

Programme Specification

Award and title: BA (Hons) Musical Theatre

<i>School:</i>	Arts
<i>Subject area:</i>	Performance
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2027-28
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York Campus
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Musical Theatre Diploma of Higher Education Musical Theatre BA (Ord) Musical Theatre
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Dance, Drama and Performance (2019) Music (2019)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study ¹ for full time / part time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

This unique Musical Theatre programme places an emphasis on acting, singing and music making, dance and choreography, composing and devising skills, and making new work that has aesthetic and social significance. It will ignite creativity, inspire, and equip innovative, original and compassionate musical theatre makers of the future. As such, the degree is designed around five key strands that will support you towards achieving your professional goals:

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated; please refer to the Regulations for Undergraduate/Taught Postgraduate/Professional Doctorate Awards <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/regulations/> for information on standard periods of study

Performance (Delivering)

As a student on this programme, you will focus on performing musical theatre as soloists, ensemble practitioners and community performance practitioners. You will sing, dance, and act in musical theatre in a whole range of professional contexts. You will have regular extra-curricular dance technique classes in a range of styles including ballet and jazz – the styles depend on student demand and global significance to dance and musical theatre. Singing lessons will also support your vocal skills and strengthen your performance abilities and confidence.

Production (Making)

Whilst studying this Musical Theatre degree, you will create new work, learning how to devise and compose for musical theatre that has significance for yourself as an artist and impact on the communities that receive and engage with it.

Professional Practice and Communications (Networking and Collaboration)

As a student, you will have the opportunity to work, create and study alongside the tutors, professional organisations, and community and educational partners, placing yourself at the centre of your own learning through the creation of live works for public consumption. You will learn how to communicate with a variety of professionals and audiences towards achieving your own professional work.

Reflective Practice (Safe, Ethical and Informed)

You will develop your learning through the 'feeling-thinking-action' loop concurrently with critical enquiry, contextual awareness and self-motivation, summed up by the term 'enquiry-based learning'.

Research for Practice and Methodology (Relevant, Engaging and Impactful)

Central to the teaching and learning of BA Musical Theatre is the understanding (physically, intellectually and emotionally) of what is required in the creation of a work, which is composite and resonant with meanings for an audience. The creation, composition, performance and documentation of work occur within a strong sense of social engagement, i.e. these pieces that you create have a purpose.

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.
- *Visiting Artists*
Students are offered opportunities to work with visiting artists/practitioners in the fields of theatre and screen.
- *York Theatre Royal*
We have a long history of working with York Theatre Royal and they are key partners in developing and sustaining this unique programme.
- *Field Trips*
Field trips are a valuable part of your learning that ensures you are immersed in the real world of work. Please note that if you wish to attend field trips then you may be required to fund, or part fund your trip.

Study Abroad

You will have an opportunity to study abroad as part of the University exchange programme (semester 1 of Level 5). In recent years students have gone on to exchange at: University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; Pacific University, Oregon, USA; Keene State College, New Hampshire, USA; Juniata College, Pennsylvania, USA; Metropolia University, Helsinki, Finland.

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, critical thinking, team work, the ability to collaborate, contextual awareness, problem solving, independence, the ability to meet strict deadlines.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must have:

- Practical experience in the subject area, shown in personal statement and/or audition.

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 [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

Upon graduation you will be a versatile performer and musical theatre creator who will have the skillset to work within and for a wide variety of contexts that make a direct impact on our communities within both the commercial and educational sectors. To reflect this, the Musical Theatre programme aims to help students develop:

1. as creative, innovative musical theatre artists and makers who draw on a range of both experimental and traditional techniques and strategies through their work,
2. as curious researchers who can present ideas through a variety of musical theatre styles and approaches to a range of professional theatre and community audiences
3. as professional musical theatre practitioners, performers and makers who positively impact the communities they may serve locally, nationally and globally.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Demonstrate individual performance skills through guided tasks and rehearsals, developing the ability to handle and present repertoire.
- 4.2 Recognise and respond to key elements of musical theatre texts, scores, and performances, using appropriate terminology.
- 4.3 Explore how musical theatre can communicate ideas and emotions and connect with an audience, putting this into practice through research and performance.
- 4.4 Demonstrate a foundational theoretical understanding of performance techniques and dramatic processes used in musical theatre.
- 4.5 Use self-reflection to explore their strengths, challenges, and learning needs as a developing performer.
- 4.6 Understand devising, choreography, or composition techniques when exploring creative and collaborative processes.
- 4.7 Engage with group-based creative tasks, contributing to the planning and delivery of musical theatre projects.
- 4.8 Work effectively as part of an ensemble, contributing to group performances and understanding the role of the ensemble in musical theatre.

