

Brunel University London

Uxbridge, England

At a Glance

A green, enclosed campus established in the 1960s outside the ancient market town of Uxbridge, Brunel offers a supportive environment and diverse student body. Central London museums and theaters are only an hour away by a direct subway ride.

This is a good campus for the non-BFA music theater student who wants to continue their UCI training in a friendly environment with the opportunity to go to London on frequent field trips to the theater. There is an overlap with UCI in musical theater training and class content, though Brunel has a more exploratory and less performance-oriented expectation.

Academics

Besides practice and theory courses in theater, musical theater and physical theater; students are encouraged to devise supported work with their peers in “societies” reflecting their area of interest. Independent projects are shown 4 times a year in “Arts in Artaud” performances. Most Drama classes are 60% practice and 40% theory. Below are some example practice classes that can count towards major credit.

Classes at Brunel	Classes at UCI
Acting: Beyond Naturalism (DR2601)	Drama 135
Musical Theater 2: Histories, Practices and Theories (DR2612)	Drama 142
Physical Theater 2: Performance and Embodiment (DR2614)	Drama 135



Example Courses for 2nd or 3rd Year Drama Majors:

BRUNEL DR 2612 Music Theater 2: Histories, Practices, Theories

This module aims to develop your knowledge and performance skills in musical theatre. We will use a range of critical lenses to examine historical traditions of musical theatre, including issues such as race, gender, sexuality, and the economics of the mega-musical. You will have the opportunity to participate in group exercises in singing, dancing, and acting within a supportive environment where your individual growth is valued. In this peer-supported safe environment, you will be expected to perform duets and solos in a workshop setting, receive feedback, and critically reflect on your development. Musical theatre is a vibrant and extremely popular component of today's theatrical landscape. We will look under the surface of this popular genre and survey methods of reading, understanding, and performing musicals in relation to historical, political, and social contexts. Your perceived notions of the form will likely be challenged in order to develop a richer understanding of one of the most interesting and contradictory theatrical forms of the 20th century.


BRUNEL DR 2601 Acting: Beyond Naturalism

This module builds on the techniques in acting introduced at level 1 and seeks to develop skills in diversity and flexibility of approach to text. You will also be encouraged to develop a work ethic and independence within a company setting and to increase research skills by investigating the social, political and ideological issues that may inform the text.

Texts for this module will be chosen for the opportunities they provide for students to experiment with style and role as function within performance. You will work on extracts from non-naturalistic texts for public performance.

The aspects to be covered in rehearsal:

- The difference between naturalistic and narrative/stylized forms
- The world of the play
- Appropriate research activities
- Character as function



BRUNEL DR2613 Physical Theater 2: Performance and Embodiment

In this module you will conceptually and practically explore, examine and evaluate the relationship between philosophical theories on embodiment and the practices of physical theatre-makers such as Pina Bausch, Lloyd Newson, Akram Khan, Jasmin Vardimon, Ohad Naharin and others. The module will be delivered through weekly 90 min lectures followed by 90 minute workshops focusing on one practitioner per week. This will enable you to realize the varied ways in which physical theatre is an embodied art form, that speaks of and to lived experiences.

