Plymouth University

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

School of Humanities and Performing Arts

Programme Specification

BA Theatre & Performance

Approved by Minor Change 12/11/14
1. **BA**

   Final award title  
   BA (Hons) Theatre & Performance

   Level 4 Intermediate award title  
   Certificate of Higher Education Theatre & Performance

   Level 5 Intermediate award title  
   Diploma of Higher Education Theatre & Performance

   UCAS code: W400  
   JACS code: P60

2. **Awarding Institution:** Plymouth University

   Teaching institution(s): Plymouth University

3. **Accrediting body(ies)**

   N/A

4. **Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

   - The programme fosters a spirit of curiosity about the role and function of performance from its formal expression in theatre to its occurrence in everyday life.
   - A programme that supports diverse learners and enables students to evidence skills and understanding in a variety of different assessment modes.
   - The programme encourages innovation and produces skilled theatre makers of contemporary live performance and students who have developed their own artistic voice over the three year period of study.
   - Provides opportunities to study abroad as an exchange student to Universities in Sweden, Canada, America and Lithuania.
Promotes new ways of thinking about performance and offers an approach which is cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary.

The theatre and performance subject co-ordinates and platforms a rich and diverse performance programme in association with Peninsula Arts, the University’s cultural umbrella organisation and also links closely with the regional theatres and arts organisations in Plymouth to create exciting learning and work experience opportunities.

Students on core modules Performance Labs 1 & 2 engage in peer mentoring, leading workshops, master classes, practitioner talks and are encouraged to engage with external theatre events and activities to develop their career portfolio.

The programme hosts an employers forum for students to network with employers and artists and showcase their performance work in Plymouth and at other city venues.

5. **Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)**

- Dance, Drama & Performance (2007):
  http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/DDP07.pdf

6. **Programme Structure**

See appendix one.

7. **Programme Aims**

1. To engage students, historically, aesthetically and culturally with the key figures, movements and cross-disciplinary developments of contemporary Western Theatre and Performance.
2. To enable students to realise a dynamic relationship between theory and practice and articulate embodied understanding.
3. To enable students to consistently reflect upon their academic and professional development.
4. To create opportunities for students to engage with models of professional practice and learning outside of the formal curriculum.
5. To familiarise students with aspects of the practical experimentation and theoretical arguments occurring within the major strands of World Theatre.
6. To develop in students a practical awareness and understanding of the skills, techniques, forms and styles necessary to create effective and innovative theatre and performance.
7. To develop students' skills in communication, analysis and research to articulate a
critical understanding of key aspects of theatre and performance disciplines
8. To promote the intellectual, creative and personal growth of each student and develop
confident and autonomous learners

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. (KU 1) Knowledge of the key terminologies, discourses, and theories of 20th and
   21st century Western theatre which help to develop a critical practice and develop
   an understanding of the complex relationship between culture, theatre, politics
   and ideology.
2. (KU 2) A practical and conceptual awareness of contemporary approaches to
   making performance and ability to engage  with theatre and performance theory
   and discourses, leading to insight and knowledge gained through the symbiotic
   relationship between theory and practice
3. (KU 3) A theoretical and practical understanding of the relationship between the
   major elements of performer, space and spectator and its centrality in all
   performance and an understanding of the requirement to construct meaning and
   aesthetic coherence in performance structures and forms

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. (CI 1) the ability to analyse complex concepts and theories and to use this
   understanding to develop new insight and independent, critical thinking
2. (CI 2) the ability to structure and organise materials effectively and develop
   intelligent, convincing arguments supported by theoretical and practical
   knowledge
3. (CI 3) the ability to document and communicate a research process and findings
   fluently and coherently in appropriate modes.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. (KT1) evidence a competency in the application of creative, imaginative, practical
   ,critical and analytical skills.
2. (KT2) communicate effectively in writing and orally and adhere to scholarly conventions and utilise reflexive, critical and independent thinking and ability to undertake independent research.

3. (KT3) evidence strong interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively in the group context while still pursuing individual goals

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. (E 1) Skills in self-promotion, networking, flexibility and adaptability, team work and leadership
2. (E 2) The ability to plan, time manage and organise projects with external partners where appropriate to the study
3. (E 3) The confidence and ability to liaise effectively with outside professional arts practitioners and organisations

8.5. Practical skills

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

1. (P 1) their performance skills and individual artistic voice and expression
2. (P 2) utilising practical awareness and application of the inter-relationships between performer, space and elements of design which produce a unified meaning and performance aesthetic
3. (P 3) the ability to devise, structure and refine their own performance materials outcomes and to engage creatively and critically with the skills and processes required in rehearsals and productions

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

2013 entry : 280 points, C at GCSE English

14-19 Diplomas: – please enquire

International Baccalaureate: 27 points (inc. three subjects at higher level and a Theatre and performance related subject at A2)

IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent

(APEL) Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning and (APCL) Accreditation of Prior Credit Learning: This programme will comply with the standard policy on Advanced Prior
Experiential Learning and Advanced Prior Certified Learning as defined in the University of Plymouth Academic Regulations

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

Students achieving a total of 120 credits will be entitled to receive a Certificate on Higher Education. Students achieving a total of 240 credits (of which at least 120 are at level 5 or above) will be entitled to a Diploma of Higher Education. 320 credits (of which 80 are at level 6 and a further 120 at Level 5 or above) qualify a student for an Ordinary Degree. 360 credits will entitle the student to be awarded the BA (hons) Theatre & Performance Degree.

The best 80 credits from Level 4 (Stage 1) are given a weighting of 0.1 (10%). Level 5 (Stage 2) marks are given a 0.3 (30%) weighting and Level 6 (Stage 3) marks are given a weighting of 0.6 (60%).

11. Exceptions to Regulations

There are no exceptions to regulations.
THPF402 Introduction to Performance- 20 credits

Week One: Playing
Week Two: Play texts - Traditional Approach
Week Three:
Week Four: Play texts - Deconstructive Approach

ML: L Miller

THPF403 - 20 credits
Performance Praxis 1

ML: P Purkayastha

THPF401 - 20 credits
Improvisation & Creativity

ML: J Matthews

THPF406PP Plymouth Plus: Performance Lab 1 - 20 credits

ML: L Miller

THPF404 - 20 credits
Performance Praxis 2

ML: V Ramirez Ladron de Guevara

THPF405 - 20 credits
Theatre Ensemble

Training Element A1

Training Element A1
**Semester One**

- **THPF501 - 40 Credits**
  Crafting Theatre
  ML: J Matthews

- **THPF503 - 20 credits**
  Performance Practices (Theory/Making)
  ML: L Miller

- **THPF504 - 20 credits**
  Performance Praxis 3 (Theory/Training)
  ML: V Ramirez Ladron de Guevara

- **THPF505 - 20 credits**
  Performance Training (Training)
  ML: V Ramirez Ladron de Guevara

**Semester Two**

- **THPF502 - 20 credits**
  Performance Lab 2 (Making/Training)
  ML: J Matthews