

## **COURSE SUMMARY DOCUMENT**

### **2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**COURSE TITLE: Master of Arts (MA) Drama Directing**

**DURATION OF COURSE: One Year (Full Time)**

#### **Entry Requirements:**

Applicants would normally be expected to have an honours degree in a related subject area and it is essential that they have proven professional experience in one or more capacities within the entertainment industry. This could be in directing fringe productions, working as a performer or in stage management. Applicants should also have a clear understanding of theatre and individual creative ambitions.

For speakers of English as a second language an IELTS 7.0 (International English Language Testing System) or equivalent is the minimum requirement with a minimum of 7.0 in each component of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

All applicants will normally be interviewed by two members of staff. Recall interviews will include the Head of Course.

#### **Course Outline:**

The Drama Directing MA has been specially designed to equip students with high-level skills and knowledge to work professionally as a drama director. You will gain experience of production preparation and rehearsal techniques, including dramaturgy and collaborating with designers and other key creatives.

There is a 'permeable membrane' between the Theatre School and the industry, so you will have the opportunity to learn from and work with high calibre professional practitioners as part of your training.

The course will build your knowledge, skills and confidence through workshops, classes and projects. You will develop your practice of directing through assistant directing on a theatre production during the Spring Term and directing a student led, studio scale production in the Summer Term.

A key feature of the course is that it integrates with other drama disciplines. As a result, supported by experienced staff you will be working alongside writing, acting, design and technical students.

You will graduate as a thoughtful, reflective and creative practitioner who is capable of making imaginative leaps and be an excellent collaborator, able to articulate ideas inspirationally and be sensitive to the values and creative contributions of others

**Core Modules and any Optional Modules:**

All modules are compulsory.

Module Name: The Director's Toolkit (50 Credits)

Module Name: Assistant Director (50 Credits)

Module Name: Preparation for Employment for Directors (20 Credits)

Module Name: Directing Theatre (60 Credits)

**Optional Modules:** There are no optional modules.

**Interim Award:** There are no interim awards under this award scheme.

**Credit requirements:** MA Drama Directing – 180 credits

**Method of study (for example, lectures, seminars, work placements) expected:**

In the first term you will be learning in a group with other MA Drama Directing students exploring the different facets of the skills needed to be an effective and creative drama director, focusing on the various collaborative relationships a director holds. You will learn alongside students of other disciplines: writers, designers, actors, technical creatives and production arts students. You will learn through seminars, workshops, master classes and theoretical projects in a structured teaching environment.

As you progress through the Course, in the Spring term, you will learn by observing the practice of professional directors in a live theatre setting, at assistant director level, on an internal or external show, under the guidance of professional directors, teaching staff and / or mentors. This will be an opportunity to assist a show that develops your knowledge of working with larger casts, with greater resources and/or in professional performance venues.

In the third term, you will develop your practice by taking responsibility for directing a studio scale production. You will lead rehearsals for this with a company of student actors, liaising and collaborating with designers, stage managers and technical creatives to see the project through to realisation. This process will give you the opportunity to embed some of the learning you have developed over the course of the year.

By studying in a vocational drama school, you will be immersed in your subject and in an environment in which the School's many different courses share a common purpose: that of teaching students' professional practice for drama production. There will be frequent opportunities for collaboration and you will be regularly learning alongside different groups of students or individuals with a shared focus, understanding how to interact purposefully and effectively within a creative team.

It is expected that students are able to work independently and develop leadership skills through the course as well as being taught through structured classes and workshops.

Increasingly, much of the information and some of the content of the course is available via the School's Virtual Learning Environment and so you will benefit from having access to your own personal computer and the internet to make the most of your course.

**Workload including number of contact hours with School staff and expected self-study:** This is a full-time course and so students should expect to be studying Monday – Friday between 9:30am and 5:30pm (not including Wednesday afternoons). Average structured time per week will be 20 hours, considerably more in production weeks.

Students should expect to undertake approximately 15 hours per week of independent study. During production periods there will also be evening and weekend work.

**The overall methods of assessment for the Modules (for example exams, course work or practical assignments):**

There is continuous assessment of your drama directing skills, knowledge and understanding. All modules are assessed by coursework (meaning there are no exams). You will receive extensive feedback – written and oral – from teaching staff and visiting industry professionals.

You will be assessed on a number of projects and presentations, as well as in relation to the execution of the role of an assistant director and director on a theatre production.

You will be assessed on your portfolio of research into the industry, your own self-promotion material and a personal career plan.

The UWE qualifications are awarded as non-classified/non-differentiated.

**The award students will receive on successful completion of their Course:**

MA Drama Directing validated by the University of the West of England, Bristol.

**Where the course is taught:**

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's Downside Road with projects happening in venues across the city

**Length of the Modules:**

Between 7 and 11 weeks each.

**Staff who are delivering the teaching:**

Head of Course, BOVTS teaching staff and visiting industry professionals.

**The fees which students can expect to pay:**

Tuition fees for UK and Republic of Ireland students on the MA Drama Directing course will be £16,000

Tuition fees for overseas students (non-UK) on the MA Drama Directing course will be £26,510

Please see the Fees Policy at <https://www.uwe.ac.uk/courses/fees/tuition-fees-policy> for further information.

**Any extra costs (in addition to fees) which students may have to pay to complete the course and estimated cost:**

Increasingly, much of the information and some of the content of the course is available via the School's virtual learning environment and so you will benefit from having access to your own personal computer and the internet to make the most of your course. It is estimated that a suitable personal computer will cost £300.00. Please check with the Course leader for recommended functionality. You will need to research the most cost-effective way of accessing the internet. The School has a number of means tested scholarship funds available to assist students with purchases of computer hardware and other essential costs which would otherwise cause financial hardship.

Course materials are provided, but students may have to allow funds to provide their own work clothes and contribute to some costs towards their self-promotion materials. It is estimated that additional costs will be around £150.00. Students can apply for hardship funds if required.