Course Specification Part A:

BA Theatre & Professional Practice

Faculty of Arts & Humanities
School of Media & Performing Arts

Course Specification Part A
BA Theatre & Professional Practice

March 2017

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.
1. Introduction

The BA (Hons) Theatre & Professional Practice course offers a rigorously designed curriculum founded on practical theatre making and performance training, with substantial input from an academic team with substantial backgrounds as professional practitioners from diverse disciplines. The course is aimed at students with a keen interest in the theatre and performing arts and will enable them to become independent practitioners by encouraging the development of each student’s own individual style. The course offers high-quality artistic and academic experiences of public-facing theatre performance, including outdoor and site-based projects, festivals of new work and innovative online collaborations. Underpinned by staff research and practice, students are introduced to the latest research findings in the discipline and students will acquire research skills themselves.

Within the HE market the ‘Professional Practice’ of the degree title signals the key characteristic of the pedagogical approach and student experience. Throughout the degree, the course places a very strong emphasis on the strategic research and preparation for employment and enterprise within the arts and other associated sectors, such as education and community engagement. In line with Coventry University’s Corporate Plan and Mission Statement, students will engage with concepts that shall place their own knowledge, practice and understanding in an international context both within modules, and as extra-curricular activities related to staff research areas and employability projects.

The key characteristics of this course are:

- **International research inspired teaching.** Modules cover: actor training methodologies, directed performance, Twentieth Century theatre histories, creative enterprise, mask-work, puppetry, improvisation, physical theatre, outdoor performance, ensemble theatre and mixed digital media performance.

- **Recognition that community contribution and responsibility are integral values within the arts.** Teaching is offered in Applied Theatre contexts - including Theatre in Education, Drama in Education, theatre in health settings, theatre with young offenders, and work relating to a variety of disability, and is delivered by industry practitioners and companies within the field of Applied Theatre.

- **Embedded employability, creativity and enterprise are delivered through all three years of the course.** This culminates in the stage 3 Business Matters module in which students research and plan their career focus and activities after university. In the recent Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) figures, 100% of our graduates were in further training or employment.

- **International Engagement Opportunities:** The Theatre course aligns well with Coventry University’s strategic focus on the internationalisation of the curriculum. The content of the course includes modules addressing a range of international contexts, diverse cultural practices and traditions and all students have the option of international field trips (recently Basel, Berlin, Copenhagen, Paris and Tallinn). A new initiative is a ground-breaking digital Shakespeare OIL project in conjunction with students and staff at the University of Tampere, Finland which has won the internationally prestigious Gold Award for Innovative International Learning at the Reimagine Education Awards in Philadelphia.

- **Opportunities for work placements through key partnerships at both the local and international stage** provide opportunities for multicultural and international engagement activities and work experiences throughout the degree.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Award</th>
<th>Mode of attendance</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>FHEQ Stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Theatre and Professional Practice with Professional Enhancement</td>
<td>SW (4 yrs) (400 credits)</td>
<td>W440</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Theatre and Professional Practice with International Enhancement</td>
<td>FT/SW (4 yrs) (400 credits)</td>
<td>W440</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Theatre and Professional Practice</td>
<td>Full Time (3 yrs) (360 credits)</td>
<td>W440</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Awarding Institution/Body | Coventry University. |
4 Collaboration              | n/a |
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery | Coventry University - FAH |
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates | Date of approval*/latest review*: February 2017  
| Date for next review: 2025/2026 |
7 Course Accredited by       | ‘Not Applicable’. |
8 Accreditation Date and Duration | Accreditation is being sought for 2017 onwards |
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors | QAA Subject Benchmark statement for Dance, Drama & Performance (2015)  
The full document can be found at:  
All awards and stages satisfy the National Qualifications Framework for 4, 5 and 6 Stage |
10 Date of Course Specification | March 2017 (Final version) |
11 Course Director            | Glenn Noble |
12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The educational aims of the course are:

- To support students in building a thorough understanding of the theatre industry nationally and internationally with a particular focus on independent theatre creation.
- To offer a strong practical bias allowing the development of practical performance techniques as relevant to independent theatre making.
- To ensure the students develop critical abilities as well as theoretical frameworks to enrich and inform their own artistic work.
- To facilitate the development of skills in voice, movement, acting, theatre specific digital technologies, entrepreneurship and administration enabling them to shape their own artistic and career trajectory as a professional performing artist in a global context.
- To engender the initiative, enterprise and resourcefulness necessary to thrive as a performing artist including an understanding of self-promotion, marketing, publicity, and other professional business skills with the context of a global economy.
- To foster and encourage sophisticated intellectual enquiry and debate through practice-based interdisciplinary collaboration with fellow students, academics and professional practitioners from a range of creative and performing arts disciplines.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

**CLO1**: Demonstrate an understanding and experience of collaborative theatre-making in its many varied forms and across a range of roles including performing, directing, devising/writing, producing, stage management, technical and production support.

