

Performing Arts

The syllabus aims to enable students to:

- Recognise and understand the interrelationship between performer, designer and director
- Understand the practices used in 21st-century theatre making
- Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others
- Understand how performance texts can be interpreted and performed
- Understand that texts and extracts studied may represent a range of social, historical and cultural contexts

	Topics Covered	Course Outline
Week 1 Exploration and performance (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the theatre industry • Influential playwrights and performers • The theatre making process • Analysing scripts 	<p>Theatre is an ever evolving collaborative art form which has been, and continues to be moulded by playwrights and theatrical practitioners who challenge accepted conventions and methodologies. In week one students are required to explore the interrelationship between performance text and influential theatre practitioners.</p> <p>Students will be required to practically and theoretically explore a text, examining original performance contexts and applying practitioner methodology and associated theatrical conventions. They will learn more through workshops and performances, and subsequently analyse and evaluate this theatre-making process.</p>
Week 2 Theatre makers in practice (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting and singing • Lighting and set design • Elements of drama; movement, voice and improvisational skills • Production skills 	<p>Theatre is a collaborative art form and it is important that students have a clear understanding of how different creative ideas are put into practice. Theatre makers week focuses on the work of theatre makers and the various theatrical choices that are made by key members of the creative and production team in order to communicate ideas to an audience.</p> <p>Students will interpret, analyse and evaluate their experience of a theatre performance and the skills they use to de-construct specific elements will help inform their own choices as theatre makers. Students will analyse and evaluate the ways directors, performers and designers create impact and meaning through dramatic and theatrical elements.</p>
Week 3 Exploration and performance (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot creation and development • Performance planning • Audience needs, venue requirements and production costs • Play writing styles and genres 	<p>When working in the creative industries students will need to communicate and interpret creative ideas. This week will allow performers to communicate a creative idea and to understand how to plan to make the event happen.</p> <p>Students will develop their skills in research, planning, developing and evaluation. They will learn how to identify the key factors that inform the planning process. This will help students to recognise the key areas of the industry: production, performance and administration and the importance of considering them when planning for an event. This is necessary if students are to realise their creative idea.</p>
Week 4 Theatre makers in practice (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes • Costume design • The creative process & rehearsals • Practical skills for designers and technicians 	<p>Students will practically explore a complete performance text to consider how theatrical ideas might be realised in performance and communicated to create impact on the audience.</p> <p>They will need to consider how both performers and designers use theatrical conventions and dramatic elements to realise ideas from the page to the stage. Students will practically consider how all stages connect to be realised from 'page to stage'.</p>

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Students will enjoy two full-day excursions per week. One will be a traditional 'fun' or cultural excursion, with all other students on the Young Professionals programme. The other weekly excursion is known as a study-in-action day, where students visit destinations relating to their chosen academic stream. The locations visited by Performing Arts students are:



BBC STUDIO

Week 1

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is the world's oldest and largest national broadcasting organisation. Students tour "The Beeb" and learn about how TV and radio programmes are produced. A completely unique experience, BBC Bristol is a working studio, so no two tours are ever the same. However, they always embody the main aims of the BBC: "inform, educate, and entertain".

Students will:

- Learn how TV and radio programmes are produced
- Present the news and create their own radio drama (with sound effects) in a fully interactive studio



SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Week 2

Only few know that the current "Globe" is actually the third one in London (one burnt down, another closed). It was dreamt and built by an American actor (Sam Wanamaker) and needed a special approval for its thatched roof, which was outlawed in 1666!

Students will:

- Examine the historical and contemporary value of Shakespeare's work
- Discover similarities and differences between today's world of theatre compared to Early Modern Theatre



SKY STUDIO TOURS

Week 3

Students will take a behind-the-scenes tour at Sky Studios and gain practical experience of creating the news and TV. Students will also experience the latest technology with the help of Sky experts.

Students will:

- Students create their own TV content, learn about the structure of a news report and master the art of storytelling
- Students produce their video of the day which is screened at one of Sky's cutting-edge studios and have a chance to watch and share their videos on social media after the trip



THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE

Week 4

Since 1663, the Theatre Royal Drury Lane has triumphed over tragedy, fire, bankruptcy and even murder. Drawing on the experience of professional actors, students will be transported back in time on a journey through some of the most intriguing episodes in a history spanning over 350 years.

Students will:

- Take a tantalising tour behind the scenes of this fascinating venue
- Relive the incredible historical tales that make London's oldest theatre a truly mystical and iconic site