Level 5

- 5.1 Refine and apply individual performance skills in response to varied creative briefs, exhibiting disciplined independent practice and confidence as a performer.
- 5.2 Analyse a range of musical theatre texts, scores, and performances, using relevant academic frameworks and language.
- 5.3 Develop an understanding of how musical theatre can communicate and connect with audiences, exploring theatre's capacity to inspire, challenge, and connect.
- 5.4 Develop a confident and nuanced theoretical understanding of performance techniques and dramatic processes in the context of musical theatre.
- 5.5 Apply structured reflective practices to critically evaluate your development as a practitioner.
- 5.6 Develop original performance material through devising, choreography, or composition, demonstrating growing artistic identity and an understanding of creative and collaborative practices.
- 5.7 Participate in collaborative projects, taking on responsibility and contributing to both creative and logistical aspects of performance work.
- 5.8 Develop integrated ensemble performance skills, demonstrating effective collaboration across the disciplines of acting, singing, and dance.

Level 6

- 6.1 Demonstrate complex individual performance skills, including the ability to work independently to a professional standard and command a performance space.
- 6.2 Independently research, analyse, interpret and evaluate complex works of musical theatre—including texts, scores, and live performances—and articulate findings using appropriate academic and professional formats.
- 6.3 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the transformative and emotional potential of Musical Theatre as an art form and how it can communicate purposeful messages to an audience.
- 6.4 Demonstrate a complex and versatile theoretical understanding of performance techniques and dramatic processes within a range of musical theatre contexts.
- 6.5 Engage in rigorous critical reflective practice as part of ongoing professional development and career sustainability.
- 6.6 Devise and present original performance work through a synthesis of creative techniques that demonstrate professional-level artistic voice, innovation, and clarity of intent.
- 6.7 Contribute professionally to the creative and logistical aspects of complex collaborative projects, demonstrating an advanced level of creative practice and leadership.
- 6.8 Exhibit advanced ensemble performance skills, collaborating to a professional level while integrating acting, singing, and dance in group performance contexts.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
PER4026M	4	1	Voice for Musical Theatre	20	C	X
PER4027M	4	1	Sustainable Musical Theatre Practice	20	C	X
PER4029M	4	1&2	Musical Theatre Analysis and Research	20	C	X
PER4028M	4	1&2	Dance for Musical Theatre	20	C	X
PER4031M	4	2	Character Development	20	C	X
PER4033M	4	2	Cabaret	20	C	X
PER5026M	5	1	Dance and Choreographic Practice	20	C	X
PER5027M	5	1	Making Musical Theatre	20	C	X
PER5028M	5	1	Professional Practice	20	C	X
PER5032M	5	2	Acting Through Song	20	C	X
PER5035M	5	2	Professional Production	20	C	X
PER5029M	5	2	Acting for Screen	20	O	X
PER5031M	5	2	Performance in Community Context	20	O	X
PER6012M	6	1	Musical Theatre Showcase	20	C	X
PER6013M	6	1	Company: Research	20	C	X
PER6017M	6	2	Company: Commission	20	C	X
PER6018M	6	2	Repertoire	20	C	X
PER6015M	6	1&2	Individual Research	40	C	NC

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

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level with a mark of 40 in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

Whilst on the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre, you will learn through experience. This is achieved by direct engagement with practical activity in musical theatre, theatre and dance, and through considered reflection on experiences and the key theories which underpin that practice.

You will be taught through lectures, seminars in small groups, practical workshops, tutorials, peer-to-peer learning and performing in public contexts.

Teaching activities are student-centred, putting your needs and the quality of experience first. At levels 5 and 6 there is an increased focus on the development of artistic specialisms, professional values, and on graduate employability.

All current research is integrated into the learning and teaching and embedded in activities is a critical understanding of how learning occurs in musical theatre contexts. On the staff teaching team we have artists who have written and produced full length musical theatre works. We have a range of partners, including York Theatre Royal, Converge, International Centre for Community Music and many other artists who we work closely with in York community who our researchers create work with and generate many opportunities for our students. Nearly all these partnerships have been developed through the international

research of our lecturing team and our students benefit from their research expertise and intern opportunities as well as experiencing this new impactful work within the curriculum. There are many opportunities for our students to gain placements or work-based experience with our partners or on professional projects run by our staff team. These opportunities can range from understudying in professional theatre with a public matinee performance, gaining a graduate prize where your work is mentored by York Theatre Royal, facilitating creative work within schools, possibly towards public showcases and festivals, or gaining paid experience on a project as a student intern.

You will have an academic tutor, and tutorial support is available in all modules. There are no formal examinations. Assessment takes place through the submission of coursework: including essays, reflective writing, portfolios, vivas and live events such as presentations and performances.

Programme Activities to Enhance the Teaching and Learning Experience

At every level BA (Hons) Musical Theatre allows the opportunity for you to engage in activities across modules and beyond the classroom. Noted below are examples of activities that enhance your learning experience.

- Industry Guests and Theatre Visits
- Co-Create festival: you will get the opportunity to be part of this festival through the Professional Production, Repertoire and/or Company modules;
- York Theatre Royal placement
- Opportunities to engage in national festivals

The learning activities that 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; creativity, teamwork, the ability to collaborate, contextual awareness, problem solving, independence, and the ability to meet deadlines. At Level 5, 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.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [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 as non-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University for Social Impact Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: