

CertHE Acting & Theatre Making

Award Document 2023/24

Course Map - CertHE Acting & Theatre Making

Stage 1

Study Block 1	Study Block 2
FCH120 The Body & Objects ... Compulsory (30 credits)	FCH140 Express Yourself! Compulsory (30 credits)
FCH130 Mono Monkey Compulsory (30 credits)	FCH150 Playing With Words... Compulsory (30 credits)

General Course Information

Status	Approved
Qualification (course type)	Undergraduate Course
Course Title	CertHE Acting & Theatre Making
Intermediate Qualification(s)	
Awarding Institution	Falmouth University
Location of Delivery	OFF CAMPUS (DISTANCE OR BLENDED LEARNING)
Duration of course	1 years
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body Accreditation	
Accreditation Renewal Date	
UCAS Code	
Relevant External Benchmarking	• Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008) - QAA • Dance, Drama and Performance (2019) - QAA

Course Aims

This course aims to provide you with a space to find your place in the industry as you explore, play, experiment with and discover a variety of acting, movement, creative and theatre making skills. This will be done in a collaborative ensemble environment as a solid foundation for diverse onward training journeys.

Course specific employability skills

Studying on Fourth Monkey's CertHE Acting & Theatre Making course, awarded by Falmouth University, will give you an opportunity to explore your individual and diverse acting and creative skillsets in detail. You will discover a wide range of acting skills and approaches to making theatre, as well as explore other areas which support this creative industry. This course will support your ability to clarify your theatrical niche and your onward journey into further professional vocational training. This course will also support you to study with confidence and a deeper understanding of the range of creative career options which might also inspire you.

The 21st century actor needs to have the capacity to work creatively. They need to be able to create their own material and have a clear understanding of who they are and where they fit in. They must be able to recognise and create the opportunity to act and make in traditional performance settings, such as theatre, film and television, as the foundation for what they do and who they are as artists, in order to create and innovate for themselves. Entrepreneurship and the ability to adapt and develop your own diverse and creative opportunities within this fast changing and largely freelance job market, have therefore become vital skills for the successful actor and theatre maker.

Through training on this course, you will be able to feed your curiosity, creativity and confidence as an actor and / or maker. This will give you the chance to truly discover your creative forte and consequently your place in this industry. This course will give you the opportunity to gain an understanding of the diverse, industry-focused skills vital for this sector, helping you to clarify your journey ahead, as you begin to find and explore the right path for you and your creative career.

Through training on this course with Fourth Monkey, you can expect to develop the skills and capacities which will empower you to:

ACT

- Create characters for performance which are specific and detailed both physically and vocally
- Recognise the unique qualities of your own voice, and your own body, and engage your imagination
- Identify the core practical skills and techniques an actor uses to create and perform a character
- Investigate a range of approaches for interpreting text and research in order to shape your own process
- Identify the different ways an actor can build and practice their skills, techniques and understanding of creating character
- Understand how to reflect on your work as an actor in order to keep improving your skills, developing your own actor's process, and adapting your techniques to meet new challenges

MAKE

- Identify who you might be as an artist, what you want to say, and how you could artistically say it
- Explore your imaginative ideas and recognise where they might take you within various processes for making theatre
- Engage with a variety of contemporary theatre making approaches and use this to shape your own theatre making process
- Build your understanding of how you and your work might fit into the bigger picture of the creative arts and the world we live in
- Understand what makes creative theatre making professional and how you might shape your work to meet this idea

- Build skills which mean you can evaluate your own work objectively, and are able to develop and make it more effective, creative, artistic and detailed

MOVE

- Recognise how uniquely your body moves and how you can explore this in different ways
- Investigate a variety of skills and techniques which develop what you can physically do and express in performance
- Understand how a character might have different physical qualities and shape your choices to express this
- Understand how pieces of performance can be created from using the body in creative and imaginative ways
- Understand how to work physically, openly and safely within an inclusive ensemble environment

COLLABORATE

- Understand how central artistic and creative collaboration is both in further training and professionally
- Work and train in an inclusive ensemble environment and actively bring your ideas and effort into the creative process
- Work with a range of other people's needs and goals within the ensemble
- Develop your skill to negotiate and communicate effectively in order to share your ideas for the creation of a project
- Recognise how what you do can contribute to making your work or training environment a safe and inclusive space

Graduate Skills

Many of the skills required for this course and for professional actors and theatre makers are readily transferable to numerous and diverse professional environments.