**CLO2**: Demonstrate performance skills and work habits relative to the professional industries beyond.

**CLO3**: Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse cultural contexts in which theatre work is made at a local, national and international stage.

**CLO4**: Critically analyse texts including written, visual and performance and communicate effectively in writing by using an appropriate academic style.

**CLO5**: Demonstrate knowledge and an understanding of the current performing arts sector and related industries and possess a critically reflective understanding of the development of their own professional practice in relation to this.

**CLO6**: Demonstrate intellectual inquiry, critical reflection, self-directed learning, professional development and personal growth.
Patterns and modes of attendance
BA (Hons) Theatre and Professional Practice can be studied full-time over three years, or students can opt to take either an International or Professional Enhancement year. Students taking this option will complete their degree in four years.

The course comprises of modules taught at Stages 1, 2 and 3. All modules are designed to operate within the university-wide modular framework. Modules are half (10 credits), single (20 credits), and double (40 credits). Students undertake modules equivalent to 120 credits at each stage.

At least one half module in each year will be selected from the Add+Vantage menu of modules that have an enterprise and employability focus. These modules also provide additional opportunities and support for Personal Development Planning, which is an integral part of the student experience.

Enhancement Year
Students successfully completing stage 2 of their course may choose to take the ‘enhancement year’ route.

This route allows students to spend a year abroad or a year on professional placement between stage 2 and the final stage for their course. Students opting to take this route may undertake one of the following: a study placement under the Erasmus exchange scheme; a study placement under another study abroad scheme for placements outside the EU; a work placement under the Erasmus work placement scheme or a work placement organised on their own initiative outside the EU. Alternatively they may choose to combine a period of study with a period on placement.

- Students undertaking a year on professional placement will register on module 2014MAPA.
- Students undertaking a year on an international placement or study abroad or a mixture of the two, will register on module 2016MAPA.

Distinctive features
Theatre offers up a series of varied experiences and approaches to creating performance work. Staff members have substantial industry experience and their own work is informed by current developments in the performance/theatre industry. Links within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities have enabled our students to place their work in their chosen discipline within the wider sphere of the arts in general. BA Theatre & Professional Practice is one amongst a few courses in the United Kingdom that will encourage students to create a professional scale work as a final project’.

Practical projects framed as ‘live briefs’ from year 1 including running a venue during a festival of new work, full production of large cast full length plays for 5-6 performance run to the public, outdoor performance in parks and precincts with community and schools audiences, Intensive real-time ‘residency’ with professional theatre company.

Other examples of integrated practical opportunities include:
- Extra curricular performance training, enterprise mentoring and freelance employment with graduate theatre company The Fabularium, including performing and running entire performance area at the award winning Just So Festival each August to 5K audience members.
- Associations and training opportunities with Physical Fest in Liverpool, in association
with Tmesis Theatre Co and Hope Street Ltd.

- Employability enhancement performing a new writing festival at Shopfront Theatre, leading to BBC radio drama experiences working with undergraduates from the BA Creative Writing
- Graduate residency opportunities in Berlin in the Oct/Nov following June completion in collaboration with Stefan Reibel at Das Institut für Alles Mögliche

International Field trips are offered in all three years of study. These are organised, booked and administered by academic staff. These trips are supported by funding opportunities from the Centre for Global Experience (CGE) providing grants to students to contribute to the cost of the travel and accommodation. Field trips are planned to be as financially affordable to all students as possible.

**Course structure diagram**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 1</th>
<th>SEMESTER 1</th>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1008MAPA The Empty Space [20]</td>
<td>1007MAPA Devising Performance Texts [20]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add+Vantage [10]</td>
<td>PDP &amp; Online Portfolio Embedded</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 2</th>
<th>SEMESTER 1</th>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013MAPA Directed Performance [40]</td>
<td>2017MAPA Outdoor Performance [20]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015MAPA Negotiated Study [10]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add+Vantage [10]</td>
<td>PDP &amp; Online Portfolio Embedded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 3</th>
<th>SEMESTER 1</th>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3017MAPA Strategic Project Planning[10]</td>
<td>3018MAPA Final Major Project [40]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3002MAPA Extended Essay [20]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add+Vantage [10]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROGRESSION**

To progress to the next stage of study students must normally have met the pre requisites for the next stage’s course.

