Performing Arts
Vocational Level 3 Extended Diploma
Course Leader: Anne Higgins
Email: anne.higgins@qmc.ac.uk

Fact File

• It is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to start or progress a career.

• An intensive practical and academic performance course which will also help prepare you for academic work at university.

• You will study a broad range of performance skills and techniques that explores a range of genres and practitioners informing the work of both contemporary and classical texts.

• You will learn by undertaking vocationally active projects, some of which will culminate in performances to the public to echo the work undertaken in professional theatre companies, using drama, dance and acting skills.

• Annual musical and a showcase performance in Central Studio each year.

Course Summary
You will gain knowledge and understanding of the multi-faceted world of Performing Arts. You will gain a range of performance skills and will focus on the essential techniques and disciplines needed for a career involved within the acting profession. You will gain insight into the different career paths that someone interested in the performing arts may wish to follow, a thorough understanding of the demands of performance, highly honed analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

Progression skills and opportunities
The BTEC Extended Diploma in Performing Arts has the equivalence of three A Levels, and it is possible for you to progress further into Higher Education. Universities and other centres of Higher Education welcome it as an entrance qualification for a wide range of courses.

In addition, it is likely that you will have developed qualities of communication and teamwork which are highly valued by employers.
Specific entry requirements
You will be required to attend an audition. Previous acting, singing and dancing experience is desirable.

How is the course assessed?
Over the period of the course, you will be given assignments to do by your teachers. These assignments are one way in which you can provide evidence that you have studied and understood a topic.

- Assignments can vary: some may involve writing an essay/report and some may require a performance supported by an evaluation that may be written/word processed or recorded on video/audiotape. Other assignments might ask you to give a presentation or talk, prepare a recording, make a stage property or attend a performance venue. While it may be possible to finish an assignment using material you have received from your teacher, more often than not you will be expected to do further research—in libraries, by visiting theatres/concert halls or companies, or by making telephone calls to investigate a problem. There are many different ways in which you can prove that you understand a topic.

- Completed assignments are assessed and graded against the performance criteria relevant to the course you are studying. You always know what the assessor is looking for in your assignment so you should be able to grade your own performance—you know if you have covered everything and you know how well you have covered it.

- At the end of the course you will be given a grade for your work. For BTEC courses, the highest grade is Distinction*, the next highest is Distinction, followed by a Merit, then a Pass or Not Yet Achieved. Your lowest grade for a unit will be your final grade for that particular unit. If for example you were awarded a Pass and three Distinctions for a unit, your final grade will be Pass.

- Each assignment will give you an indication of how you are doing against each grading criteria that is being assessed. At the end of the year you will be awarded an overall grade for each particular course/unit. If you are not doing as well as you think you should be, you will be encouraged to seek immediate advice from a teacher on how you can improve.

What topics will I be studying?
Practical and Written: Students will complete 18 units of work including: Performance Workshop, Performing Arts Business, The Historical Context of Performance, Rehearsing for Performance and Performing to an Audience. You will also study Musical Theatre and Dance Performance.

Will I need any specialist materials or equipment?
You need to commit yourself fully to the demands of academic study both in and out of College. There are also production weekends organised immediately prior to each show, so that you learn about contributing to the work undertaken backstage as we prepare costumes, set and props. Production weekends will also involve rehearsals. There are a number of trips and workshops that are organised as part of the course. The cost of these varies depending on the venue. Recent workshops have included physical theatre with Frantic Assembly and a Musical Theatre workshop. We visit Central Studio, the local theatre here on campus as well as The Haymarket Theatre, other regional theatres in the South and the West End. Previous Trips have included Phantom of the Opera, Matilda the Musical, Les Miserables and Wicked. Previous students have visited New York to experience Performing Arts on Broadway and the USA.