As you progress through the course, you will develop the ability to:

Take Accountability & Personal Responsibility:

- Prepare your work independently, take responsibility for your own learning, and pay attention to detail
- Discipline yourself so you work at your best all the time, and achieve and exceed your own expectations
- Organise and plan your work, follow a brief, and meet deadlines
- Identify your personal strengths and weaknesses, and be able to set yourself personal goals and targets in your training
- Plan the next steps in your career realistically and practically
- Understand the bigger picture elements of creative work, and further training and how this might shape and focus your choices / decisions about your next steps

Communicate & Present Yourself Professionally:

- Express your ideas, and listen and respond to a variety of diverse voices and feedback in your work
- Communicate your thinking and understanding effectively in the different ways you might meet creative work or training
- Present yourself and what you do effectively in practical and interview situations for further training and employment
- Use the relevant IT and digital resources which might be expected in creative work or training

Collaborate With Others In A Team:

- Work effectively with other people to get creative projects started and developed
- Share and adapt your own practice to engage well with others in an inclusive ensemble / group work
- Understand the range of roles and responsibilities you might find in creative work or further training and be able to operate across several areas yourself

Operate Professionally:

- Recognise and change what you do practically to demonstrate you can be professional
- Understand how people identify and measure professional work
- Evaluate a variety of different kinds of professional situations which you might find yourself in, and understand what might be expected of you in order to successfully adapt and work in them

Career/future study opportunities

Acting careers are diverse and normally cross over a variety of media and specialist areas. They include work in theatre, film, television, voiceover, comedy, spoken word, commercials, live events and immersive experiences. Theatre offers a huge range of potential possibilities. This can range from children's theatre and theatre in education (TIE), to touring productions and the West End stage. A growing number of actors are actors and theatre makers. They follow the traditional acting route, but also set up their own theatre companies, devise their own work, creatively produce film and / or create digital online content.

There are no fixed career trajectories in this industry. The majority of work comes through freelance projects, which sometimes allows the actor to use more than their acting skills. These skills can often include stage management, assistant stage management, movement direction and assistant direction. All of these skills are transferable across a huge range of sectors and can shift through theatre, television and film, and sometimes into writing and other areas of production.

On a former version of this course, many of our students have gone on to study actor training in conservatoire drama schools or their equivalent, enrolling on higher education courses both with Fourth Monkey and elsewhere. They have also gone on to study musical theatre and actor musicianship, or taken their diverse, industry-focused skills into production, production design, stage management and technical skills courses. Some have also gone into apprenticeship employment or specialist training courses in areas such as puppetry and physical theatre. And finally, others have created their own professional solo projects, or created their own successful theatre company. These onward journeys represent just some of the diverse pathways of our students following their time on this course.

The focus of this course is to equip you with the key practical experience, information and knowledge to consider the range of further education and employment opportunities within this industry. Equally, this course focuses on preparing you to take the next steps in your onward journey with an informed understanding of what you might need, in order for you to make the right decisions for you and your future career.

Structure of Course Delivery

Fourth Monkey's CertHE Acting & Theatre Making course was designed by an experienced team of professional actors, directors, theatre makers, practitioners, scholars and teachers. These industry professionals are passionate about actor training and have a wealth of contemporary experience both nationally and internationally. Your course continues to be driven, taught and shaped by their first hand and diverse contact with the industry, their up-to-date understanding of the range of training and professional opportunities which exist, and the skills and capacities which are central in shaping the careers of professional contemporary actors and theatre makers.

It is our intention for you as an individual to be celebrated and to thrive. This course is designed for you to explore, extend and diversify your own unique artistic and creative skills. It is shaped for you to discover your own artistic and creative self, your own identity and the wider world around you, in a supportive, nurturing and inclusive ensemble environment. You will have timetabled practical classes and workshops which allow you numerous opportunities to investigate and explore a range of techniques, practices and approaches. This will become the foundation of your

actor's toolkit. You will also be encouraged to develop your own practice and pursue your own creative aspirations. This will become the foundation of your theatre maker's toolkit. The culmination of your journey through this course will therefore inform your consideration into where and how you might want to ACT, MAKE, MOVE and COLLABORATE in the future.

Fundamental to this training is the need to understand that this learning is embodied, integrated, collaborative and experiential. It is most effective through practical and intensive activity. You will have numerous chances to learn through doing, in an inclusive ensemble environment, as you bring together all of your skills of body, voice and creativity in practice and performance. You will also have the space to explore, experiment and self-generate your own material for structured set tasks which you will present to the ensemble.

