

Programme specification

BA (Hons) Drama & Theatre

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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

<i>School:</i>	Performance and Media Production		
<i>Entry from:</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 & Theatre Diploma of Higher Education Drama & Theatre Certificate of Higher Education Drama & Theatre		
<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

In the Drama & Theatre course traditional and contemporary forms of drama and theatre are encountered, reimagined and celebrated. We place high importance on 'studio based' practice where visual and textual interpretation through playing and experimenting with contemporary forms are encouraged. Through our partnerships and relationships with professional bodies we encourage a culture of outward facing opportunities for our students. Our practice-led course offers you an opportunity to engage in a rich and diverse range of contemporary performance practices. You will act in plays, devise original works, write theatre shows, and facilitate others to make exciting and challenging projects. The history of drama in the context of 20th and 21st century performance will open your mind to the complexities and the importance on the study of practice. Supported by our excellent studio facilities and expert staff team, who are all practicing artists and scholars, you will work both independently and in ensemble to learn the craft of drama for a wide range of audiences.

Our special features offer enhancement activities such as field trips in the UK and Europe that feed directly into large scale creative projects. Our touring venue Performing House welcomes theatre shows from professionals currently touring the circuit. Festivals will enable students to showcase their work and raise their profile through our very own magazine Theatre Pages and all students have an opportunity to be entered into the York Theatre Royal prize. Our visiting artist list is impressive as we regularly invite internationally renowned practitioners to our campus to share their work with you through artist talks and workshop activity.

Special Features

- The academics who teach on programme are experienced theatre practitioners, writers and researchers whose works are performed and presented both nationally and internationally.
- A first year 3-day visit to a historic site in the UK to engage in creative workshop activity for performance.
- An end of year large outdoor performance to a public audience.

- A field trip to Europe to visit a site of cultural importance as stimulus and critical thinking that leads towards a large scale production.
- Opportunities to study abroad for a semester in the USA or Europe.
- Engage in daily practice in voice and movement sessions.
- Opportunities to develop creative projects with other year groups and with postgraduate students.
- Establishing your own theatre company and entering your work as a commission for the CREATE Festival.
- Encouragement to enter your performance for the York Theatre Royal Prize.
- Working with staff on their creative research projects.

Admission Criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study. 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.yorks.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 theatre practices.
2. Facilitate students' understanding of the political, social and cultural significance of drama processes and theatre making and spectating through the analysis of historical and contemporary practices.
3. Encourage individuals and groups to creatively harness their intellectual and practical abilities to compose thoughtful, imaginative and articulate performances for diverse audiences/spectators/participants.
4. Produce motivated graduates capable of contributing, individually or collaboratively, in drama and theatre practice and allied fields as well as employing their skills in a wide variety of presentational and interactive contexts.
5. Foster individuals with a lifelong interest in 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 drama and theatre 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 dramatic and performance skills within a structured and managed environment and apply these skills and approaches in making and critiquing theatre.
4. Reflect on skills, processes and evaluation of their own performance practices in order to refine, select and present further work.
5. Demonstrate understanding of professional attitudes, disciplinary boundaries, and cultural frameworks that impact on theatre making.

Year 2 / FHEQ L5

1. Apply established principles, and concepts outside the context in which they were first studied, across theatre and performance 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 theatrical and performance techniques and approaches to drama 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 wider culture of drama, theatre and performance,

Year 3 / FHEQ L6

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of drama processes and theatre making 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 drama and theatre performance.
3. Engage creatively and critically with the creation of drama and theatre performances 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 drama 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 Practices 1	20	C
2DD002	5	2	Politically Engaged Practices 2	20	C
2DD007	5	1	Auto/Biography Into 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
2DD005	5	2	Choreography, Site, Environment	20	O
2DD006	5	1	Physical Theatres	20	O
2DD011	5	1	Intertext	20	O
2DD012	5	2	Writing After Beckett	20	O
2DD016	5	1	Politics and the Play	20	O
2DD013	5	1	Drama & Digital Media	20	O
2DD014	5	1	Funny Words	20	O
3DD019	6	1&2	Independent Practice and Research (Drama and Theatre)	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
3DD014	6	2	Professional Portfolio (Drama & Theatre)	20	CA

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

Please note that not all options will be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability

¹ Students can only take 0 or 20 credits from 2DD009 and 2DD010

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Central to teaching drama and theatre is the understanding that learning takes place through physical, intellectual and emotional engagement. The objective being the creation of drama processes, 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.

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 theatre 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 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 theatre (including acting, writing, devising and workshop practices) 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 & Theatre programme includes modules taught with students from other degrees (e.g. BA Dance, BA Drama: Education & Community). This allows you to become part of a wider performance community and form connections that will support you throughout your degree.

Second Year - Application and Specialism

In your second year you apply the techniques and knowledge learned in the first year and deepen your skills through increasing specialism; allowing you to develop expertise in your own areas of interest. You apply these abilities to drama, theatre and performance making in a range of contexts whilst considering its relationship to the world around you.

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 theatre. Semester 1 in your third year is focussed on developing ideas and practices that in semester 2 will become drama & theatre 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 three years.

As part of the enhancement of your experience in the third year you will go on a residential field trip to a major cultural hub (i.e. London, Berlin, Paris) to fulfil your own individual and small group research tasks. These 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, Clean Break, Cardboard citizens, 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. This will be delivered through:

- Acting (voice and movement techniques) normally assessed through an extended duet from a pre-existing play text and taught in collaboration with York Theatre Royal.
- Working as an ensemble in bringing a dramatic text to performance, this has recently included Hamlet by William Shakespeare and the Birthday Party by Harold Pinter. This work will conclude with an ensemble performance of the chosen text.
- Practice as an ensemble in devising a large outdoor piece of drama & theatre for the opening of the School of Performance and Media Production's *Create* festival at the end of the academic year.
- Engage in writing for theatre which will allow you to find your 'voice' as a writer across many modes (monologues, dialogues, plays, spoken word). Within this module you will perform in a venue in the city of York as part of a 'soirée' and also produce a 'zine of your writings.
- Developing skills as a workshop leader, a key skill in Drama & Theatre whether working with communities or young people to running a rehearsal with professional actors.

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

- Devising for performance
- Writing for theatre
- Community and performance
- Performance technologies
- Performance making (in collaboration with Dance)

Assessment

The purpose of assessment on BA Drama & Theatre 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)

Date written / revised: July 2017

QSC PASP 29.5.18 approved amendments to L5 and L6

QSC PASP 30.08.19 – approved addition of 2DD016