

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Theatre Studies and English				
4	Programme Code(s)	UBATS_EN_C 4 year part time UUBATSEN_C 3 year full time				
5	UCAS code	4T77				
6	Home Department	English, Theatre and Creative Writing				
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE; Cert HE				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	4 years part-time; 3 years full-time				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group					

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>BA Theatre Studies and English at Birkbeck is highly distinctive: it is the only part-time and evening joint honours course in theatre and English at undergraduate level in central London. In its embrace of theatre and literature, it makes use of the rich context of Birkbeck's position in Bloomsbury, in London's West End. The programme enables students to study theatre and English in their fullest contexts and aspects, examining histories, cultural and national contexts, aesthetics, politics and traditions. The programme's close interrogation of theatre, drama, performance and literatures from the medieval period to the contemporary enables students to access rich intellectual and cultural histories, and to make fruitful connections across both disciplines. It explores the research and conceptual thinking that underlies the making of theatre, and it engages with the broad spectrum of theatre languages, histories and contexts, encompassing questions of space, the body, technology, scenography, documentation, devising, politics and identity. It gives the analysis of live performance a central place in the curriculum, and draws on theatre artists, critics and funders as guest speakers for the programme.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>UCAS tariff: 112-128 points, A-levels: BBC-ABB</p> <p>The UCAS tariff score applies where applicants have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.</p>

16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:</p> <p>Subject Specific</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. awareness of the range and variety of key critical and theoretical debates at the forefront of the field of Theatre and English Studies; 2. knowledge and understanding of the central role of the spectator in the creation of meaning in theatre practice; 3. knowledge and understanding of the key traditions, conventions, contexts, histories, concepts and cultures that comprise theatre practice; 4. knowledge and understanding of how the key elements and processes of performance are created and realised; 5. knowledge and understanding of a range of key practitioners and theorists and their cultural and historical contexts; 6. knowledge and understanding of how to read performance texts and how transitions from page to stage may be effected; 7. knowledge and understanding of the interplay between practice and theory in the discipline; 8. responsiveness to the key contexts and conditions in which contemporary theatre in London takes place; 9. awareness and understanding of the key critical skills needed in the notation and analysis of live performance; <p>Intellectual</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. the ability to research, describe, theorise, interpret and evaluate performance texts and performance events from a range of critical perspectives; 11. an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity, limits and ethical dimensions of knowledge in the field; 12. the capacity to interrogate concepts and theories through practice; 13. the capacity for independent approaches to considering and solving problems orally, verbally, and in practice; <p>Practical</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. bibliographical skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work; 15. the ability to communicate clearly in a variety of oral, written, visual and performance 2media; 16. the ability to work efficiently and constructively within a group to realise an appropriate practice piece or presentation; 17. the ability to manage time in the production of written, group or practice work to a specific length. 18. some IT skills; the use of libraries and electronic sources of information, online discussion groups, web-based research, e-learning, word-processing; 19. the ability to apply the expressive, critical and evaluative skills acquired during the programme to varied kinds of work; <p>Personal and Social</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility; 21. the ability to present and sustain arguments and engage in debate;
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	<p>22. the capacity for independent thought and judgment;</p> <p>23. an understanding of group dynamics and an ability to implement them in practical contexts;</p> <p>24. the ability to reflect on personal development and the skills acquired across the degree programme.</p>
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17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
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	<p>Learning and teaching on BA Theatre Studies and English makes use of a mix of techniques and strategies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lectures ▪ Seminars ▪ Practice-based workshops and rehearsals ▪ Tutorial support and theory and practice-based supervision for the final year project ▪ Independent visits to theatrical performances ▪ Independent study and research ▪ Group-based study and research ▪ Access to public events hosted by the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre. <p>Students will be taught primarily through the three key pedagogical practices central to Theatre Studies at BA level: lectures, seminar discussions and group workshops. Workshops will function to enable students to explore the concepts they are introduced to in seminars and lectures through practice. Practical approaches function to illuminate concepts, theories and modalities of performance. Students are assessed on their reflective and analytical engagement with the concepts they have explored. This process of learning is supplemented by independent research, independent group work and theatre visits.</p> <p>Assessment methods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research essays ▪ Research exercises ▪ Group presentations ▪ Performance presentations ▪ Group vivas ▪ Individual vivas ▪ Written portfolios ▪ Exams (take-away and unseen)
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18	Programme Description
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	<p>BA Theatre and English Studies is structured around a 'spine' of core modules which combine teaching, elements of practice, and independent research. All students take Theatre Languages (level 4), Theories of Theatricality and Performance (level 5) and Theatre in London Now (levels 4-6), a series of modules offering essential training in performance analysis, theatre and performance history, cultural theory, and research methods. Attention to London's theatre culture and visits to performance works are an intrinsic part of the curriculum. These aspects are examined year-on-year in reference to three themes: 'history', 'space' and 'communities'. In the final year, students are invited to identify their own research interest, to be pursued through the realisation of a written dissertation and final Theatre in London Now project, supported by a personal tutor. In English, compulsory</p>
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Year of entry: 2021/22

modules – for example, Writing London (level 4) and the Novel (level 5) or Aspects of Medieval and Renaissance Literature (level 5) – extend and enhance this work, and, as the course progresses, students are invited to choose modules from a range of options within Theatre Studies and English. The programme thus offers close and careful investigation of theatre and English in all its aspects - characteristic of Birkbeck’s emphasis on interdisciplinary enquiry at all levels.

¹⁹ Programme Structure				
Full Time programme – 3 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ENHU002S4	Theatre Languages	30	Core
4	ENHU007S4	Writing London	30	Core
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories of London	30	Core
4		Level 4 option module	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Comp
5	ENHU009S5 or ENHU003S5	The Novel or Aspects of Medieval and Renaissance Literature	30	Comp
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: London Spaces	0	Comp
5		Level 5 option module: English	30	Option
5		Level 5 option module: Theatre Studies	30	Option
6	ENHU001Z6	Theatre in London Now: London Policies and Communities	0	Comp
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	n/a	Level 6 option module: English	30	Option
6	n/a	Level 6 option module: English	30	Option
Part Time programme – 4 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ENHU002S4	Theatre Languages	30	Core
4	ENHU007S4	Writing London	30	Core
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories of London	30	Core

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Comp
5	ENHU009S5 or ENHU003S5	The Novel or Aspects of Medieval and Renaissance Literature	30	Comp
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: London Spaces	0	Comp
5	n/a	Option module in Theatre	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	n/a	Level 5 option module: English	30	Option
6	n/a	Level 6 option module: English	30	Option
6	n/a	Level 6 option module: Theatre Studies	30	Option
6	ENHU001Z6	Theatre in London Now: London Policies and Communities	0	Comp
Year 4				
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	n/a	Level 6 option module: English	30	Core

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

²⁰	Programme Director	Dr. Fintan Walsh
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	October 2006
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2006
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2006
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	March 2015