As you progress through the practical and thematic modules on this course, you will encounter a wide range of classes, rehearsals, workshops and seminars. These sessions will give you the opportunity to establish a solid foundation of embodied acting and theatre making skills. You can expect to encounter some of the core theories and ideas from influential, world-renowned practitioners, such as Stanislavski, Grotowski and Lecoq, which you will practically investigate in the studio. Similarly, you can expect to analyse an array of texts and ideas in order to create characterisation and clear storytelling. This will support your ability to think critically with clarity, ration and logic. It will also begin your journey into becoming an independent, well rounded and progressive actor and / or theatre maker. You can expect to widely research the 'worlds' of the plays you are studying, in order to develop your ability as an actor and initiate and broaden your contextual understanding. This will support your ability to reflectively think, connect your ideas, and contextualise them within the framework of your work, affording you multiple opportunities to practice applying and utilising your thinking in text and performance with growing confidence and dexterity. Finally, you will research source material and ideas for creating your own original pieces of work, as you build your understanding of theatre making, training options and industry expectations.

You will be expected to work independently (outside of your timetabled classes) on an ongoing basis. This will include regular practice of personal notes (e.g. voice, acting and movement notes), line learning and independent research. You will also be expected to give yourself self-reflection time to consider your uniquely personal onward journey, self-evaluation time to understand your niche in this industry, and self-discovery time to find out who you are as an actor and / or theatre maker. Independent study is essential to support your own physical, vocal and artistic progression, personal growth, research and investigative needs, industry appropriate / professional understanding, and audition preparation. Likewise, this activity is vital for the routine preparation of scenes, material for class / rehearsal, and your confidence in your onward journey into this creative industry. You will have regular company meetings and 1:1 tutorials. This will be with your Course Leader for guidance, mentorship and individual development / support needs. You will also have the ability to request additional 1:1 tutorial support as per your need throughout the duration of the course.

Your training on this course for the CertHE qualification will be delivered across two study blocks. These study blocks will encourage you to identify patterns and connections between practices, approaches and activities. The structure will give you the chance to develop cumulatively, individually and uniquely, as you progress through the course. After the first two study blocks, your formal credit bearing assessments for your Certificate of Higher Education qualification will be complete.

Study Block 1 – Mono Monkey & The Body & Objects...

In the first two modules of study block 1, you can expect to experience the basic fundamentals of acting, voice, physical, and theatre making training. You will receive a first principles approach to identifying your own impulses, inhabiting your body, and discovering your true voice. You will then integrate this work and your exploration of this work into monologues. Working from a decolonised curriculum, you will explore core, diverse and international physical practices which connect your body, breath and thought. In this module you will explore, play, experiment with and discover on an individual basis, with others and also with objects. The classes in these modules will give you an introduction to technique. This will support your knowledge of how to technically and safely use your voice and your body, without stripping away your individual qualities and idiosyncrasies which make you uniquely you. They will also give you the theoretical understanding for creating your own actor's process for text based work, your own actor's toolkit for creating character, personal reflection and critical thinking skills, and personal development opportunities. The classes in this module are deliberately designed to give you space to shape yourself as an actor and maker in your own image. They come together to encourage you to develop practical, creative and critical skills, in order for you to begin to identify who you are as an actor and maker, to shape what you need to take you where you want to go, and assist you in strategically planning achievable steps and action points to take you there.

Study Block 2 - Playing with Words... & Express Yourself!

In the second two modules of study block 2, you can expect to refine your core skills in more advanced acting, voice, physical and theatre making classes. You will begin to integrate these skills into scene and text based work, where you will rehearse and perform duologues/scenes. You will also create performance / solo projects which will come from you, your own ideas and your own imagination. Movement sessions in this study block will introduce you to different practitioners allowing you to further explore your body, your physical practice and yourself as an expressive performer in more diverse, artistic and creative ways. Having been introduced, encouraged and supported to reflect, investigate, research, apply, utilise and organise your thoughts, ideas and findings, in taught sessions across this study block and in study block 1, you will have a chance to formalise your thinking and evaluations. These personal reflections, discoveries, and critical thinking will be formally integrated into an individual report assessment. In this module, you will build your expressive, communicative and critical capacity, and real-world industry knowledge and experience, as well as complete your Certificate of Higher Education in Acting & Theatre Making.

Course Assessment Strategy

The purpose of assessment is to measure your progress and achievement throughout the course. Assessment is the formal review point which generates feedback on your work, both summative and formative. It also allows you to develop your practice and your performance ability more effectively by identifying specific areas and activities for you to work on.

Summative Assessment is the method which confirms whether you have met the learning outcomes i.e. Can you do what that specific activity requires of you? How effectively can you meet the specific assessment criteria? This results in a graded mark and indicates the overall passing of the module and your formal progression through the course. Feedback on summative assessment is also likely to include formative comments to guide how you move forward with your training.

Formative Assessment is the method which considers how you are progressing towards achieving the learning outcomes through the classes and activities in the module. It provides guidance and feedback to help you develop and grow. It does not contribute to any mark and does not form part of the passing of the module or formal progression through the course. Formative feedback may be given orally in classes / sessions / workshops or in writing at specific points throughout your training.

