



Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2023 Entry

MA Musical Theatre Creatives

MA MUSICAL THEATRE CREATIVES

The audition process is your opportunity to demonstrate your skills as a Musical Theatre Creative, whether as a composer, writer, choreographer, performer or something altogether unique to you. It is also our opportunity to assess your skill and suitability for the programme.

FIRST STAGE: ONLINE SUBMISSION OF PORTFOLIO

We use an online system called Accept'd which you will need to use to upload your portfolio. Full details on how to access Accept'd will be sent to you following your application.

Please upload examples of your work that show your skills in your particular field.

We want to see your skills and interests as a creative making new theatre. Whether it's composition, writing, movement, puppetry, comedy, spoken word, cabaret, children's theatre, traditional musical theatre or anything inbetween - you might not even fully know what that is yet.

Select pieces which best show a range of abilities. These can be performances, rehearsals, recordings, sheet music, annotated scores, and do not necessarily have to have been for the stage.

For example:

- Choreographers or physical storytellers may choose to film themselves performing a piece they have devised, or show a group of students performing one of their pieces in performance or rehearsal.
- Composers may choose to upload scores for songs or selections of musicals they have written/are writing, or recordings of themselves singing them.
- Writers may choose to show us a selection of scenes or lyrics from a piece they are developing.
- Your work may focus on one discipline, or it may incorporate several disciplines
- This MA is part of a wider collaborative suite of MA's. We are keen to see collaboration skills as well as musicality and storytelling.

Personal Statement

Please include a 500 word statement about who you are and what you hope to achieve through this MA. We are particularly interested in learning about what skills you wish to improve and the kinds of work you want to make rather than your previous experiences.

Portfolio Guidance

- Work can be submitted in any format; video, audio, pdfs etc.
- Please let each piece uploaded be no more than 5-10 minutes long.
- They do not need to be professionally recorded - recording on your phone or using a camera is fine.
- With each of these, please accompany a brief description of the piece and (if necessary) your role in it.
- Minimum two pieces, but feel free to share as many as you like.

SECOND STAGE: Presentation and Interview (In-Person or Online)

If you are successful at stage one we will contact you to book and attend an interview with you where you will present your response to the task below and discuss your ideas.

Presentation Task

Present or discuss how you would create a new piece of theatre using a well known story, folk tale, fairy tale or fable as stimulus. We are interested to see your own unique take on this piece.

Examples of these could be Rumpelstiltskin, Scottish Selkies, Aesops fables, The Lampton Worm, Sleeping Beauty etc. Perhaps you might choose a story from where you are from, or a story that connects with you.

There is no right or wrong way to approach this task. For example, taking the story of Hansel and Gretel, you may decide to choreograph a movement piece showing their journey picking up sweets, or compose a song as the witch boils Hansel and Gretel alive. You may decide to re-imagine the story for a modern audience and write the opening as a spoken word poem. We do not need to see a finished product, but the basic idea and concept, so we can discuss how the piece may progress. We want to see your style, your voice and the type of live performance that excites you.

Please upload these recordings / scores / videos to Acceptd in advance of the interview so that the team has time to review before your interview.

FAQs:

What does the interview entail?

The interview is a brief opportunity for the programme team to get to know the person behind the personal statement and the work presented. It is a relaxed and informal discussion in which you will be asked questions about your interests, passions, experiences and you are given the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the programme, team or life at Leeds Conservatoire. Try not to overthink the interview or try to give the 'right' answer. The team genuinely just want to know who you are and why you think you would benefit from training here at Leeds.

I don't fit neatly into a 'composer', 'choreographer' or 'book writer' category. Is this the right course for me?

The face of musical theatre and theatre is changing - in style, content along with a shift in these traditional roles. You may want to write, compose and perform a one-person show, or create spoken word music to tell new stories. You may want to tell story through movement, or create an entirely new form altogether. We are looking for artists who want to challenge what theatre is and what it can be. If this sounds like you, then this is the course for you.

I want to MD as well as compose - should I apply for the Musical Direction MA instead?

OR I want to dance as well as choreograph, should I apply for the Musical Theatre Company instead?

OR I want to perform as well as write, should I apply for the Musical Theatre Company instead?

In theatre there is often crossover with various creative roles; dramaturgs often work as directors, actors often write, and composers often work as musical directors (and vice versa). Often performers write their own work, and so this tailor-made quality to the courses allows you to explore several sides. Although all courses share several modules, we'd recommend looking at both courses and seeing which one fits you and your aspirations.

Will I receive feedback?

Unfortunately, due to the number of applicants for the MA programmes, we are unable to provide feedback for first stage applicants. At the second stage audition, applicants are able to discuss their suitability for the programme and feedback will be built into the interview.

