

GENERAL INFORMATION

RITCS | School of Arts offers two different Master programs within the large field of theatre and performing arts: (1) a Dutch-language track focusing on advanced-level acting training and (2) an international program (Dutch, English, French) focusing on the development of your personal work as a director, theatre maker or performer. Each year we have a limited number of places for external candidates for both of our MA programs. These students will join a small group of students who have been trained in our own BA program. In April 2019 a more detailed program can be asked.

This MA programme is hosted by the theatre department of RITCS | School of Arts, which also organizes BA programs in acting, directing and theatre technique (production, light design, set design, sound and video). Our MA programme welcomes prospective candidates with a Bachelor degree in Performing Arts. The RITCS Master of Theatre is internationally acknowledged and accredited by the NVAO.

Two options: Within this program the student opt for a track focusing on acting/performing or on directing/creating. Depending on your choice, you will be offered the possibility to develop your own work as an autonomous theatre artist, whether you will perform in someone else's creations or develop your own work. In other words: you can opt for a track focusing on your development as an actor or performer or you can focus on the development of your own creations (in which you perform yourself or in which you work with actors). The "**acting**" track (language: Dutch) takes the form of a simulation of a full year in the professional field, by participating in two or three fully-fledged in-school professional productions directed by experienced artists and by an internship. The "**directing**" track (language: Dutch, English or French) – we tend to prefer the broader neologism "theatre maker" – focuses on the development of your individual work and will take the form of a coherent hands-on research track that will be elaborated by means of two fully-fledged artistic projects (public presentations). Both tracks presuppose considerable experience in the concerned artistic activities.¹

Personal focus: In both cases you will work in an *interdisciplinary* environment aimed at the development of your *personal work* as a performer, actor or director, whether this work is developed individually or in close collaboration with other artists. You will work within the broad field of (music) theatre and performance art. The backbone of this tailor made MA programme

¹ LANGUAGE POLICY MASTER OF THEATRE RITCS: The MA program in Directing, focused on developing your personal theatre or performance projects, can be followed by students speaking Dutch, French or English. These students sometimes perform, but not necessarily, in their own work. This program is a tailor-made individual program. Applicants for this program are required to speak and understand Dutch, English or French at a sufficient level. The MA program in Acting for theatre is a program exclusively focused on training actors (which is not the same as "performers"). This program consists of collective workshops and projects in which you will work with professional directors. The working language in this program is Dutch. Applicants for this program are required to speak and understand Dutch at a sufficient level.

will be taken up by your ***practice-based artistic research***, which will be developed in permanent negotiation with an ***audience*** and the broader context of the arts world. At the end of the academic year the graduation projects are presented in a festival which the school organizes in collaboration with *Bronks*, *Kaaitheater*, *KVS* and others.

PROGRAMME

The MA program in Theatre offers extensive possibilities of ***reflection, research and consultation*** and focuses on individual and collective artistic research, critical (self-) reflection, autonomy, interdisciplinarity and dialogue. You will have the opportunity to present your individual work(-in-progress). You will work with students from the technical theatre programme who will support you in realizing your own work in professional circumstances.

The content of *the acting program* will be developed by the artistic staff of the school and aims at offering you the highest challenge possible as an actor, by inviting you to participate in challenging and very different artistic projects and masterclasses.

The content of the ***directing program*** will be developed in function of your ***research proposal***. You will work with RITCS staff members and with coaches that have been selected in function of your own research track and you will develop your work through a permanent dialogue with fellow-students, an individual mentor and coaches.

Because the master program is only one year (60 ECTS) we advise a preparatory project of minimum 60 ECTS in our BA program to have the full RITCS master experience. The programme consists of the following ***modules***:

For both tracks:

- A topical seminar in the field of political theory, philosophy, cultural theory or art theory;
- The internal presentation of your individual work ;
- Participation in the RITCS Winter School: a collective thematic module or research block hosted by RITCS staff members and featuring artists of international reputation (elective);
- Collective and individual feedback sessions.

