



# BA (Hons) Acting

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## Ellie Nixon

### Senior Lecturer in Movement & Acting

Ellie is a theatre director, actress and teacher. She has a degree in Performing Arts from Middlesex University and also studied at the Jacques Lecoq International Theatre School in Paris (1987-89). She was awarded a 'Special Award' from the Devon Education Authority to support her studies in Paris. In 1989 Ellie co-founded the La Mancha International Theatre Company. As its artistic director for seventeen years she was involved in the writing, directing, performing and development of its artistic programme. La Mancha Theatre Company has performed in theatres, on television and held seminars, courses and workshops in Sweden, France, Spain, Greece, Great Britain, Norway, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico and Cuba. Areas of specialisation include devising performance, Mask-work, Tragedy, Commedia dell'Arte, Melodrama, Greek Chorus, Clown and also site-specific performance. She continues to be the UK artistic director of the La Mancha Theatre Company.

### Teaching

In 1995 Ellie co-founded the La Mancha International School of Image and Gesture in Santiago, Chile. The School offers professional training in contemporary theatre making and postgraduate courses in acting, directing, teaching and theatre in human development. Her roles as Co-Director and Principal Lecturer involved writing the School's degree and postgraduate courses and being involved in the architectural design of the purpose built premises. Underpinned by the Lecoq tradition, the La Mancha School is unique in South America. Students come from all over the world to study there and graduates have gone on to form many innovative national and international theatre and dance companies. They are also successfully acting and directing in theatre, film and television.

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Ellie specialises in mask making and has a diploma in leather mask making from the Centro Mascheree strutture Gestuali, Italy. She has also worked with Monika Pagneux in Barcelona, developing a particular interest in the Feldenkrais approach to movement for actor training. In 2006, Ellie returned to the UK and joined the Arts University College at Bournemouth as Senior Lecturer in Movement and Acting on the BA (Hons) Acting course. In 2007 she won a Learning and Teaching Award at the AUCB to develop her research in somatic learning and was a speaker at The AUCB Teaching and Learning Conferences on *Risk-taking and its implications for fostering creativity: a somatic approach to independent learning*. On completing her PGCE in 2008, she became a Fellow of the HE Academy. Ellie is also a member of the Institute for Learning and Teaching and is currently a member of the AUCB Board of Governors.

## **Current Research Interests**

Ellie is working on a PhD in Performance Practice at the University of Exeter. The primary focus of this research is an investigation into body and the imagination in contemporary theatre making.