

### Programme Specification

1	<b>Awarding body</b>	University of London				
2	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	<b>Birkbeck College</b>				
3	<b>Programme Title(s)</b>	<b>MA Text and Performance</b>				
4	<b>Programme Code(s)</b>	TMATEXPR_C				
5	<b>UCAS code</b>	N/A				
6	<b>Home Department</b>	English, Theatre and Creative Writing				
7	<b>Exit Award(s)</b>	PG Dip, PG Cert				
8	<b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>	1 year full-time				
9	<b>Mode of Study</b>	FT	✓	PT		DL
10	<b>Level of Award (FHEQ)</b>	7				
11	<b>Other teaching depts or institution</b>	Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA)				
12	<b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b>	N/A				
13	<b><a href="#">QAA Benchmark Group</a></b>	N/A				

14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>
	<p>Taking the dramatic text as a critical starting point, MA Text and Performance sets out to explore theatre and performance through both practice and scholarship. Drawing on theoretical, historical, critical and philosophical literatures in theatre and performance studies, the programme examines contemporary theatre and performance, and the ways in which new work is informed by both contemporary concerns and older theatre traditions and legacies. In the rehearsal room, the programme mobilises techniques of voice, movement, playwriting, directing and dramaturgy to create new theatrical work that responds to set texts and themes. Equal weight and class-time is given to practical theatre-making and scholarly examination of theatre and performance, and the reciprocity of theory and practice is emphasised throughout. The programme's work addresses critical themes including theatrical signification, space, adaptation, technology, scenography, documentation, devising, politics and identity. Its simultaneous focus on practice-based learning and on the theories, histories and contexts of contemporary theatre practice is highly distinctive.</p> <p>The programme draws on the research interests of Birkbeck staff in contemporary performance and the professional practice and expertise of staff and associate artists at RADA. It enables students to study the relationship between the performance of a dramatic text and its theatrical, social and historical contexts. It provides a solid grounding in research methods and rigorous approaches to performance, which graduates may wish to build on by pursuing a PhD in a related area or practice in the creative industries. It takes full advantage of Birkbeck and RADA's proximity to London's West End theatre district and other performance spaces across the city for the study of theatre. Finally, it engages with the work of Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre and bespoke initiatives at RADA, offering opportunities for students to pursue extra-curricular performance-making and engagement with new scholarship.</p>

15	<b>Entry Criteria</b>
	<p>Undergraduate degree at 2nd class honours or above, and/or relevant practical experience in the creative industries. All suitable applicants will be interviewed either personally or by telephone.</p> <p><b>International entry requirements:</b>          If English is not an applicant's first language or they have not previously studied in English, the requirement for this programme is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 7.0, with not less than 6.5 in each of the sub-tests.</p>
16	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
	<p>[Subject-specific]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Show a creative and conceptual understanding of the relationship between dramatic text and performance that will support the critical evaluation of current research, performance and advanced scholarship in the discipline. This will enable students to evaluate and critique rival methodologies, and, where appropriate, develop and propose new hypotheses and practices;</li> <li>2. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of performance practice and a critical awareness of the current problems and new insights raised by the relationship between theory and practice;</li> <li>3. Show an ability to develop practice-based approaches to dramatic texts.</li> <li>4. Show an ability to discuss and analyse dramatic text in relation to the possibilities they offer for performance in the contemporary theatre, informed by a cogent grasp of the last half-century of theatrical history;</li> <li>4. Demonstrate a sound grasp of the theatrical, intellectual and institutional contexts of contemporary theatre;</li> <li>5. Demonstrate an ability to work collectively, and a reflective awareness of the context and dynamics of collective creation;</li> <li>6. Demonstrate an understanding of the variety of approaches to the creation of performance practice that inform contemporary theatre practice;</li> </ol> <p>[Intellectual]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Show a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research, advanced scholarship or theatrical practice;</li> <li>8. Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge and the development of practical projects, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research, enquiry and performance are used to create and interpret knowledge;</li> <li>9. Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;</li> </ol> <p>[Social/practical]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;</li> <li>11. Show an ability to continue advancing their knowledge and understanding and develop new skills to a high level;</li> </ol>

12. Possess the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: the development of own creative practice; the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

17	<p><b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b></p> <p><i>Learning and teaching methods:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Practice-based workshops and rehearsals</li> <li>• Tutorial support</li> <li>• Theory and practice-based dissertation supervision</li> <li>• Independent visits to theatrical performances</li> <li>• Access to performances, readings and workshops within RADA and by RADA students</li> <li>• Access to talks, performances and other public events staged by the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre and other research centres across the College</li> </ul> <p><i>Assessment methods:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short assessment exercises</li> <li>• Research essays</li> <li>• Portfolios</li> <li>• Group performance projects</li> <li>• In-class performance (selected practical modules only)</li> <li>• Individual creative project plus portfolio OR academic dissertation</li> </ul>
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18	<p><b>Programme Description</b></p> <p>This highly distinctive MA course, run as a partnership between RADA and Birkbeck, brings together cutting-edge practice and scholarship in theatre and performance. Students will work with both Birkbeck’s experts in theatre and performance studies and RADA’s faculty and visiting theatre practitioners to experience both making and studying theatre. This course does not offer actor training, but will deepen critical and practical understanding of theatre and performance practices in context.</p> <p>The programme consists of 180 credits in compulsory and core modules as shown below.</p>
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19	<p><b>Programme Structure</b></p> <p><b>Full Time programme – 1 year</b></p> <p><b>Year 1</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Level</th> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Title</th> <th>Credits</th> <th>Status*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>AREN022S7</td> <td>Theorising the Contemporary</td> <td>30</td> <td>Compulsory</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>AREN033S7</td> <td>Approaches to Theatre and Performance Practice</td> <td>30</td> <td>Compulsory</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>AREN030D7</td> <td>Scene Study</td> <td>60</td> <td>Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>AREN031D7</td> <td>Dissertation</td> <td>60</td> <td>Core</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*	7	AREN022S7	Theorising the Contemporary	30	Compulsory	7	AREN033S7	Approaches to Theatre and Performance Practice	30	Compulsory	7	AREN030D7	Scene Study	60	Core	7	AREN031D7	Dissertation	60	Core
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**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

Note: the part-time structure was suspended for 2021/2 entry.

Year of entry: 2021/22



20	<b>Programme Director</b>	Dr. Fintan Walsh
21	<b>Start Date</b> ( <i>term/year</i> )	Autumn 2010
22	<b>Date approved by TQEC</b>	Spring 2010
23	<b>Date approved by Academic Board</b>	Summer 2010
24	<b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>	January 2021