For the directing track

- A collective workshop focusing on the mental and artistic organization of your research track;
- A dramaturgical and production-oriented module focusing on the preparation of your individual project(s);
- An individual research track consisting of two projects that are presented to an audience. In the first case internal RITCS staff member will act as

your coach, for your second project that will be hosted by one of our partner institutions you will be given the opportunity to select your own artistic coach. One project can be replaced by an approved stage or an international exchange project.

For the **acting** track

- Two in-house professional productions directed by well-known director or theatre maker. Prior projects have been directed by artists as diverse as Gerardjan Rijnders, Jeroen De Man (Warme Winkel), Stef Lernous (Abattoir Fermé), Peter Vandenbegin, Manja Topper (dood paard), Chiel Van Berkel, Sarah Moeremans, Peeping Tom and others;
- One of these two productions can be replaced by an internship;
- The MA graduation project in collaboration with a known theatre house.

Collaborations have been set up with the following institutions: Conservatoire de Liège, Theaterschool Amsterdam (Mime-opleiding), Rietveldacademie (Amsterdam), Université Paris Ouest La Défense Nanterre (Paris), Kaaithheater (Brussels), Beursschouwburg (Brussels), BrakkeGrond (Amsterdam), kc Nona (Mechelen), Bronks and many others. RITCS theatre department is a member of the PLETA network (www.pleta.org).

MENTOR AND LECTURERS

The Master in Theatre is coordinated by a mentor who will act as your artistic and intellectual sparring partner throughout the year, together with a team of staff members. The program works with a wide variety of artists, dramaturges and academics, including: Dirk Verstockt (dramaturge, director, critic), Eurudike De Beul (singer, Peeping Tom), Ruud Gielens (actor, director), Stef Lernous (director Abattoir Fermé), Geert Opsomer (dramaturgy), Karel Vanhaesebrouck (theory and dramaturgy), Klaas Tindemans (dramaturgy), Harry Cole (light design), Carly Wijs (actor, director), Tania van der Sanden (actor), Sanja Mitrovic (director, performer), Tom Dupont (writer, director), Ward Rooze (actor, director), Benjamin Op de Beeck, Sarah Eisa, Bart Capelle, Saskia Louwaard, Eric Engels, Aurelie Di Marino, Ineke Nijssen, Ans Van den Eede and many others. Students in the directing track can propose their own coaches. The theory seminars are taught by our in-house professors Lieven De Caeter, Geert Opsomer, and Dieter Lesage.

STUDYING IN BRUSSELS

Studying in Brussels means living and working in a thriving, truly post-modern city that reflects all the advantages and the challenges of today's globalization. You will study in the immediate proximity of the international arts scene for which Brussels serves as a true gateway. Brussels is not only the institutional heart of Europe, it also hosts initiatives like the internationally renowned dance school Parts and arts centres like Beursschouwburg, Kaaithheater, KVS, Tanneurs, Théâtre National, Workspace Brussels, Brigitinnes and many others. Brussels is also home to international performing arts companies such as Needcompany

(Jan Lauwers) or UltimaVez (Wim Vandekeybus), Peeping Tom, A Two Dogs Company while at the same time being the fruitful breeding ground of a vivid urban and underground culture.

The theatre department of RITCS is located in Molenbeek, one of the intercultural neighborhoods of Brussels, occupying three floors of an industrial building called the Bottelarij. This building hosts a large performance space, six supplementary studios, a production desk and a couple of classrooms. The RITCS main building is located in the very heart of Brussels. In this central campus, you will attend theoretical seminars and you will have the opportunity to visit the splendid Cinema RITCS that hosts an exquisite film program.

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

Students holding a Flemish BA degree in Drama (acting) have direct access to the MA program in Performing Arts (acting). However, participating in the auditions and subsequent workshop is highly recommended.

Students holding a Flemish BA degree in Drama (directing) have direct access to the MA program in Performing Arts (directing). However, they will be asked to submit a research proposal.

All other candidates should follow the application procedure as explained hereafter.

COSTS

Inscription fee is € 922,30 plus an **additional fee** (spending of décor, actor and general material) for a full time program of 60 ECTS credits.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Who can apply?

Ambitious actors who want to develop their skills and personal signature on an advanced level through intensive work within the framework of several professional productions and internships should consider applying for our **Acting program**. We offer this track only in Dutch.

