

## BA (Hons) Acting

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### **Petronilla Whitfield** Senior Lecturer in Voice & Acting

Petronilla trained as an actress at Arts Educational Schools and has an MA in Voice Studies from The Central School of Speech and Drama. She was a professional actress for over twenty years and has worked with many leading companies in theatre and television. She performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company and has appeared in London's West End theatres in several plays, including *The Rose Tattoo* at The Playhouse Theatre directed by Sir Peter Hall; *School for Scandal* at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket directed by John Barton; *The Love Girl and the Innocent* with the RSC at The Aldwych Theatre, and Antiphila in *The Maid's Tragedy* at the Donmar Warehouse. She played Lady Macbeth at the Oxford Arts Centre with The Fool's Theatre Company. She has toured in Europe and all over the UK and performed at many of the regional theatres including York Theatre Royal, Manchester Forum Theatre, Edinburgh Lyceum, Bristol Old Vic and Young Vic Theatre in London.

Her television appearances have included *Grushko*, filmed in Russia (BBC); *Urban Jungle* (BBC); *Harry Enfield Show* (Hat Trick Productions); *Terry and Julian* (Channel 4); *Saracen* (LWT); *Master of The Game* (ABC Films), and *Forever Green* (BBC).

Petronilla's professional acting career began when she appeared in many plays at The Space Theatre in Capetown in Africa – the first multi-racial theatre in South Africa in the 1970's. She was in several radio plays with the South African Broadcasting Corporation and was a member of the contemporary dance group: The Gary Burne Company.

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## Teaching

Before becoming Senior Lecturer at the Arts University College at Bournemouth, Petronilla taught voice and acting on the acting degree courses at Bath Spa University, Central School of Speech and Drama, Mountview Theatre Academy, and East 15 Acting School. Other teaching work includes being vocal coach at Bristol University on the Lifelong Learning courses; University of the West Of England; Royal Shakespeare Company; BBC documentary *Can't Sing Singers*, and actress in and choreographer of movement and dance on *Dona Rosita* at Bristol Old Vic Theatre. Petronilla has a PGCE and has the Certificate for Teaching English to Adults (CELTA). Before gaining her Voice Studies MA, Petronilla taught English and Literacy for three years at Westminster Adult Education College in London. She is a fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

## Current Research Projects

Petronilla is pursuing a PhD on the subjects of Shakespeare, actor training and dyslexia, with the Institute of Education at Warwick University, where her supervisor is Professor Jonothan Neelands.

In 2009 she won a Teaching and Learning Development Award of £3,000 from the AUCB to support her research and development of technological and pedagogical aids for training dyslexic actors.

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## Conferences

2011 **Cambridge University and British Shakespeare Association international conference: *Sources and Adaptations***

Presentation of my PhD research and computer tool at Cambridge University.

Title of presentation: *Sensing Shakespeare through technology, adaptation and visualisation: supporting the dyslexic student in accessing text*

2011 **School of Education Southampton University**

Presentation of my research to the MSC SpLD students.

2010 **Key Speaker at the AUCB 2010 Teaching and Learning Conference**

Title: *Excavating Text through Technology: pronouncing words visually, kinaesthetically and sensorially*

2008 **Speaker at the Learning and Teaching Conference at the AUCB:**

**Title: *Pedagogy, Dyslexia, Shakespeare***

2007 **Research Speaker at the Learning and Teaching Conference at the AIB:**

**Title: *Shakespeare and Syllabus in Higher Education***

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## Publications

In 2009 Petronilla's research work on supporting acting students with dyslexia was published in America in a peer-reviewed article in a specialised journal with a focus on voice use and performance.

Whitfield, P. (2009). 'Shakespeare, Pedagogy and Dyslexia.' (Ed: Cooke, R). *The Moving Voice: The Integration of Voice and Movement. The Voice and Speech Review*. No 6.pp254 – 262. Published by the Voice and Speech Association and University Readers, United States of America.