COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: CASS

Programme: Performance and Theatre Arts

FHEQ **Level:**   3

Course Title: Foundations of the Performing Arts

Course Code: THR 3100

Course Leader: Prof Michael Barclay

Student Engagement Hours: 120
Lectures: 15
Seminar / Tutorials: 15
Screenings: 10
Field-trips: 5
Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description: For those interested in the performing arts, but with no experience, this course introduces students to the fundamentals of being in front of an audience. Games, storytelling, role-playing, playwriting and improvisation are used to explore the basic tenets of performance, whether for a presentation, a business meeting, or in a theatrical production.

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 general history of contemporary and classical performance skills. Much of the course involves practical work such as concentration, physical and improvisational exercises in the development of imagination for performance. Storytelling, poetry, acting from text and development of different interpretations

will all be explored through class exercises, individual and group projects. Students will be expected to attend one or two assigned performances through the term, for which assessment/critiques are prepared. Successful students will gain the knowledge and skills for the appreciation of theatre in its widest sense. Students who are planning careers in the theatre or any kind of public speaking will find this introduction to performance skills very useful.

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/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx

Learning Outcomes:
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.
- Kinesthetic 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 Programme* Assessment Norms for Theatre approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

The course is a workshop. Students will be taught through a series of class exercises. This will consist of 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.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text*:*

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

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	Rewrite of Programme Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Rewrite of Learning Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Indicative Content updated	LTPC 30/5/14	
Minor	Indicative Source updated	LTPC 30/5/14	