

Programme specification

BA (Hons) Drama & Dance

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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

<i>School:</i>	Performance and Media Production		
<i>Entry in:</i>	2019	<i>In:</i>	September
<i>Awarding Institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Teaching Institution:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Delivery Location:</i>	York St John University		
<i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i>	Not applicable		
<i>Exit Awards:</i>	BA (Ord) Drama & Dance Diploma of Higher Education Drama & Dance Certificate of Higher Education Drama & Dance		
<i>UCAS Code / GTTR / Other:</i>			
<i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i>	Not applicable		
<i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>	Dance, drama and performance (2007)		
<i>Mode/s of Study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years		
<i>Language of Study:</i>	English		

Introduction and Special Features

This course is a unique opportunity to combine dance and drama in a practice-led, creative and socially engaged programme. It is for students that want to work between and beyond the disciplines of dance and drama and therefore offers a range of module choices that give the freedom to explore a number of aspects of performance: voice, movement, acting, choreography, devising, ensemble, physical theatre. You will study ways of devising performance that draw upon contemporary performance making and asks you to think about the relationship between movement and texts, physicality and performance. The course will include content from both disciplines, with optional specialisms such as dance techniques and writing for performance.

You will be in the studio broadening your dance and drama skills on a daily basis, learning how a range of techniques feed into today's performance scene. You will 'get your hands dirty' devising original choreography, creating theatre images, facilitating others to make work and researching and writing about performance histories and practices.

You will engage in a range of enhancement activities, including a residential field trip with all first year drama and dance students to create work as groups in a site specific context. Other enhancements include theatre trips, in house performances, and the opportunity to perform work made by students in other years, the dance society, theatre-orientated societies and workshops by visiting artists.

Supported by our studio facilities and a cross-disciplinary staff team you will work both independently and in ensemble, learning the craft of contemporary practice in the 21st century and performing and producing work at a professional standard.

Special Features

- **Take part in multiple performances across all years**
All students perform at events throughout the year, platforming work devised and choreographed on module projects and by visiting professional artists.

- **Professional development sessions that run through your entire degree**
These might include intensive weeks with artists such as Lea Anderson, Rita Marcalo and Gary Clarke. Students work with a variety of visiting artists and lecturers that work in the performance 'world' from solo artists to community specialists, and also work beyond the campus with work related learning opportunities which engage directly with the 'industry'.
- **Engage in daily practice, in and outside of modules**
Students have daily technique classes in a range of styles including ballet, yoga, contemporary and hip hop. There are also opportunities to join University Societies that offer Musical Production, Drama, Cheerleading and Dance competitions.
- **Opportunity to study abroad, as part of the University exchange programme**
In semester 1 of Level 5 you may study at one of our international exchange partners.
- **Opportunity to take part in a field trip in each year of the programme**
Field trips are an essential part of your learning that ensures you are immersed in the real world of work. Recent expeditions have included Featherstone Castle, where site specific work was created, Krakow Poland where students spent a day at Auschwitz and, in year three, a trip to a European city where an organised series of workshops and performances were set in place to underpin 3rd year research practice.
- **E-Portfolio**
As part of developing your professional practice, you will be introduced to the e-portfolio in level 4 and continue to build this digital platform throughout your degree. The integration of an e-portfolio into different modules as a learning and reflective tool demonstrates how virtual material can be transformed from a product for consumption to an area of critical discussion, exploration, exchange, dissemination of work and ultimately, the creation of a community.
- **Dialogue day**
Dialogue days are held between staff and students each year. These provide a valuable space for academics and you, the student, to think about and discuss issues that concern us all, e.g. assessment, feedback, learning outcomes, module choices, future careers and the next steps after graduation.
- **Transferable skills**
The learning activities you will take part in during your time on the degree will also present the opportunity to accumulate a set of skills which are highly valuable to employers, such as; creativity, team work, the ability to collaborate, contextual awareness, problem solving, independence, the ability to meet deadlines. In the 1st year you will be asked to compile an audit of transferable skills you already have, then to consider what is your long-term career plan and construct other skills you need to acquire and where on the programme you can get them.

