exercise ensuring that all students feel safe and empowered to halt an exercise should they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- At Regent's University London we are exploring Acting as a cultural form primarily and not replicating the wide range of contemporary industry practices. Given the diversity of backgrounds that any student cohort can be from we never engage in close intimate scenes which might undermine the heritage of any student.

- Moments of sensual proximity may be employed in the action of a scene only with the consent of all parties. These will be choreographed with prior agreed boundaries set by students in advance of agreeing to include a scene.
- Intimacy is defined here as “sensual proximity or touching. It is an act or reaction, such as an expression of feelings (including close friendship, platonic love, romantic love or sexual attraction), between people.” Examples include: “being inside someone's personal space, holding hands, hugging, kissing, caressing and sexual activity. Physical intimacy can often convey the real meaning or intention of an interaction in a way that accompanying speech simply cannot do.”
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_intimacy#cite_note-2
- Students rehearsing work independently must comply with the principle of mutual consent at all times. All students are empowered to stop work at any time that they feel uncomfortable and withdraw from work. In the event of this principle being undermined or ignored by any student, the Course Leader should be informed at the earliest opportunity. Students who do not respect these principles may be subject to disciplinary action.
- All work must take place in a designated rehearsal studio. The university provides suitable spaces which have been designed for safe acting practice and are maintained to a standard which mitigates against obvious risks. There is one studio (DB06) which is set aside for student rehearsal and as a breakout space. This studio is in close proximity to the Media Services staff office and is located on a busy corridor with the studio visible at all times from the corridor.
- Where work is required to take place in spaces other than designated rehearsal studios of the University, a full risk assessment must be carried out and these principles discussed with any participants on location.

Learning hours	
Directed learning	72 hours
Workshops/classes	72
Guided/Self-guided learning	128 hours
Total	200

4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

Assessment 1

Performance

Weight (%): 40

Word Count or Equivalent: 3 to 5 minutes

Self-Taping of monologue

You will tape a brief monologue and dialogue using guidance and advice from the tutors and industry guidelines.

Assessment 2

Performance (Group Assessment)

Weight (%): 60

Word Count or Equivalent: 7 to 15 minutes

Short, filmed duologue from selected screenplay

You and your peers, in small groups, will storyboard /create a shot list and film a short extract from a screenplay. You will be involved as crews on each other's projects and grading will take this technical input into account. A peer assessment strategy, including a project environmental impact assessment will be used as part of the grading process. You will also write and submit an independent project rationale, including an account of your technical work and the shot list/ storyboard.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity of formative assessment accompanied by formative feedback.

Mapping of assessment tasks for the module

Assessment tasks	MLO1	MLO6	MLO8	MLO10
Performance 1		x	x	
Performance 2	x	x	x	x

5. Indicative resources

Churcher, M (2011) *A Screen Acting Workshop*. London: Nick Hern Books.

Churcher, M. (2003) *Acting for Film: Truth 24 times a second*. London: Virgin Books.

Acting in Film. New York: Applause Theatre Books.

Takoudes, G. (2019). *The Collaborative Director, A Department-by-Department Guide to Filmmaking*. New York, N.Y: Routledge

A range of material for reading and practical scene work will be drawn from a wide selection of sources. In addition, students should review classic and contemporary screenplays and films from a range of genres and cultures, available online, from the library or a bookshop:

e.g.

- Minghella, Anthony: *Truly, Madly, Deeply*
- Leigh, Mike: *Secrets and Lies*
- Praver Jhabvala, Ruth: *Heat and Dust*
- Marber, Patrick: *Closer*
- Khan-Din, Ayub: *East Is East*
- Meadows, Shane: *This Is England*

Online student resources for scripts include: **BBC Writers room**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/scripts>

Full scripts from EastEnders, Dr Who etc.