**AWARDS AND CLASSIFICATIONS**

For the award of BA (Hons) Theatre and Professional Practice a student must pass all 360 credits of course based modules.

For the award of BA (Hons) Theatre and Professional Practice with Professional Enhancement a student must pass the 360 credits of course based credits and the Professional Enhancement module 2014MAPA

For the award of BA (Hons) Theatre and Professional Practice with International Enhancement a student must pass the 360 credits of course based modules plus the International Enhancement year module 2016MAPA
In all three cases only marks from the course based modules will count in the classification calculation.

Where a student does not meet the requirements of the award for which they are registered the following cascades will apply (a cascade is the ranking order of awards for which the student will be considered):

For the award of an unclassified degree students must pass a minimum of 300 credits from course based modules.

To qualify for the DipHE in Theatre and Professional Practice, students must achieve a minimum of 240 credits from course based modules and pass at least two relevant subject specific modules at Stage 2 and at least two relevant subject specific modules at Stage 1.

To qualify for the CertHE in Theatre and Professional Practice, students must achieve a minimum of 120 credits from course based modules and pass at least two relevant subject specific modules at stage 1.

TRANSFER BETWEEN NAMED DEGREES
None

CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
The calculation for Honours classifications are in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations.

CONDONEMENT
The BA Theatre and Professional Practice degree follows the Academic Regulations for condonement, with the exception that the following modules cannot be condoned:

- 2035MAPA Global Theatres: Research Enquiry;
- 3000MAPA Business Matters;
- 3002MAPA Extended Essay
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module credit stage</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Value</th>
<th>Mandatory or Optional</th>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Pre-requisite</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1008MAPA</td>
<td>The Empty Space</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO6</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1001MAPA</td>
<td>Acting: Roots &amp; Routes</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO6</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1016MAPA</td>
<td>Theatre In Social Contexts</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO3, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1007MAPA</td>
<td>Devising Performance Texts</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1002MAPA</td>
<td>Naturalism And The Revolt Against It</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO6, CLO6</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1009MAPA</td>
<td>Introduction To Theatre Technologies</td>
<td>10 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO5</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Add+Vantage</td>
<td>Range of options from all faculties</td>
<td>10 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2013MAPA</td>
<td>Directed Performance</td>
<td>40 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2035MAPA</td>
<td>Global Theatres: Research Enquiry</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO3, CLO4, CLO6</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2017MAPA</td>
<td>Outdoor Performance</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>1007MAPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2024MAPA</td>
<td>Experimental &amp; Digital Performance</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>1007MAPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2015MAPA</td>
<td>Negotiated Study</td>
<td>10 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Add+Vantage</td>
<td>Range of options from all faculties</td>
<td>10 M</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>Dependent on Option</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3001MAPA</td>
<td>Live Briefs</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>2013MAPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3017MAPA</td>
<td>Strategic Project Planning</td>
<td>10 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO3, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>2013, 2017, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3000MAPA</td>
<td>Business Matters</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO3, CLO4, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>Experimental &amp; Digital Performance / Outdoor Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3018MAPA</td>
<td>Final Major Project</td>
<td>40 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO5, CLO6</td>
<td>Directed Performance / Experimental &amp; Digital Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3002MAPA</td>
<td>Extended Essay</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CLO3, CLO4, CLO6</td>
<td>2035</td>
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<td>Add+Vantage</td>
<td>Range of options from all faculties</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>
15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

UCAS entry profiles may be found by searching for the relevant course on the UCAS website, then clicking on ‘Entry profile’.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This course conforms to the standard University Regulations

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

This course evaluates and improves the quality of standards and learning through:
- Excellent links with local arts organisations
- Teaching by industry professionals
- Employers providing input into course development and review
- Evidence of employability of graduates
- Outcomes from The National Student Survey (NSS) and University Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS).

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including,
- Faculty/School Handbook
- Theatre Course Student Handbook
- Module Guides
- Module Information Directory
- VLE – Moodle or subsequent platforms
- Blogs etc. (Including Wordpress support and development materials.)
- Study Support information