

Course outline: Directing Fiction

The MA in Directing Fiction is a specialisation within the broader **MA in Film and Television**.

Year One

“Springboard” Cross Specialisation Introductory Workshop (duration 1 week)

- An introduction to the moving image, looking at cinematic and televisual language through the prism of storytelling
- It investigates how the main crafts of cinema and television, screenwriting, cinematography, visualisation, editing, sound and music each relate to the way filmmaking conveys narrative ideas.

Visual Narrative Workshop (duration - 2 weeks)

- introduces the elements of screen language
- Through a series of short shooting exercises, we examine how the director's choices inform and shape the narrative. The exercises create both a more precise use of image as well as developing a further potential visual vocabulary available to each student.

Performance Workshop (duration - 2 weeks)

- This workshop acts as an introduction to that work and connects it to the interpretation of a script through a series of workshops, seminars and tutorials.
- An understanding of how to work with an actor to create and shape a performance is central to a director's skills

Interpreting The Scene Workshop (duration - 4 weeks)

Joint workshop with Cinematography, Assistant Directing, Editing, Composing, Sound Design and Sound Recording Departments

- Set text exercise with emphasis on interpretation. This is a chance to bring together those skills that you will have developed independently of other specialisations. Collaboration and how you place your creative aspirations within the process are high on the agenda.

- This exercise can allow you to concentrate on script interpretation and finding the language to bring the story to the screening a clear way. Within the first year, there will also be a **Casting Workshop** where a casting agent will take you through the casting process and advise on the casting of your production.

3DDDs workshop (duration - 1 week)

A joint workshop for DoPs, Design and Directing students. The students will do a set build one day and shoot the next day with two actors. The workshop helps the students to understand the contribution of performance, lighting and design to the creation of atmosphere and drama of a space.

Soho Theatre workshop (duration - 1 week)

This workshop gives a chance for the directors to combine what they have learned about interpretation of text together with their increasing knowledge of performance. The workshop takes the form of an intensive workshop quickly leading to the staging of a short play in a studio theatre in Central London.

Beyond Time Module

This is an opportunity to be working on a writer led project where you make a short film on 16mm, giving you a chance to develop and explore your screen language in response to a defined narrative. This also gives the opportunity to be working with a wider range of departments before moving into your first year film.

In this first film module you will be introduced to the whole production process from inception idea to a basic to locked picture cut.

Please refer to module brief where formal guidelines are given.

First Year Film Module

In this key module in the first year you will for the first time be working with a full creative team. Throughout the first year, ideas and scripts will be developed for a short film which is shot and edited during the autumn term. Producers and directors will collaborate in the development process and as the production develops there will be ongoing meetings with cinematography, production design and sound. The needs of the script will be discussed to determine whether the film will be shot on location or studio. The shoot itself will have the additional support of professional first Assistant directors. You will have the opportunity to engage with a full postproduction process working with editors, sound designers and composers.

Please refer to module brief where formal guidelines are given.

Narrative workshop

A four-day residential workshop for writers, producers and fiction directors. During this workshop you will explore aspects of storytelling and find common language round story. It also offers an opportunity to identify colleagues with whom you might work in future.

Digital Fiction Module Development

During the autumn term you begin development of scripts for the “**Digital Fiction Module**”

Year Two

Digital Fiction Module

This module allows for the production of an approximately fifteen-minute-long film using digital technology. The directors have the opportunity to set particular personal goals. To some extent these goals may be dictated by the learning outcomes of the first year film and gives the chance to ally your personal point of view to a developing use of film language. This film operates within tight production parameters, both financial and crewing. However, it offers an opportunity to develop narrative and character in a longer form.

In this module the student will be working with: Cinematographers, Sound Recordists, Production Managers, Assistant Directors, Editors, Composers, Sound Post Production, Digital Post Production, and, dependent on productions, SFX.

Please refer to module brief where formal guidelines are given.

Summer Fiction Film Module

This is the chance to bring together the skills that you have acquired to support a personal piece of work. This is the largest production that you will make at the school where you will be working with fellow students at a professional level.

Story development is the responsibility of the directing and producing students. Together they lead the project through the complete production process; development, script approval, crewing, prep, shooting, and post. In this module we expect you to be using the elements of, performance, screen language and leadership skills to bring the script to its audience. We expect in this module for you to express fully the language and voice that you have been developing through workshops and earlier modules.

This is the largest project that you will undertake at the school and as well as the developing your craft is creates the right arena in which to discover more about finding effective ways of working with the different departments. You will be working with, Producing, Cinematography, Production Design, Sound, Editing & Music and possibly screen writing.

Please refer to module brief where formal guidelines are given.

Meet the Industry

This consists of a series of meetings with agents, producers, film and television executives and other leading industry figures to give you a sense of possible avenues for your future career.