

# **BA (Hons)** **Actor Musicianship\***

## **The Programme at a glance**

### **Years 1 and 2**

There are two semesters in each year, each including:

- A Skills Block: timetabled weekly classes in movement, voice, music making, composition, MDing and arrangement, acting, musicality, singing and study.
- Performance Projects: full time rehearsal processes culminating in performances that include music as a fully integrated element. Projects range from devised work and new writing, to the work of writers as diverse as Shakespeare, Chekhov, Lorca, Pinter and Brecht.

### **Year 3:**

The final year is taught through a series of full time performance projects supplemented by additional lectures and classes. During this year each student will do the following:

- Independent Research Project: your chance to research and develop your own area of interest.
- Recorded Media Projects: developing skills in TV, film, radio and voice-over.
- Professional Preparation: mock auditions, industry lectures and a London Showcase
- The Devising Season: your chance to further your devising skills
- Main House Production: a fully mounted public production with students from the Acting Programme
- London Season: a fully mounted actor musician public production performed in a London venue

The New Writing Season: a series of commissioned pieces for actor musicians performed in London and including a touring children's theatre piece.

### **Who is it for?**

- You should apply for this programme if:
- You are looking for a practical NCDT accredited actor training course with a difference
- You are an actor who plays a musical instrument; any musical instrument, from guitar to saxophone, violin to rock drums, DJing to accordion.
- You are interested in working as an actor within theatre, film, TV or radio
- You want to learn how your musical skills can be used to enhance your work as an actor
- You are interested in creating, facilitating, leading and playing music as a complement to and integrated part of your work as an actor.

### **Why join this programme?**

The Actor Musicianship Programme is a unique, NCDT accredited, practical training for actors who have musical skills. It is taught by the same staff team and shares the same core disciplines and approaches to performance as the Acting programme. You will be taught by an experienced team, including industry professionals, who will help you develop the skills of the actor musician through practical classes in movement, voice and approaches to text and character. In addition you will be developing your existing musical skills for use within a variety of performance contexts. Lastly and perhaps most importantly, you will explore how these skills interconnect.

### **Duration**

3 Years.

### **Entry Requirements**

Suggested 'A' Levels or equivalent subjects: Theatre Studies, Music.

### **How to Apply**

Applications made through UCAS.

### **Institution code name:**

Rose

### **Institution**

**Application code:**  
R51

### **Programme code**

W4W3

### **Term Start**

September, 2010.

**\*NCDT Accredited**

Your actor's imagination will be developed to help you create, lead and make music, whilst acting classes will explore the musicality of performance. Your final year will introduce you to the profession through a series of fully mounted productions, including a London Showcase. You will develop skills for a range of media, including theatre, film, television and radio. Your employability will be enhanced, as the range of skills you will develop on this unique programme will help to make you versatile and adaptable. You will be ready for the ever changing and highly competitive world of professional theatre and associated media.

### **How good a musician do I have to be?**

The course reflects the professional actor musician world in that it is eclectic and wide ranging. Each actor musician year group is made up of a mix of abilities and instruments; from grade 8 cellists, to 'bedroom guitarists', from sight-reading pianists, to rock drummers who play 'by ear'. The teaching methods on the programme are inclusive and designed to develop a range of approaches to music making. You will find ways of communicating your musical ideas through a variety of techniques, including scoring, chord sheets and aural teaching methods; whatever gets the job done.

Being able to read music and having a basic knowledge of music theory is certainly an advantage. But by no means is it essential.

### **What can I do when I graduate?**

Graduates from the Actor Musicianship Programme can be found performing in all sectors of the theatre industry and its related fields:

- In ground breaking actor musician shows in London, in regional theatres across the country and in venues throughout the world
- In West End musicals
- In 'straight' plays at The National Theatre, The RSC, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Chichester Festival Theatre.
- On television, in radio plays and on film
- In national commercial tours
- In children's theatre companies and TIE projects
- In fringe theatres and international festivals
- This programme creates a versatile and eminently employable actor.

Rose Bruford College is committed to enabling its graduates to have sustained careers. The course develops skills which have enabled graduates to supplement their acting work with work as musical directors, composers and arrangers, workshop leaders and youth workers. In addition the BA (Hons) in Actor Musicianship is a transferable qualification which can be used to access post graduate courses including PGCEs and other teaching training programmes, MAs and PhDs.

### **Who will be teaching me?**

The course is taught and designed by a full time staff team of experienced discipline specialists with extensive professional experience, supplemented by industry professionals such as theatre and television directors, agents, casting directors, musical directors, composers and performers.

### **Auditions**

You will first need to prepare two contrasting speeches, each of approximately 1.5 minutes in length. If you are recalled you will be invited to attend a day long workshop audition where you will be asked to sing and play a piece on your chosen instrument/s as well as rework your speeches.

In order to be considered for the programme you must play a musical instrument.

### **Graduate success**

Actor musicians can be found in many productions: from the singular actor required to play an instrument in plays such as The National Theatre's production of *The History Boys*, to full blown actor musician musicals such as The Watermill's recent West End transfer of *Sunset Boulevard* or John Doyle's *Sweeney Todd*.

They are found in shows by companies such as Kneehigh, Complicite, Told by an Idiot, The Clod Ensemble and Sharpwire and at Christmas in the many actor musician pantomimes that are springing up around the country. From shows written for actor musician casts such as *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, to inter-disciplinary performances by The Blue Man Group, Stomp and Improbable Theatre's *Shock Headed Peter*, there is a growing demand for actors with musical skills.

### **Head of School**

Emilio Romero

### **Programme Director**

Jeremy Harrison

### **Staff**

Peter Bramley  
Tess Dignan  
Julian Jones  
Marcello Marascalchi  
Alison Mackinnon  
Pat O'Toole  
Huw Prall  
Sarah Stephenson  
David Zoob

### **Visiting Professionals**

Sarah Travis  
John Doyle

Due to the specialist nature of the College, our courses often have longer contact hours than at some universities and require a lot of stamina. Hours can be irregular with some evening and weekend work required in the run-up to shows. These long hours reflect practice in the creative industries and help to prepare students for the realities of work in this sector.