

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London					
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College					
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Theatre and Drama Studies BA Theatre and Drama Studies with Foundation Year					
4	Programme Code(s)	UBATS_DS_C (Part-time) UUBATS_D (Full-time) UUBFTS_D_C (Full-time with Foundation Year) UBFTS_DS_C (Part-time with Foundation Year)					
5	UCAS code	W490					
6	Home Department	English and Humanities					
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE; Cert HE					
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years full-time; 4 years part-time; 4-years full-time with FY, 6 years part-time with FY					
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	N/A					
14	Programme Rationale & Aims	<p>BA Theatre and Drama at Birkbeck is highly distinctive: it is the only provision of evening part-time and full-time study in theatre at undergraduate level in central London. The programme enables students to consider the theatre in its fullest contexts and aspects, examining its histories, cultural and national contexts, aesthetics, politics and traditions. It brings together practice-based research, theatre studies, theatre history, cultural theory and detailed study of the dramatic text to give its students the fullest possible understanding of how theatre works now. The program offers two key and complementary approaches to the study of theatre, drama and performance. It considers 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 makes use of the rich context of Birkbeck's position in Bloomsbury, in London's West End, by giving the analysis of live performance a central place in the curriculum, and by drawing on theatre artists, critics and funders as guest speakers for the programme.</p>					
15	Entry Criteria	UCAS tariff: 96-128 points, A-levels: CCC-ABB					

	<p>The UCAS tariff score is applicable if applicants have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>Birkbeck welcomes 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>
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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 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

	<p>discussion groups, web-based research, e-learning, word-processing;</p> <p>19. the ability to apply the expressive, critical and evaluative skills acquired during the programme to varied kinds of work;</p> <p>Personal and Social</p> <p>20. the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility;</p> <p>21. the ability to present and sustain arguments and engage in debate;</p> <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>
17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p>
	<p>Learning and teaching on BA Theatre and Drama 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. This enables students to take a ‘laboratory’ approach, where they hypothesise on an aspect of theatre, and test this hypothesis through practice. They are then assessed, not on their practical skills, but rather on their reflective and analytical engagement with the concepts they have explored. This process of learning will be 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
18	<p>Programme Description</p>
	<p>BA Theatre and Drama is structured around a 'spine' of practice-centred work combining teaching, independent group work (scheduled during class hours) and research, delivered</p>

	<p>through the module Critical Practice. Each Critical Practice module takes a different focus - 'history', 'space' and 'communities'. In their final year, students are invited to identify their own research interest, which may be pursued through the realisation of a practice-based project, or a written dissertation, with either choice supported by a personal tutor. This structure is reflected in a second module, Theatre in London Now, a course devoted to research methods and the close contextual analysis of performance works attended throughout the year. Other compulsory modules, taken year on year, complement Critical Practice, offering essential training in performance analysis, theatre and performance history, cultural theory, and research methods. Throughout the course, students also choose modules from a range of options within Theatre Studies, English, Arts & Humanities and Creative Writing. The programme thus offers close and careful investigation of theatre in all its aspects, and the opportunity to engage in the study of topics in complementary subjects - characteristic of Birkbeck's emphasis on interdisciplinary enquiry at all levels.</p>
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19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling	30	Compulsory
4	AREN096S4	Performing Theatre Histories (Critical Practice I)	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
4	n/a	Level 4 option module: English, Theatre Studies, Arts and Humanities, FMACS	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
5	AREN097S5	Space and Performance (Critical Practice II)	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory
5	AREN199S5	Adaptations: Theories and Practices in Contemporary Performance	30	Compulsory
5	AREN198S5	Communities in Theatre and Performance (Critical Practice III)	30	Compulsory
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: English, Theatre Studies, Arts and Humanities, Creative Writing, FMACS	30	Option
6	N/A	Level 6 option: English, Theatre Studies, Arts and Humanities, Creative Writing, FMACS	30	Option

Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling	30	Compulsory
4	AREN096S4	Performing Theatre Histories (Critical Practice I)	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
5	AREN097S5	Space and Performance (Critical Practice II)	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory
4	n/a	Level 4 option module: English, Theatre Studies, Arts and Humanities, FMACS	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN199S5	Adaptations: Theories and Practices in Contemporary Performance	30	Compulsory
5	AREN198S5	Communities in Theatre and Performance (Critical Practice III)	30	Comp
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: English, Theatre Studies, Arts and Humanities, Creative Writing, FMACS	30	Option
Year 4				
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, Theatre Studies, Arts and Humanities, Creative Writing, FMACS	30	Option

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	Louise Owen
²¹	Start Date (term/year)	October 2011
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2010
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2010
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	May 2022