Module Overview

This course is for students studying drama or theatre studies, to immerse themselves in a new and exciting programme for performing Shakespeare at Drama Centre London, one of the most renowned drama schools in the UK, and part of Central Saint Martins. The course will enable you to improve your skills for Shakespeare using a methodological approach, culminating in a performance based on Shakespearian text. Workshops in movement and vocal studies will form part of your class time to give you a hugely rewarding and intensive experience with the Drama Centre London. The course tutors will work with you to enhance your capacity to learn in a disciplined, organised manner and develop skills leading to independent learning. You will also develop a critical awareness of contemporary performance and learn to express your ideas clearly and articulately. To support your learning experience you will visit a number performances at world famous London theatres. During the course there is a theatre trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, a beautiful medieval town and birthplace of William Shakespeare.

Class hours: 120 hours (including accompanied theatre trips)
Non-class hours: 15 hours
Course level: Open
Entry requirements: The course is open to all students, from ambitious beginners to those with more experience. Fluent, confident knowledge of the English language is essential. It is recommended for non-native speakers to have a minimum English score of IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) in order to join the course.
**Project Description**

Students will participate in 5 classes and a Shakespeare project. The outline of the classes are:

- **Vocal Studies**: in this class you will look at the identification of “form” and the acting choices it leads you to make.
- **Acting Classes**: encouraging you to make wider and more courageous choices in the investigation of relationships, strong actions and imagined given circumstances.
- **Stage Combat**: you will work on the discipline and skills required for stage combat.
- **Physical Studies**: structuring a basic physical warm up in order to prepare for the physical aspects of rehearsal and performance. Ensemble work, guided group physical improvisation. The connection between movement and characterisation development of economic and powerful physical expression.
- **Shakespeare Project**: you will work on short scenes from appropriate texts, with particular emphasis on identifying and embodying the rhetorical forms and the language structures. This will culminate in a sharing on the last day.

**Aims**

- The application of the methodological approach to complex and heightened texts with bravery, generosity and a willingness to experiment.
- Recognition of rhetorical structures which inform your acting choices resulting in confident performance of verse drama using Standard English.
- Full engagement with the playing space and the relationship with the audience.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Application of your vocal and physical technique with authority and confidence (Technical Competence).
- The creation of strategies to resolve acting problems (Analysis, Collaborative and/or Independent Professional Working, Subject Knowledge).
- Sophisticated communication of complex and often unfamiliar ideas (Communication, MC Personal and Professional Development, Presentation).
- Enhanced expressiveness and flexibility (Technical Competence).
- Basic skills in stage combat (MC Technical Competence, Subject Knowledge).

**Materials Required**

On joining Drama Centre London all students are required to equip themselves with the following articles for the first day. All of these must be clearly marked with your name.

For movement:

- Tracksuit bottoms (elasticised waist or drawstring)
- A top that is easy to move in (leotards can be useful)
- Sport socks
- Sports jumper
- Sport or dance shoes
- Long hair tied back off the face (male and female)
- Towel
- Water
For play study:

- This will be updated nearer the time

For all other classes:

- Loose fitting clothes that are easy to move in
- Pencil / Pen
- Notebook

For outings:

- A map of London (students will be brought to the theatre but must find their own way home. There will be four outings in total)
- An Oyster card (Transport for London travel card (TfL)
- Mobile phone

Reading/Resources List

- Hall, P. (2004), *Shakespeare’s Advice to the Players*; Oberon Books
- Linklater, K. (1992), *FREeing Shakespeare’s Voice*; Theatre Communications Group
- Onions, C.T., and Eagleson, R.D., ed. (1986); *A Shakespeare Glossary*; Oxford University Press

Tutors

Jonathan Dawes is one of a select group of Voice Coaches in the world to have been officially trained by Patsy Rodenburg at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He first trained as an actor at LAMDA before working in theatre, film and television. He created and ran Lightning Ensemble, a company collaboratively developing and producing new plays. As a voice coach he has worked at Shakespeare’s Globe, in the West End with the RSC’s Matilda, The Bodyguard, Kiss Me Kate, with Internationally tours of Carousel and Into the Woods. He is currently the voice coach of Emma Rice’s new company Wise Children.

Tutors from Drama Centre London.