

MA Acting

Virtual Audition Guidelines - 2024 Entry

Thank you for your interest in studying with us – we're delighted to let you know that you are through to the first stage of our two-part audition process, which is a self-tape audition.

If you are applying from outside of the UK, you have automatically been invited to submit a self-tape, rather than audition in person.

For stage one, we ask you to prepare, memorise and film one contemporary speech and one verse speech. Further guidance on these, how to film yourself, and how to submit your self-tape are provided below. We aim to assess your self-tape within three weeks of receiving it. Some candidates will progress to a second stage, which will be a live virtual interview, and some candidates will be informed after stage one that they have been unsuccessful.

More information on stage two is also included later in this document, therefore you should keep this document as a reference point throughout the audition process.

Stage one: self-tape

You should submit an identifier and two speeches. Please submit your self-tape within **ten working days** from the date you receive your invitation to provide the self-tape. Please complete the submission form, save it following the naming guidelines, and upload it to our applicant portal.

1. Identifier

Please state your name directly to camera. You should also briefly tell us why you are interested in joining our MA Acting course, and the titles of the pieces that you are performing for us.

2. Contemporary speech (no longer than 2 minutes)

Please choose a speech from a play written after 2000. This play should reflect your own age and life experiences. We recommended that you use a monologue in which your character is talking to another character in the play for two minutes, without them exchanging dialogue with you in that time, rather than a character that is talking to the "audience" for two minutes.

3. Verse speech (no longer than 2 minutes)

Please choose a two-minute verse speech, which demonstrates your ability to interpret heightened forms of speech and to communicate images and stories. Your selection is not restricted to conventional verse (i.e. Shakespeare), but can include contemporary verse, such as works by Inua Ellams and Kae Tempest. The verse speech may be, but is not limited to:

- Classical poetry
- Twentieth century poetry
- Spoken word
- Shakespeare
- Elizabethan
- Jacobean
- Restoration

Each of your two pieces should be no longer than two minutes and performed be performed in your own accent. We are looking for your ability to make a genuine connection with the material that you have chosen, and a perceived ability to create and live in the imagined world of the text.

How to record your stage one self-tape

We want to be able to see and hear you as if you were in front of us at an audition, but you don't need expensive equipment to do this. You can shoot this on a smartphone but please use the back camera, which is usually of higher quality than the front facing one. If you have access to a DSLR or a good quality camera that's great, but please *do not use* a laptop or webcam. Please follow these tips.

- Lines learned: You should be off script and well-rehearsed so you can do each speech in one take.
- Long hair: Should always be tied up or put behind shoulders. Do not let it cover your face.
- Hats and make-up: Don't wear a hat or heavy make-up.
- Lighting: Shoot with a light source in front of you, *not behind* (you'll be in silhouette) or off to one side. Avoid harsh shadows and/or fluorescent lights directly overhead. Natural light is best.
- Sound: Good sound is vital so find somewhere quiet with no background noise. The microphone on a smartphone is good but if your camera can accept an external microphone even better. The microphone needs to be as close as possible (1-2m).
- Background: Go for a plain, clear and uncluttered background. Make sure that your top contrasts with the background (so if it's a white background wear a colourful top, if it's a black background, don't wear black or a very dark colour).

- Medium – close up: Don't use the digital zoom - if you need to get closer then move the camera closer. It is important your framing is correct, as shown in this still below.



- Landscape: always shoot your tape landscape, *not portrait* (horizontal, not vertical).
- Keep it steady: Ideally use a tripod to keep the camera level and steady.
- However, if this is not possible, ensure whoever is filming has a steady hand.
- Eye line: Your lines should be fed slightly to the left or right of the camera. This is to open your face up to the camera without looking down the lens.
- Please do not read out the stage directions.
- Please don't mime action. Find a different way to make sense of the moment
- e.g. if the stage directions say the character pours out two glasses of wine, offers one to and then toasts the other character, just making eye contact and playing a beat of connection with the other character will be enough.
- If filming more than one take, choose the take that suits the character best, as opposed to the take most flattering of your general appearance. Don't agonise over the decision and don't be too hard on yourself. It's difficult to watch yourself and you are your own worst critic.

Submitting your self-tape

- Your identifier and two speeches should be edited together into one single video file.
- Please upload your self-tape to a video hosting platform (e.g. YouTube or Vimeo). If using YouTube, please upload your clips as 'unlisted'.
- Ensure that this is viewable until 31 August 2024.

- Please complete the attached submission form and include the link to the recording.
- Please save and name the submission form in capital letters with your SURNAME-FORENAME, followed by the word 'SELFTAPE' e.g. SMITH-JANE. SELFTAPE and upload this to our applicant portal.
- Details about the applicant portal have been emailed to you.
- Please do not send us links to WeTransfer or email attachments.

Stage two: live virtual interview

For those invited to stage two, as well as an opportunity for us to decide whether you have the right qualities to benefit from our training, it is also a chance for you to decide if we are the right fit for you and your aspirations.

Our online recall will take place on MS Teams. You will be allocated a time and date, typically with a minimum of two weeks' notice. Times are GMT or BST as appropriate. You will receive the joining link approximately 24 hours prior to the recall.

The virtual recall will be led by a member of our Acting staff and is likely to last 30 minutes. Your interview may be a little longer than if you were attending an in-person audition, to reflect the fact that you may have more questions about our course and facilities. It is also your opportunity to ask us questions. You will be asked to perform the contemporary speech from your stage one self-tape audition, and our staff will then redirect you in your performance. At interview we will ask you questions about your aspirations, your practice and your interest in the course and you will have the opportunity to ask us questions.

Useful information for all candidates

Do you have any access needs related to a disability that may require specialist arrangements?

If you think you will require any type of support for either stage of the audition process, please contact our Student Disability Officer, at wellbeing.disability@lipa.ac.uk

When you will hear back from us

We will aim to let you know a decision within three working weeks, after the interview stage. Unfortunately, it can take longer than this sometimes – please do not assume that you have been unsuccessful if you have not heard from us – it may be that we are still making decisions. If you have any concerns about the status of your application, you are welcome to contact us to ask for an update.

Feedback

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we receive, we are unable to offer feedback if your application is unsuccessful this year.

Any questions?

For applicants from outside of the UK, please email our International Team, international@lipa.ac.uk

For applicants from within the UK please email our Admissions Team: admissions@lipa.ac.uk

You can also reach us by phone by calling +44 (0)151 330 3000 and asking for either the Admissions or International Teams as appropriate.

We wish you the best of luck and look forward to seeing you.

Gary Horner

MA Acting (Company) Course Leader