



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR TIME ON MFA ACTING (INTERNATIONAL)

Dear Students,

A very warm welcome to East 15 Acting School!

My name is Robin Sneller, I am the Head of both the one-year MA Acting International, the two-year MFA Acting International programmes, and the first year of the MFA Acting with Digital Media. It's a pleasure to welcome such a diverse and talented group of students from the UK and around the world to this exciting and innovative programme.

What to Expect

First Year

In the first year, you will embark on a rigorous training for actors, including a deep dive into approaches to text and character work, developing and performing a devised theatre Studio Theatre production, a six week module on Shakespeare including a three week residency and invited public performance at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, development of your own solo writing and performance project, and a fully public performance in our own Corbett Theatre.

Your training will include classes in acting, movement, voice, articulation and singing.

Our MA Acting International, MFA Acting International and MFA Acting with Digital Media students train together for much of the first year, creating a rich and collaborative environment. This enables us to have three groups, which change with every module, according to your individual needs as actors in your developmental journey through the first year.

The second year is just with your MFA Acting International cohort- as a company split into two groups of around 8 or 9 actors.

Each group has four fully public shows which are promoted to the industry, acting for camera and voiceover, then Online Digital MFA Industry Showcase and professional practice sessions. You continue with voice and movement classes and support all through your second year.

Your day will typically run from **9:10 am to 5:30 pm**, Monday to Friday. On occasion, rehearsals or other activities may take place after hours—we'll always give you notice. East 15 has a strict attendance policy, so punctuality and full attendance are expected and monitored.

Year 1 - Term Breakdown

Term 1

Character and Scene Study

A focus on acting techniques evolved from the Stanislavski tradition, employing extensive improvisational exercises to explore the core and heart of the approach to acting training at East 15. This enables students from different traditions and approaches to identify and achieve a common language and process as preparation for the subsequent training.

The focus then shifts to applying what we have learnt in the initial improvised exercises to text. Through our intensive, detailed approach to text analysis, research, and use of targeted improvisation, you will expand your ability to bring character and situation to life, and further develop the depth of your process in the rehearsal and performance of naturalistic scenes. This module utilises naturalistic scripts ranging from Chekhov and Ibsen to Hansberry and Rattigan.

The Term ends with a collaboration with the MA/MFA Theatre directing students leading to an internal performance in our studio.

Term 2

Devised Studio Shows

Each of the groups works with a director to devise an entirely new show in response to a text, novel, or article. These Studio shows are performed to an invited public audience at East 15.

Shakespeare and the Shakespeare's Globe Residency

This starts with three weeks of workshops and masterclasses to develop your understanding of the meaning and mechanics of Shakespeare's text and study a range of analytical and experimental approaches to develop clarity, accuracy, and be able to inhabit the text truthfully. You will have masterclasses from professionals with extensive experience at the RSC, National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

The second half of this module is a three -week residency at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, where you work with the Globe's own directors, text, movement, voice, and dance experts and rehearse and perform a two-hour ensemble version of a Shakespeare text on the Globe stage to an invited public audience.

Term 3

Writing Workshops and Professional Practice

You have writing workshops with a professional playwright, working towards your self- penned solo projects for your VOX Festival, or second year solo film project (for the Digital Media students).

Public Productions

Your first fully public show is in one of three full-length plays, performed in our Corbett Theatre at East 15. These are fully supported by professional set, costume, lighting, and sound designers and directed by established professional directors, allowing you to create at least one complete role in a public production promoted to the industry, which will highlight the graduating MA International students.

MFA International first year students are *mostly* in supporting roles in these productions.

Year 2 - Term Breakdown

This year focuses on further developing your process by working as an MFA acting ensemble with outside professional theatre directors and designers. You continue with your Voice and Movement classes which also support the productions. These are fully public productions which showcase you to the UK industry.

Term 1

Solo Theatre Writing and the Vox Festival (First half of your Capstone Practical Project)

Your second fully public show is the *VOX Festival*, which is a compendium of performances of your self-penned solo performance pieces, performed in our Corbett Theatre, promoted to the industry.

Young People's show

You perform in a fully technically supported public production of a show aimed at younger audiences and performed to audiences from local schools and the general public. The show is directed by an outside professional director and performed in East 15's Corbett Theatre.

Term 2

Central London Productions

The second term starts with the ensemble performing in public productions promoting you to the industry, directed by outside professional directors at a Central London theatre venue.

Acting for Camera and Microphone

You have Acting for Camera workshops and film Showreels followed by recording Voicereels for your own portfolio and the Online MFA Acting International Showcase.

Professional Preparation

You have Professional Practice sessions with outside professionals, including self-tape workshops with Casting Directors, Audition Practice and Technique, and workshops on Self Promotion, Branding, Marketing, and starting your own company.

Contextualizing Document/Portfolio (Dissertation equivalent). Second half of your Capstone Practical Project

This is the second half of your Capstone Practical Project, writing and compiling the Contextualizing Document and Portfolio (Dissertation equivalent) relating to your VOX Festival solo theatre piece. Like a conventional dissertation, this is a largely independent project which is submitted at the beginning of Term 3.

Term 3

Online Showcase

The MFA Acting International Online Showcase is launched to all UK Industry and selected Industry abroad, which also promotes your upcoming final shows.

Final Shows

The ensembles perform in public productions promoting you to the industry, directed and designed by outside professionals at a second Central London theatre venue.

Specialist facilities

Our Loughton Campus is perfectly located, providing access to both the rich, cultural diversity of London and an attractive and peaceful setting in which to study.

We are just a five-minute walk from London Underground station, Debden, where you can travel in only thirty minutes to Central London, West End theatres and mainline train stations including the Eurostar.

We have three sites at our Loughton Campus – Hatfields, Roding House and Unit Four. Hatfields is a beautiful Georgian dower house, set in five acres of lawns with orchards, flowerbeds and a small lake, providing an idyllic atmosphere for study, relaxation and performance.

Just a short walk from Hatfields is Roding House, a £1.3 million facility containing 10 rehearsal rooms, a green room/café, a sound recording studio and a video editing suite, and our costume department.

Next to Roding House, Unit Four is a £1.5 million facility which is home to the Stage & Production Management department. The Unit contains a large workshop, paint shop, prop shop, prop storage facilities and teaching spaces.

Our on-site Corbett Theatre is named in honour of Harry H Corbett, a key member of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop and early benefactor of East 15. It is used extensively for student productions and is a practical training hub for our BA Stage and Production Management students.

The building is a medieval tithe barn that was dismantled and transported to Hatfields in the 1960s. These unusual origins create a unique performance space with a special atmosphere. Renovated to include full technical facilities, tiered seating for 130 people and fitted dressing rooms, the theatre provides an excellent resource for public productions, while the adjacent Bar and Café provides a social meeting point for students and staff.

We understand that deciding where and what to study is a very important decision for you. We'll make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the courses, services and facilities as described on our website and in line with your contract with us. However, if we need to make material changes, for example due to significant disruption, we'll let our applicants and students know as soon as possible.

Your future

Graduates will have a comprehensive, professional training and a clear, embedded process that will enable them to pursue professional careers in theatre and related professions in an increasingly global industry. Graduates are working and winning awards as actors in the UK, USA, China, Norway, South Korea and many other countries.

Many have formed their own very successful theatre companies, including LubDub Theatre in New York, and have written plays performed professionally in London, New York, LA, Oslo and Washington. MFA graduates have also gone on to teaching careers at Universities in North America, South Korea, and many other countries around the world.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you for Welcome Week at our Loughton Campus!

Very best wishes

Robin Sneller
Head of MA and MFA Acting International courses