How Are You Assessed?

Working practically in the studio allows all of your skills and learning to be considered holistically. Practical work brings together your voice, your body, your imagination, your practical technique, your understanding, and your critical and reflective thinking. Performance in practice requires all of these elements to come together and practical assessments allow us to look at how you are developing across all of these areas.

You are assessed individually through solo or ensemble performances and practical tasks. When your work is viewed within an ensemble performance, practitioners will take note of your personal demonstration of the skills being assessed by the learning outcomes and you are given an individual mark accordingly.

Assessment Modes within this course are in keeping with the nature of the learning on this course, meaning that the majority of assessments are practical and adjudicated.

Summative Assessment methods used within this course are as follows:

Performance - (including filmed and live, large and small scale, text based and devised / created work, public and internal, directed and self-generated), a prepared sharing (typically through a rehearsal process) to an audience where you will use appropriate expressive choices to communicate your work. The audience will primarily be internal within the CertHE qualification.

Studio Practice - (staff / peer only) the formal showing of practical activities and exercises. This will include your demonstration of self-generated material, use of techniques, investigation, process, collaboration and organisation during a class or session. These may lead to a performance or may develop the skills and techniques used in the exploring, making and performing of work. The assessment point is understood as a moment in your creative learning journey and an opportunity to consider how you are engaging throughout the learning process of the module.

Individual report - a documented submission to a specific personal development brief which will include practical self-reflection and evaluation, creative and critical thinking, the shaping of your individual learning objectives and targets, and a consideration of your creative self and the discoveries you make in your work.

Formative Assessment & Feedback within this course is multi-dimensional and includes:

In Class / Studio Notes - you will receive routine formative feedback from week to week from practitioners. This may come in the form of receiving notes in rehearsal, individual adjustments, and instruction in class. This will be provided orally and informally, in response to your work in the studio, and will not be prescriptive. You should not expect detailed individual comments every week from every class / practitioner.

Peer Feedback - you will be encouraged by practitioners to offer and receive feedback from your peers within certain classes. This will support the development of your own skills of observation and awareness of your practice as you watch the work of your peers. It will also support your ability to work collaboratively. This feedback will be provided orally and informally and may be part of a 'buddy' system.

Developmental Feedback - core department staff will offer ongoing guidance in respect of developing your expressive body / voice / artistry outside of a modular assessment framework. This will typically be done at the end of a study block. It should inform your own learning plans for your onward development and will normally be provided within a personal 1:1 tutorial session which may be accompanied by written guidance. There are also additional opportunities to engage with developmental feedback throughout your training from Heads of Department. This may be given through the formal process of a training concern or the informal process of notes given at appropriate times.

https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/sites/default/files/download/falmouth_assessment_principles_v1.1.pdf

Course Learning Outcomes

LO name	Level 4
1. Process	Select and apply interpretive and expressive choices emerging from the cumulative processes of studio practice and rehearsal
2. Techniques	Utilise acting, vocal and physically expressive skills and techniques in performance related contexts and tasks
3. Innovation	Utilise opportunities for personal artistic experimentation, creative self-discovery and imaginative risk taking
4. Industry	Recognise and practice core professional / performance skills and behaviours and the contexts in which they can be acquired, practiced and demonstrated
5. Investigation	Apply core research and analysis activities relevant to supporting personal development / performance interpretation of text / creative stimulus
6. Collaboration	Recognise and practice ideas, behaviours and activities which foster creative ensemble learning, collaborative capability and performance practice in pursuit of a shared artistic / creative goal / vision
7. Organisation	Utilise relevant activities and practice for the management of self to engage with study, personal development objectives, and creative exploration and experimentation
8. Performance	Demonstrate a selection of ideas and expressive technical skills in a synthesised performance / presentation

TPA Table

Module Code	Level	Module Name	Credits	Study Block	Compulsory (C) or Option (O)	Assessment Methods*	Contributing towards the Learning Outcomes* (Taught (T), Practised (P) and/or Assessed (A))							
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
FCH120	4	The Body & Objects ...	30	1	C	PF	TPA	TPA	P	P	P	TPA	P	TP
FCH130	4	Mono Monkey	30	1	C	PF	TP	TPA	TP	TPA	TP	TP	TP	TPA
FCH140	4	Express Yourself!	30	2	C	RE SP	TP	TP	TPA	TP	TPA	P	TPA	TP
FCH150	4	Playing With Words...	30	2	C	PF	TPA	TPA	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP	TPA

Learning Outcomes*
1. Process
2. Techniques
3. Innovation
4. Industry
5. Investigation
6. Collaboration
7. Organisation
8. Performance