Admissions Criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

- Audition – a group practical workshop assessing basic levels of body awareness, technical skills and ability to work creatively in small group tasks

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme Aims

1. Develop the students' practical and theoretical interest, knowledge and understanding of established, new and emergent drama and dance practices.
2. Facilitate students' understanding of the political, social and cultural significance of drama and dance making and spectating through the analysis of historical and contemporary practices.
3. Encourage individuals and groups to creatively harness their intellectual skills and making skills to compose thoughtful, imaginative and articulate performance works for diverse audiences/spectators/participants.
4. Produce motivated graduates capable of contributing, individually or collaboratively, in drama and dance practice and allied fields as well as employing their skills in a wide variety of presentational and interactive contexts.
5. Foster the continued desirability and significance of embracing new learning opportunities and in making positive, creative contributions to the world around them.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Year 1 / FHEQ L4

1. Demonstrate knowledge of underlying concepts and principles of movement and drama practices and evaluate and interpret these concepts within performance contexts.
2. Evaluate performances, as visual and textual artefacts within a historical and practical context communicating results in a coherent manner.
3. Develop new skills within a structured and managed environment and apply these skills and approaches in making and critiquing dance and drama.
4. Reflect on skills, processes and evaluation of performance in order to refine, select and present work.

5. Demonstrate understanding of professional attitudes, disciplinary boundaries, and cultural frameworks that affect dance and drama practices.

Year 2 / FHEQ L5

1. Apply established principles, and concepts outside the context in which they were first studied, across dance, drama and physical theatre contexts.
2. Critically analyse performances, as visual and textual artefacts within cultural, social and political contexts and effectively communicate arguments and analyses.
3. Apply a range of techniques and approaches to movement, physicality and theatre engaging with the interplay between practice and theory.
4. Reflect critically on their learning, on appropriateness of different approaches and on the limitations of their own knowledge and skills.
5. Exercise personal responsibility and decision-making skills with regard to professional attitudes and disciplinary boundaries within the cultural framework of dance, drama and physical theatre.

Year 3 / FHEQ L6

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of dance, drama and performance concepts and critically evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts in order to make judgements, frame appropriate questions, and achieve a solution.
2. Critically evaluate and cultivate uncertainty, ambiguity and contingency in the knowledge and practice of dance, drama and physical theatre practices in disciplinary and inter-disciplinary contexts.
3. Engage creatively and critically with the creation of performance through a developed, theoretically underpinned, and sensitive understanding of performance vocabularies, techniques, crafts, structures and methods.
4. Apply the practices of reflection, reviewing, consolidation and extending knowledge and understanding to the initiation and execution of projects.
5. Demonstrate an independent, agile and professional deployment of approaches to movement, physicality and theatre exercising personal responsibility and effective decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.

Programme Structure

Modules for the Programme

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1DD001	4	1	Performance Histories 1	20	C
1DD002	4	2	Performance Histories 2	20	C
1DD005	4	1	Ensemble: Dramatic Texts	20	C
1DD006	4	2	Ensemble: Visual Texts	20	C
1DD007	4	1	Acting	20	C
1DD009	4	2	Writing And Theatre	10	O
1DD010	4	2	Workshop Practice	10	C
1DD011	4	2	Dance in Popular Culture	10	O
2DD001	5	1	Politically Engaged Practice 1	20	C
2DD002	5	2	Politically Engaged Practice 2	20	C
2DD005	5	2	Choreography, Site, Environment	20	C
2DD006	5	1	Physical Theatres	20	CA
2DD007	5	1	Auto/biography Performance	20	O
2DD008	5	2	Artist as Witness	20	O
2DD009	5	1	Children & Young People	20	O ¹
2DD010	5	2	Performance in Social Context	20	O ¹
2DD013	5	1	Drama & Digital Media	20	O
2DD016	5	1	Politics and the Play	20	O ¹
2DD015	5	2	Funny Bones	20	O
2DD012	5	2	Writing After Beckett	20	O
3DD023	6	1&2	Independent Practice and Research (Drama and Dance)	40	CA
3DD011	6	1	Contemporary Performance Practice 1: Form a company	20	C
3DD012	6	2	Contemporary Performance Practice 2: Commission	20	C
3DD024	6	1	Dissertation	20	C
3DD018	6	2	Professional Portfolio (Drama & Dance)	20	CA

***C**: Compulsory, **CP**: Compulsory for progression to the next level, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

To see how the modules are laid out in the year and what other activities are timetables, see appendix one.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Central to teaching of BA Drama & Dance is the understanding that learning takes place through physical, intellectual and emotional engagement. The objective being the creation of drama/dance processes, dance/theatre images and experiences that are resonant with meanings for an audience. The creation, composition, performance and documentation of these images occur with a strong sense of social engagement, i.e. these images and experiences have a purpose. On this programme you will develop your understanding through a feeling-thinking-action loop embracing critical enquiry, contextual awareness and creative actualisation.

¹ If modules are running, students can only take 0 or 20 credits from 2DD009, 2DD010 and 2DD016

The programme is designed so you, the student, can work, create and study alongside the tutors in enquiry based learning, and take charge of developing the individual direction of your learning. This will be captured through the creation of live works for public consumption, field trips, meeting and working with various 'community' groups and creating documents. Alongside the doing and making of dance you will also be required to engage with critical and philosophical theory, reading what at times may at first glance appear to be complex and difficult texts. You will be required to think and analyse these texts in order to deepen your own learning and bring this understanding to bear on the creation of drama & dance processes, theatre images and experiences.