Our **directing program**, which accepts students who can work, read and communicate in Dutch, French or English, welcomes aspiring theatre makers, directors and performance artists who would like to develop their personal work through a sustained focus on the articulation of their own artistic language and universe. If you are looking for a hands-on adventure intensively coached by professional artists, this program might be worthwhile considering.

What are the minimum requirements?

Artists holding a **bachelor's degree** in higher vocational training in theatre and/or performing arts (theatre, acting, directing, physical theatre, musical

theatre, theatre in education, etc.) can apply for both programs. Proved relevant **professional experience** is certainly an asset but is not required. In all cases the jury can decide to impose a **preparatory program** of one or two years between 60 and 120 ECTS (depending on your profile and track record) before you are granted the permission to take up the MA program.

How does the application procedure work?

The application procedure consists of three steps. Step 1. Send in your application package **before 18 March 2020**. We will let you know whether or not you can participate in the audition. You will also be given all the details concerning the next step. Step 2. You will take part in an audition to be held on **29 April 10:00** at our theatre department. At the end of the day the jury will decide which candidates can move on and participate in the next steps. You will receive all details at that very moment. Step 3. You will participate in a one-week workshop with practical work, interviews and discussions from **29 June to 3 July 2020**. Be sure to prepare for a possible stay in Brussels in due time. By the end of the week you will know whether or not you can participate in our MA program.

What material do you need to send before 18 March?

Candidates for the directing program should forward the following material:

- A motivation letter explaining your need to develop your practice and the reasons for wanting to earn a Masters Degree, in particular at the theatre department of RITCS.
- Your research proposal (two pages min., five pages max.) with its research question(s) and their relation with your prior projects and experiences and an indication of the various concrete steps (projects and their parameters) that you would like to undertake.
- Curriculum vitae with previous education (incl. transcript of records) and working practice.
- Links to videos of your work or DVDs and any other material you consider to be interesting or representative.
- Copies of diplomas, translated into English.
- Copy of passport.

Candidates for the acting program should send in the following material:

- A motivation letter in Dutch (!) which explaining your need to develop your practice and the reasons for wanting to earn a Masters Degree, in particular at the theatre department of RITCS. This letter may (or may not) contain the following questions: What is for you fascinating about the performing arts? In which way do you think we can help you to develop

this? Why do you opt for this school? What do you want to do after graduation? Do you have any examples of artists or groups that inspire you?

- Curriculum vitae with previous education and working practice.
- Links to videos of your work or DVD's and any other material you consider as interesting or representative.
- Copy of diplomas, translated into English.
- Copy of passport or ID card.

Send all the documents before the deadline to veerle.joos@ehb.be (subject: Auditions 2019 – 2020) clearly indicating the program for which you would like to apply and make sure that at the same time you pay the compulsory “audition fee” of 25 euro, with the following indication “Audition Master of Theatre – Name – Surname)

Please note that, if you send DVDs, these will not be returned. Send these to: RITCS | School of Arts, Theatre department Auditions 2019-2020 - Rue A. Dansaertstraat 70, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Note: Expenses incurred during the selection process will not be reimbursed.

How do I prepare for the audition in April?

In **both cases** (acting and directing) you will be asked to prepare a short presentation / performance / act that will provide the jury with an insight in your personal universe. As a starting point you take an existing text (a theatre text, a self-written text, a passage from a novel, etc.). Use this text as a basis to create a performance or intervention that is theatrically interesting for a spectator. The live dimension of your intervention is, of course, of crucial importance. In other words, you need to perform something live on stage yourself. The presentation takes 10 to 15 min.

Candidates for the **acting program** will receive an additional text (in Dutch) which they will need to memorize and perform.

Candidates for the **directing program** will be asked to bring a portfolio containing personal work, sources of inspiration, crucial documents, etc.

For more information concerning the application procedure: send an email to katrien.van.langenhove@ehb.be or phone +32 2 411 42 87.

Prospective candidates for the Master in Theatre can directly contact the coordinator: Hendrik.De.Smedt@ehb.be.