

## **AT508 RB Elemental Shakespeare**

**3 credits**

### **Content**

In this class, you will participate as an actor in a series of workshops with Michael Corbidge (Senior Associate Practitioner with the Voice and Text department at the Royal Shakespeare Company) as he demonstrates a liberating technique for the actor to reconnect with the natural rhythm of Shakespeare's language. The class takes place outdoors as much as in the studio as you engage in practical exercises encouraging you to embrace the physicality and sensuality of the verse. Informed by Michael's work in his home on the South Coast of England, the restrictions associated with classical training are challenged in an environment that prioritises play and exploration as a means of finding character, motivation and through-line. The class culminates in a shared presentation of the soliloquy work developed over the course.

### **Michael Corbidge**

Michael is a freelance Director, Vocal Coach and Acting Practitioner currently lecturing in Acting, Performance, Voice and Classical Text at Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance. As a practitioner/researcher in residence Michael is working on a large scale 'Voicing Shakespeare' project. Other roles include Senior Associate Practitioner with the Voice and Text department at the Royal Shakespeare Company and Senior Associate Education Practitioner with the RSC's Education Department. He is a regular on the UK Drama School circuit most recently delivering voice workshops at the Brit School, the Lyric Theatre Belfast and the 'A' Project Newcastle. He is a Consultant, Selector, Adjudicator and Trainer with various UK institutions including The National Student Drama Festival, The National Youth Theatre, National Opera and Drama Association, National Association of Youth Theatres. Internationally he is a co-founder of the International Shakespeare Studio in Paris. 2018 saw him in Brazil, Estonia and Asia. 2019 takes him first to Chicago.

### **Written Assignment**

A 'Reflective journal' on this project will analyse your experience of Elemental Shakespeare, your discoveries, challenges and achievements. (1,500 words)

### **Aims**

This class aims to enable you to:

- explore Shakespearean verse in practice by participating in a series of workshops in a variety of environments / locations
- consider the performance demands of the text and to develop vocal and physical performance skills to meet those demands
- consider the text in its social, cultural and political context and to understand the influence this understanding might have on performance
- heighten your awareness of the lyrical, sensory and 'natural' elements of the text
- develop your abilities to reflect upon practice and to consider a specific performance technique

### **Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this class you will be able to:

- perform a soliloquy from the works of Shakespeare in line with the techniques explored in the class
- demonstrate progress in your performance skills and your ability to recognise how classes in voice and movement complement and build upon one another
- interrogate the 'rules' governing the speaking of classical verse
- demonstrate basic skills of concentration, imagination and focus
- demonstrate voice and body awareness and flexibility.

**Assessment / Grading**

The course is graded A-F.

Class Participation – 40%

Performance - 40%

Written Assignment (Reflective Journal) – 20%