First year - Craft, Context and Creativity

The first year of the programme will take your existing knowledge and skills and develop them in a variety of ways. You will develop key crafts in contemporary drama and dance including movement invention, choreography, anatomical awareness, devising and performing theatre images, the foundations of good teaching practice and learn to work creatively in groups. You will also gain an understanding of how contemporary practice sits within historical contexts.

The first year of the BA Drama & Dance programme includes modules taught with students from other degrees (e.g. BA Drama & Theatre, BA Drama: Education & Community, BA Dance: Education & Community, BA Dance). This allows you to become part of a wider performance community and form connections that will support you throughout your degree. You be able to choose in semester 2 between a dance module (Experiential Anatomy) and a drama module (Writing for Theatre).

Second Year - Application and Specialism

In your second year you apply the techniques and knowledges learned from the first year and deepen your skills through increasing specialism, developing expertise in your own areas of interest. You apply these abilities to dance and performance making in a range of contexts whilst considering its relationship to the world around you. During this year you will specialise in drama and dance via the two compulsory modules (semester 1: Choreography, Site, Environment; semester 2: Physical Theatre).

A range of option modules are offered, all which embed specific ethos of practice, reflection and criticality. These modules complement the Politically Engaged Practices modules and encourage you to engage in assessments that will further examine your enhanced knowledge enriched through its content. This includes exploring topics such as cultural memory, identity politics, ecology and how they relate to activism.

Third Year - Independence and Industry

In your final year you will work as both an independent artist and as a member of a performance company, developing work from research and development to actualisation. You will be supported in positioning yourself and your portfolio of skills as you prepare to for your chosen career.

This year offers you the opportunity to further develop your own practice as a thinker, writer maker of drama and dance. Semester 1 in your third year is focussed on developing ideas and practices that in semester 2 will become drama & dance works. These works will become key part to your future career aspirations which will be fully articulated in the portfolio of skills you will have been developing over the 3 years.

As part of the enhancement of your experience in the third year you will go on residential field trip to a European city, offering you the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of European drama & dance artists as well as the dance culture outside Britain. You will fulfil your own individual and small group research tasks that might comprise of interviewing a particular artist or company, going to see a performance work or accessing an archive.

You will be taught through practical workshop, lectures, seminars in small groups, tutorials, ethnographic field trips, and visiting guest artists (such as Mole Wetherall, Rita Marcalo, Lea Anderson, York Theatre Royal, see Performing House).

The complementary combination of practice and theory enriches the learning experience allowing skills and knowledge introduced in year one to evolve throughout the duration of the programme. You will have the opportunity to:

- Develop your dance vocabulary and presence as a performer, becoming more physically aware and imaginative when devising movement for new choreographic work.
- Work as an ensemble bringing creative explorations of dance and theatre practices to performance. This work will conclude with an ensemble performance of a new work where students are invited to consider themselves as composers, performers and documenters.
- Practice as an ensemble alongside BA Drama & Theatre students in devising a large collaborative outdoor piece of performance for the opening of the School of Performance and Media's create festival at the end of the academic year.
- Engage in experiential anatomy learning how to prevent injury and increasing your knowledge of how skeletal and muscular structures can develop your practice as an articulate, expressive performer.
- Develop your skills as a workshop leader, a key skill in drama & dance whether working with communities or young people to running a rehearsal with professional dancers.

These activities support you to focus on specific specialisms in the 2nd year of your study.

These may include:

- Devising for performance
- Community and performance
- Performance technologies

Assessment

The purpose of assessment on BA Drama & Dance is to offer structures through which you learn (assessment as learning; rather than assessment of learning). Assessment has to be of value to you as a student and should reflect the real world

These assessments take the form of performances (large group, small group, duet and solo), workshops, reflective documents, 'zines, reports & articles, essays and performance lectures. This range of assessment intends to cover possible scenarios which prepare you to pursue your professional or academic aspirations. The assessments on the programme are carefully considered to be of value to you, the student, and reflect experiences and situations beyond the classroom.

Progression and Graduation Requirements

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Further Information

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (School)
- Module handbooks (School)

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QSC PASP 22.11.17 approved amendments – 1DD007 replaced 1DD003 wef 2017/8 and 1DD011 replaced 1DD008 wef 2017/8

QSC PASP 29.5.18 approved L5 and L6 changes

QSC PASP 30.08.19 – approved addition of 2DD016