

ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE - MFA Linklater

Programme Directors: Gemma Maddock and Mary Irwin Furey

Administrative Support: Tracy Woodey

Welcome

Dear MFA's

We are looking forward to meeting you in October as you set out on this next phase of your creative and educational journey! We are in the process of finalising the precise details of your schedule for Term One, so we wanted to touch base and give you some details.

Your Programme Directors will be Gemma Maddock and Mary Irwin Furey and your Programme Administrator is Tracy Woodey – tracy.woodey@bruford.ac.uk

All our Postgraduate Programmes are delivered at our campus in Sidcup, a suburb in Greater London. This offers us the space and many opportunities to collaborate more closely with other programmes at Rose Bruford College.

There are many areas to look for accommodation as you have probably discovered already, and you should also check out local train/tube stations if you are going to be living outside Sidcup. We are very well positioned for central London with lots of good travel connections to other parts of London.

Location of Training

Google maps: [Rose Bruford - Google Maps](#)

Our **main** daily work base will be Rose Bruford College, Burnt Oak Lane, Sidcup, DA15 9DF. Nearest train station: Sidcup (0.2 miles) 12 minute walk.

Our regular working hours will be:

Mondays – Fridays 9.30 - 13.15 for the morning sessions and 14.15 – 17.30 for the afternoon sessions, with an hour-long lunch break in between. This will vary throughout the year, with periods of intensity and periods of self-directed learning as necessitated by postgraduate learning. There will also be regular online sessions on Tuesday evenings. Details to follow.

Registration and Induction

Location: Rose Bruford College, Burnt Oak Lane, Sidcup, DA15 9DF

Initial registration will take place on **Thursday 2nd October** at the Sidcup campus, where right-to-study checks will be carried out and ID cards issued, and where you will meet peers from other programmes. Your classes will begin on **Monday 6th October at 9am.**

You can view the Welcome Pack [here](#)

At registration, you must bring with you the following:

For British/settled students:

- Your original, in date passport (if you do not have a passport, you can bring your Birth Certificate as an alternative);
- If you have got pre-settled or settled status through the EU settlement scheme, please have your confirmation available on your phone or as a printout to show our registration team

For International students only:

- Your passport;
- Your Biometrics Residence Permit (BRP);
- If you have not collected your BRP before your registration, we will need to see your visa vignette.
- Evidence of your arrival date into the UK (arrival stamp in passport, boarding pass or flight ticket confirmation)
- If you are an EU national with an electronic visa please have your confirmation available on your phone or as a print out to show our Registration team
- Original copies of your qualifications that you provided as part of your offer.

Modules

First Year Modules

- **Acting**

This module focuses on introducing learners to the basic principles of play and imaginative work in line with the psycho-physical approach of Linklater's methodology. The content will involve a wide range of activities that draw together the ideologies of Michael Chekhov, Keith Johnstone and other practices that focus on a holistic connection between the mind, voice and body.

- **Movement**

The module is focused on the work of Trish Arnold incorporating what is referred to as her Pure Movement work. By engaging with daily movement work the actor will embody an effective physicality for acting and voice work. The material will incorporate playful, dynamic exercises that connect the students to each other as well as focused individual learning allowing for personal habitual movement to be aligned more effectively with voice work. Through the connection of movement to breath, Linklater's core notion of a synthesis of body, mind, voice and emotional life will be reinforced.

- **Linklater Voice**

This course will provide an in-depth practical engagement with the entire progression of Linklater voice, as it is laid out in Kristin Linklater's seminal text, *Freeing the Natural Voice: Imagery and art in the practice of voice and language*. (Drama Publishers 2006) This progression is the bedrock upon which the MFA is built. Most of the course will be practical in nature, involving in-class oral reflective feedback as an integral aspect of the learning.

Students will be asked to keep a journal of their process and discoveries through this course. Journal entries may be written, drawn, painted, collaged, recorded, etc.

There will be spoken work with a variety of texts from different eras and cultures, ranging from haiku to contemporary poetry; worldwide ancient dramatic texts, to Shakespearean sonnets.

- **Applied Theatre Arts**

This three-week intensive class engages the student participants in the basic theoretical foundations of Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) game playing and technique practice for populations at the margins of criticality and power. Founded in the position that people are liberated when they have been humanized, and essential to being human is access to choice and change, the class will participate, explore, experience and create games and techniques of critical engagement for cultural field work which offer to shift populations from passive objects into active subjects. You will have a once weekly online seminar with Dr. Brent Blair in the Autumn and Spring Terms which will lay the groundwork for Dr. Blair's three week on-campus residency in the Summer Term.

Second Year Modules

- **Creative Attachment**

These attachments are undertaken during the six months between the taught portions of Years 1 and 2.

The Attachment module focuses on both Voice Teaching and Applied Theatre (AT) Arts:

- Students will observe a Designated Linklater Teacher (DLT) or Teachers over 50 hours teaching, ideally a senior DLT. The choice of the mentoring DLT will be negotiated with the course leader and core faculty.
- Students will intern with a practising company or organisation engaged in social or educational activism – this organisation will have been selected within the Applied Theatre Arts Module in consultation with faculty.
- Following the observation and internship portions of the Creative Attachment, all students will present a series of critical assignments that engage them in reflection and evaluation.

This module is self-directed and can take place in a location of the student's choice, provided that location has been negotiated prior to students undertaking their creative attachments. This is to ensure appropriate support and knowledgeable teachers/company are available to observe/work with.

- **Teaching Practice**

Students will engage in focused and detailed work that draws out the art of facilitation as an actor/teacher preparing to become a Designated Teacher of Linklater Voice. Alongside their core practices students will participate in a variety of lectures, classes and workshops twice a week, focusing on topics such as:

Indicative list:

- Theatre History
- Theatre Arts Curriculum Development
- Psychology of Voice
- Neurodiversity and Voice Teaching
- The Business of Voice, including professional preparation
- Recorded Media and Vocal Technique
- Leadership
- Pedagogy, including sensitivity to diversity in all forms

- Mental Health First Aid

Students will receive two separate sets of tutorials: one-to-one sessions taking them back through the entire progression of 'Freeing the Natural Voice' exercises; and tutorials in support of their practice teaching. Students will be assigned specific portions of the progression to lead in warm-ups, and different sections to teach to their peers. These sessions will be observed and critiqued by faculty. Learners will receive regular feedback from peers and faculty on the efficacy of their teaching and leading of exercises.

A focus on movement will be delivered once a week over three hours exploring an integrated warm up co-taught between voice and movement tutors that is then reflected upon and re-taught by the cohort in the proceeding two hours. Learners will receive two one hour physical tutorials per term with the movement tutor developing their personal embodiment of the work and understanding their major areas of consideration within movement facilitation.

- Contextualising Linklater Voice in Theatre Art Practice

This module focuses on the integration of the Voice, Movement and Acting modules undertaken in Year one through three discrete rehearsal and performance phases. Each phase will involve focusing on a piece of text or devised score that allows learners to incrementally develop their ability to synchronise the principles of 'Freeing the Natural Voice' through the lens of theatre arts disciplines.

The module is delivered over two repeated four-week phases followed by a final intensive three-week laboratory wherein students will create an original theatre piece, in which they are the directors and performers. This piece might be a newly devised experience, or it might be a new production of an extant play, perhaps a Shakespeare play, a piece inspired by a Shakespeare play, etc.

We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Programme Directors, Gemma Maddock and

Mary Irwin Furey

Head of Research and Postgraduate Provision: Dr Joe Parslow