

## **Course Title**

Writing for Performance and Publication Masters at the University of Leeds.

## **Personal Statement**

Studying Drama at A level increased my interests as a practitioner and maker, specifically in writing, with my passion exhibited in the full marks I received in my final performance. The step between creation and happening led me to study Drama and Theatre at degree level. This has enabled me to expand my knowledge of contemporary art and how language is adapted from a classical standpoint into the postmodern domain. My intrigue here was reflected in my participation of the Artist as Witness module - a reconsidering of William Shakespeare's, 'Measure for Measure.' Returning from a secular pilgrimage to Auschwitz we asked ourselves, "how will we remember when all the witnesses are gone?"

It was not until the task to create a 'zine,' through my latest studies in Drama and Theatre that the spoken word became of interest. The freedom that existed in poetry, specifically how the depicted image rests in the hand of the writer is compelling. As is, the ability to hold gravitas in a dramatic piece with just the word, hooking audiences on every syllable. I found myself desperate to fill my time with constant writing, finding it easy to turn snippets of my life into poetic story telling. As simple as I felt it was it in the beginning, I yearn for more information, further learning and understanding of the world that is written. This need to truly interpret my technique and how to better myself, has me pushing forward to this Writing for Performance and Publication Masters at the University of Leeds.

The Story Workshop module interests me. Throughout my BA studies I constantly shifted to autobiographical work. It is not that I view my life as something that people should hear; I believe the lean in this direction was born from the addictive catharsis that is experienced. I wish to study the classical principles of storytelling that this module can offer. Having studied a contemporary course, I feel advantaged with the tools to create work combining both approaches. Making way to thoughtful and unique pieces that have the ability to sit in both realms.

I have a unique view too through my positioning as a performer. I feel advantaged, in that my writing has the ability to provide honest performance. I am able to view the words on the stage as I write. Without disregarding this, I still feel there is much to study. I can see this

MA doing a great deal for me. I am eager to progress and excited to learn, especially on large scale creative writing projects, as I have not had the opportunity to do with tuition.