# ***Drama for Teaching and Working in Academia* - Using Stage Craft to Develop Academics and their Teaching Practice in Higher Education**

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The relationship between acting and teaching is real and tangible. The overlapping concepts of performance, projection, embodiment, narrative and entertainment influence greatly our understanding of the role of the teacher. This research investigates the development, through the teaching of acting methods and strategies, of teachers in HE, while thinking about their individual identities as teachers through the prism of an actor developing a persona. The emphasis in this professional development study is on the intersection of the teacher and the role of the academic. These seem, at first, to be divergent roles that an academic must straddle, a distinction that is often emphasized by contemporary university models in the UK that differentiate between, for example, the REF and the TEF. However, the interrelatedness of these roles is evident not only in the integration of research into teaching but also in other, subtler ways. This research stresses, through its methodology, how in terms of performance, character and communication, the academic teaching persona can be developed, enhanced and utilised through tailored performance workshops.