

### 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; 2 years part-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>	N/A				
12	<b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b>	N/A				
13	<a href="#">QAA Benchmark Group</a>	N/A				

14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>
	<p>MA Text and Performance explores the dynamic relationship between text and performance, through a combination of theatre practice and academic study. In the studio and workshop, the programme uses voice, movement, playwriting, directing and dramaturgy techniques to create new work. In lectures and seminars, the programme examines historical, philosophical and theoretical materials and ideas to understand contemporary theatre and performance, and the ways in which they are shaped by current concerns and older traditions and legacies.</p> <p>The programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the relationship between text and performance in theatre and performance-based practices, across different historical periods, cultural contexts and sites;</li> <li>• Examine how text functions in performance and how performance shapes the meaning of text;</li> <li>• Explore the uses of text to inspire, generate and understand collaborative performance;</li> <li>• Analyse the relationships among the practices of writing for performance, performing text, collaboratively making performance, and writing about performance;</li> <li>• Explore the connection between writing and performing, and forms of critical, theoretical and cultural analysis;</li> <li>• Investigate practice-based approaches to research and more conventional scholarly methods of study, and the ways in which they enrich one another.</li> </ul>

The degree’s offering is supported by the creative and critical interests of Birkbeck staff in drama, theatre, performance and creative writing, and the theatre-making expertise of associate artists. It is additionally enriched by the activities of Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre and its Fellows, that include industry-leading performers, writers, dancers, directors and producers. The programme takes full advantage of Birkbeck’s central London location, surrounded by libraries, museums and arts venues, to introduce students to the most exciting resources and practices taking place across the city. Learning from theatre professionals, students will develop skills that enable them to generate innovative theatre and performance and to work in the creative industries. Students will additionally develop research skills, supported by Graduate Research in Theatre (GRiT) seminar series, that will support them in pursuing further research, including PhD study.

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></p> <p>If English is not your first language or you 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>Graduates of MA Text and Performance should be able to:</p> <p>Subject-specific:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate a critical and creative understanding of the relationship between text and performance that will support the analysis and production of new writing and performance-based artworks;</li> <li>2. Evidence an understanding of text and performance as artistic outputs and research methodologies;</li> <li>3. Demonstrate an understanding of practice-based/led research in theatre and performance, including collaborative theatre making;</li> <li>4. Develop, critically analyse and contextualise texts for/in performance;</li> <li>5. Identify, engage and analyse a variety of approaches to the creation of text and performance that inform contemporary theatre practice;</li> <li>6. Demonstrate historical understanding, theoretical knowledge and a critical vocabulary for understanding the making and production of text and performance;</li> <li>7. Evidence an ability to work collectively and collaboratively in the production of research and artistic outputs;</li> </ol> <p>Intellectual:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Show a comprehensive understanding of different research techniques and methodologies appropriate to taught postgraduate study;</li> <li>9. Demonstrate original and rigorous approaches to artistic practice and research;</li> </ol>

	<p>10. Refine skills in argumentation and analysis;</p> <p>11. Evidence an ability to work through complex ideas intellectually and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;</p> <p>Practical:</p> <p>12. Manage workloads and meet deadlines;</p> <p>13. Develop practice-based skills in communication in and through performance including movement, writing, speech etc.</p> <p>Social and Personal:</p> <p>14. Demonstrate self-direction and creativity in problem-solving;</p> <p>15. Evidence a capacity to work collaboratively in a small group to achieve shared goals;</p> <p>16. Develop transferable skills of value within and beyond the subject including: interpersonal and communication skills; creative thinking and problem solving; initiative and personal responsibility; decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.</p>
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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 guest talks, symposia, performances, readings and workshops presented by 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 exercises</li> <li>• Dissertations (practice-led or academic pathways)</li> </ul>
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18	<p><b>Programme Description</b></p> <p>MA Text and Performance is a highly distinctive programme that explores the dynamic relationship between text and performance, through a combination of theatre practice and academic study. In the studio and workshop, the programme uses voice, movement, playwriting, directing and dramaturgy techniques to create new work. In lectures and seminars, the programme examines historical, philosophical and theoretical materials and ideas to understand contemporary theatre and performance, and the ways in which they</p>
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Year of entry: 2022/23

	<p>are shaped by current concerns and older traditions and legacies. The programme’s unique offering is supported by the creative and critical interests of Birkbeck staff and the theatre-making expertise of associate artists that include Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre Fellows. Learning from theatre professionals, students will develop skills that enable them to generate innovative theatre and performance and to work in the creative industries. Students will additionally develop research skills, supported by Graduate Research in Theatre (GRiT) seminar series, that will support them in pursuing further study, including PhD research. Graduates of iterations of this programme have developed successful careers in theatre, performance, arts management, film, education and academia.</p> <p>The programme consists of 180 credits in compulsory and core modules as shown below.</p>
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19	<b>Programme Structure</b>			
<b>Full Time programme – 1 year</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
7	AREN022S7	Theorising the Contemporary	30	Compulsory
7	ENHU124S7	Introduction to Playwriting	30	Compulsory
7	AREN276S7	Performing Texts	30	Core
7	AREN277S7	Collaborative Theatre Making	30	Core
7	AREN031D7	Dissertation: Theatre and Performance Research	60	Core
<b>Part Time programme – 2 years</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
7	AREN022S7	Theorising the Contemporary	30	Compulsory
7	ENHU124S7	Introduction to Playwriting	30	Compulsory
<b>Year 2</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
7	AREN276S7	Performing Texts	30	Core
7	AREN277S7	Collaborative Theatre Making	30	Core
7	AREN031D7	Dissertation: Theatre and Performance Research	60	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	<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 2022 (for 2022/3)