

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Business

School of Society and Culture

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre
7157

Date of Approval: July 2021

Approved Final Version for
September 2022

1. BA

Final award title:	BA (Hons) Musical Theatre
Level 5 Intermediate award title(s)	Diploma in Higher Education
Level 4 Intermediate award title(s)	Certificate in Higher Education
UCAS code:	W312
HECOS code:	100035

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body(ies):** N/A

Date of re-accreditation: N/A

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

- Award-winning and purpose-built performing arts centre, The House, comprising fully accessible and state-of-the-art studios and theatre facilities.
- Showcase productions
- Main house productions
- Digital showcase
- Dedicated training with Head of Voice and Head of Movement
- In collaboration with Theatre Royal Plymouth

5. Specialist Facilities

Below is a summary of the Musical Theatre programme's facilities. Students enrolled on the degree can book spaces and equipment via an online booking system that is introduced during induction week in their first year at the University. All the programme's spaces are fully accessible.

- **The House Theatre:** a state-of-the-art performance theatre with a retractable seating capacity of 214 and a standing capacity of 400. The

auditorium has a sprung floor, dressing room facilities, licensed bar, and comprehensive technical infrastructure, including high specification lighting, projection, and sound systems.

- **The House Studio:** a flexible, sprung floor studio performance and rehearsal space with full technical lighting and sound infrastructure, dressing rooms, professional filming equipment, and upright piano. The studio has seating and standing capacities of 35 and 50, respectively, and can facilitate rehearsals with up to 30 people.
- **Roland Levinsky Building Performance Studios:** a suite of three performance and rehearsal studios with standing capacities of 30, 28, and 25. These studios are fitted with lighting and sound systems, have sprung floors, and are home to specialist equipment such as ballet bars, wall fitted mirrors, and upright pianos.
- **Roland Levinsky Building Theatre:** a 279 capacity theatre with sprung floor stage and comprehensive technical infrastructure, including lighting, projection, and sound systems.
- **Rolle Building Music Facilities:** a suite of Music rehearsal spaces including six sound-isolated practice booths with pianos, electronic drum kits, and Apple Mac Pro computers; a music recording studio; and two large music performance workshop studios. Students can loan Music equipment such as guitar amps, microphones, and musical instruments from an equipment store in the Rolle building.
- **Scott Building Music Technology Facilities:** a suite of Music Technology facilities including an iMac suite with industry-standard music and film production software, a recording studio, two mixing and mastering booths, and a TV filming studio. The Scott Building is also home to the Media Hub where students can loan equipment such as microphones, cameras, and lighting.
- **Technical Support:** the School of Society and Culture has four performing arts technicians who maintain the Musical Theatre's facilities and equipment, provide technical services to productions, and support students with technical matters throughout their degree.

6. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA Subject Benchmark for [Drama, Music and Performance](#) (2019).

7. Programme Structure

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
ACT4002 Page to Stage 1: The Physical Action 20 Credits	MTH4001 History and Context of Musical Theatre 20 Credits
MUS4001 Performance 1: Introduction to Performance 20 Credits	MTH4002 Ensemble Singing 20 Credits
MTH4003 Technique and Repertory 20 Credits	MTH4004 Performing the Canon: Gilbert and Sullivan to Lin-Manuel Miranda 20 Credits

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC500 Stage 2 Placement Year Preparation 0 Credits	
PER5002 Performance Practices 20 Credits	MUS5005 Performance 2: Ensemble Performance 20 Credits
MTH5002 Showcase 2 20 Credits	MTH5003 Main House Production 2 20 Credits
Choose one:	Choose one:
Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits	Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits

Optional Placement Year	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC600 School of Society and Culture Placement Year 0 Credits	

Level 6	
Semester 1	Semester 2
PER6001 Dissertation 40 Credits	
MTH6001 Audition technique 20 Credit	MTH6002 Showcase 3: Digital Showcase 20 Credits

Choose one:	
Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits	MTH6003 Final Main House Production 3: Final Major Show 20 Credits

Specialism Modules

All undergraduate programmes in the School of Society and Culture have been designed to enable students to personalise their degree through a wide assortment of optional modules. These allow students to study more topics related to their core degree or branch out and explore up to three modules from other disciplines across the School. This flexibility starts in the second year, with students being able to choose one module from within cross-school elective pools at level 5 semester 1, level 5 semester 2, and level 6 semester 1. These are marked by the term *Specialism Module* in the programme structure above.

Students can elect to take any combination of modules from the three cross-school elective pools, and options will always be available from their core degree subject. However, students who complete three modules from another discipline will have the choice of graduating with that discipline as a specialism on their certificate: BA (Hons) Musical Theatre with <specialism>. The School offers modules in the following areas:

- Acting
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Computing
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Drama
- English
- History
- International Relations
- Law
- Music
- Musical Theatre
- Politics
- Policing and Security Management
- Sociology

A list of available specialism modules and their associated learning outcomes can be found in the School of Society and Culture's Specialism Specification and on the programme's webpage.

8. Programme Aims

The aim of the Programme is to give experiences of the realisation of Musical Theatre performance: of techniques, processes, methodologies and genres, and for these experiences to provide the basis for a lifelong engagement in the development, production, understanding and analysis of these performance forms.

Graduates will be supported to develop the skills and expertise necessary to meet the expectations of the theatre industry today, and will be inspired and encouraged to redefine and refine these needs for the future as they work and develop as practitioners.

9. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

9.1 Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates will have developed knowledge and understanding of:

1. Specific performance vocabularies, techniques, crafts, structures and key professional and creative working methods in the broad field of performance (4.2.3; 4.2.7 QAA)
2. Key practitioners and practices and/or theorists and their cultural and/or historical contexts, of musical theatre and of related practices (4.2.4 QAA)
3. Cultural frameworks that surround musical theatre and other performance events and on which these events impinge (4.2.2 QAA)

9.2 Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

1. The ability to describe, interpret and analyse performance texts, production techniques and disciplines and performance events, using a range of specific strategies and methods (4.3.3 QAA)
2. An intelligent engagement with the interplay between current practice and theory within the field of performance, and an understanding of the lineages of these ideas (4.3.1 QAA)
3. An intelligent engagement with varied forms, practices, traditions, theories and histories of performance not exclusive to musical theatre, and theoretical explanations of these (4.3.2 QAA)

9.3 Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed the ability to:

1. Work individually and as part of a group showing self-motivation, critical self-awareness, and an ability to manage time and resources according to specific objectives, deadlines, or job roles (5.8.1 QAA)
2. Engage in appropriate independent research (5.7.2 QAA)
3. Formulate ideas and express these to others in an appropriate form (5.9.1 QAA)

9.4 Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed:

1. Understanding of the possibilities for performance implied by a text and/or musical score and abilities in realising these sources through performance, to a high standard (5.2.4 QAA)
2. Ability to contribute to the creation and/or production of musical theatre performance through a skilled practical understanding of appropriate performance vocabularies, techniques, crafts, structures and working methods (5.2.1 QAA)
3. Competency in utilising digital skills and platforms to promote and market their own performance work. (5.10.3 QAA)

9.5 Practical skills

On successful completion graduates will have developed skills and proficiencies in:

1. Interpreting dramatic texts and musical scores, and transitioning these from page to stage to produce a high, professional standard of performance (5.2.2 QAA)
2. Utilising collective processes and the interplay between the performers' internal resources and the resources of the group, managing difference and conflict to achieve outcomes (5.8.2; 5.8.3; 5.8.4; 5.8.5 QAA)
3. Processes of production, design and rehearsal by which musical theatre performance is created, and have experience of their realisation and presentation in performance (5.2.1 QAA)

10. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

Applicants will be invited to submit a link to a showreel (maximum length 10 minutes), including one theatre monologue and two songs (one ballad and one up-tempo in contracting styles). They will also be invited to a dance workshop audition where they

will also be asked to sing a song of their choice. The criteria for selection applied to these audition materials are:

- evidence of a serious, ongoing commitment to a career in Musical Theatre
- evidence of fluent written and spoken English.
- evidence of trainable vocal, physical and imaginative/emotional skills.
- evidence of potential benefit from the study of Musical Theatre offered at Plymouth.
- evidence of an ability to understand, interpret and embody a dramatic text, musical scores and choreography.
- evidence of an ability to participate in group or ensemble situations
- an open, receptive and enquiring mind.
- enthusiasm and readiness for rigorous work requiring sustained concentration.
- a sense of language and rhythm, and the potential for identification with the thought process of a dramatic text through song.
- the ability to portray and inhabit an imagined or fictional situation.
- physical, vocal and imaginative/emotional skills with significant theatrical potential.

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade 4 or above (equivalent to a Grade C as per the GSCE grading system until 2017).

Entry Requirements for BA (Hons) Musical Theatre	
A-level/AS-level	Normal minimum entry requirements are A level/AS level/Vocational A level: 104-112 points
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Grade Pass MMM - DMM in any subject.
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subject, including GCSE English and Maths grade 4 or above or equivalent with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	Accept as add on points; in addition to 2 A Levels
Scottish Qualifications Authority	104-120 points
Irish Leaving Certificate	Obtain H4, H4, H4, H4, H4 - H3 H3 H4 H4 H4 (all at Higher level)
International Baccalaureate	26-30 overall to include 4 at in any subjects at Higher Level. English accepted within Higher Level = 4+ (A1) or 5 (A2/B) Standard Level = 5+ (A1) or 6 (A2/B) If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.

11. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

Certificate in Higher Education	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 .
Diploma in Higher Education	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
BA (Hons) Musical Theatre	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.

12. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

13. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

N/A

Appendices

Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core modules

Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes
CORE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)												Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical				
		Knowledge & understanding			Cognitive & intellectual skills			Key & transferable skills			Employment related skills					Practical skills			
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3			1	2	3	
Level 4	ACT4002													x	x	x	Y	100% P1	
	MUS4001	x						x							x		x	Y	100% P1
	MTH4003							x			x	x			x	x	x	Y	100% P1
	MTH4001	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								Y	100% C1
	MTH4002										x	x			x	x	x	Y	100% P1
	MTH4004										x	x			x	x	x	Y	100% P1
Level 4 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			
Level 5	PER5002	x	x	x	x	x	x										Y	100% P1	
	MUS5005											x	x		x	x	x	Y	100% P1
	MTH5002											x	x		x	x	x	Y	100% P1
	MTH5003											x	x		x	x	x	Y	100% P1
Level 5 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x							x	x	x			
Level 6	PER6001	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						x	N	100% C1	
	MTH6001									x	x		x				Y	100% P1	

	MTH6002										x	x	x	x			Y	100% P1
	MTH6003	x												x	x	x	Y	100% P1
	Level 6 LOs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Confirmed Award LOs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		