

Drama, Theatre and Dance



Undergraduate Studies



ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Welcome



I am delighted that you are considering coming to study in the Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance at Royal Holloway.

Royal Holloway has one of the largest and most influential Drama and Theatre departments in the world. We are highly rated for teaching and research and ranked 17th in the world for Performing

Arts (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019). Our academic staff cover a wide range of topics, with particular strengths in contemporary British theatre, international/intercultural performance, theatre history, dance and physical theatre, contemporary performance practices, playwriting and directing. Our state-of-the-art performance space, the Caryl Churchill Theatre, sits alongside the Boilerhouse Theatre providing exemplary facilities for study and practice. Our proximity to London gives us unrivalled access to theatres, productions and practitioners.

Please do visit us on our Open Days and see our department and facilities first hand, or contact us to learn more.

Dr Bryce Lease

Head of Department



(QS World University
Rankings by Subject, 2020)

Contact details

Course enquiries

Dr Prarthana Purkayastha

prarthana.purkayastha@rhul.ac.uk

Connect with us

 @RHULDrama

 RHULDrama

royalholloway.ac.uk/dramaandtheatre

Drama, Theatre and Dance at Royal Holloway

- **You will find your place as an informed theatre-maker.** By studying a variety of practices, collaboratively and individually, you will gain knowledge of the industry as a whole and a valuable perspective of how your chosen specialism fits into the bigger picture.
 - **We prepare you for the future that you will make.** By training you to become independent thinkers, practitioners and leaders, we give you the skills you will need to craft your career within or beyond the cultural sector. Ultimately, performance is about communication, about sharing a story and leading an audience to see things from your point of view.
 - **Our uniquely broad curriculum spans the popular and the avant-garde, the local and the international, the contemporary and the historical.**
 - **On our courses, the text and the body, thinking and doing, work together.** There is no distinction between theory and practice; theory is used to understand and inform practice, while practice helps elucidate theory. You will be assessed through performances, workshops, presentations, essays and critical reflections.
 - **As a campus university close to London you will get the best of both worlds.** You will be part of an energetic creative hub that includes students studying Music, Media Arts, Creative Writing and English. The huge number of student societies will enable you to thrive in a creative and supportive campus environment. Our location close to London provides us with strong links to theatre companies and individual theatre artists, local communities and an international network of theatre scholars and makers. Students are regularly required to watch performances in London as part of the degree.
 - If you apply for a combined course with Creative Writing, Dance, English, Languages, Classics, Film or Music, you will enjoy an integrated degree based upon close co-operation between our distinctive departments.
- Visit royalholloway.ac.uk/drama to find out more about all we have to offer.



"I came to study Drama with Dance at Royal Holloway as the course equipped students to become strong critical and thinking practitioners. The amount of trust and freedom given to your creative practice is an aspect of the course that was undeniably valuable for me.

I was amazed to be taught and surrounded by recognised academics and artists within the industry, whose knowledge and support made any module I attended fascinating."

Lauryn, BA Drama with Dance graduate

Choosing your degree

Across all pathways, the first year is a foundation year designed to equip you and with a shared set of reference points to enable the study of theatre at degree level. In the second year, you will return to each of these strands, but to a higher and more specialist level. In the final year, you will have the opportunity to take even more personal responsibility for your learning, building on the skills you have already acquired.

Throughout the degree, you will experience a great range of teaching styles, including lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops. Assessment takes a variety of forms, according to the needs of the different subject areas; the only mode that we do not use in the Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance is the formal timed examination.

Visit royalholloway.ac.uk/courses for more details on all of the Drama, Theatre and Dance courses available.

Study Abroad

All of our degree courses offer you the opportunity to spend an additional year studying abroad. There are two possible options:

- Under the Socrates scheme, we send one student each year to Trinity College Dublin; here you take drama modules equivalent to those you would have studied at Royal Holloway.
- Under a College scheme, you can apply for a placement in countries including the USA, Canada, Japan or Australia (this is a competitive scheme with limited places open to a number of departments).

Visit royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/studying-abroad to find out more about the study abroad options available.



DEGREES

UCAS
code

BA Drama and Theatre Studies

W440

BA Drama and Theatre Studies with Integrated Foundation Year

W44F

DRAMA AS A MAJOR SUBJECT

BA Drama with Dance

W4W5

BA Drama with Film

W4W6

BA Drama with Philosophy

W4V5

JOINT DEGREES

BA Classical Studies & Drama

QW84

BA Comparative Literature and Culture & Drama

Q2W4

BA Drama & Creative Writing

WW48

BA Drama & Music

WW43

BA Drama & Philosophy

WV45

BA English & Drama

QW34

BA Modern Languages & Drama

RW94

Studying here

The Boilerhouse – Performance and the body

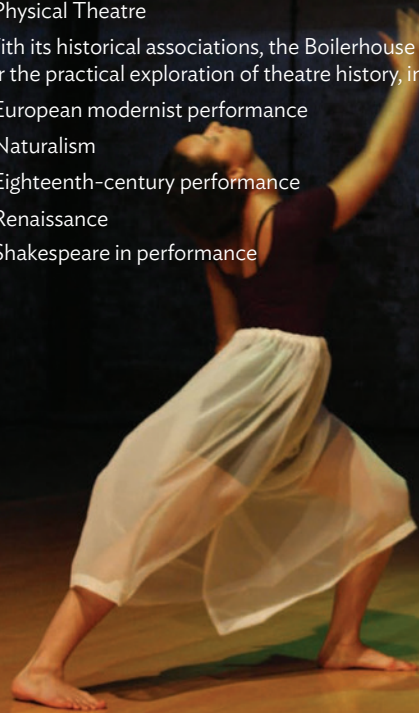
The Boilerhouse is a converted 19th-century boiler room that once provided heating for Royal Holloway's Founders Building. This is a huge and atmospheric 'found' space in which we have installed a sprung dance floor. It is ideal for movement-based and environmental work, and the cobbled courtyard outside also offers an ambient performance space.

We use the Boilerhouse as a hub to explore:

- Dance • Devising
- Physical Theatre

With its historical associations, the Boilerhouse is also used for the practical exploration of theatre history, including:

- European modernist performance
- Naturalism
- Eighteenth-century performance
- Renaissance
- Shakespeare in performance



The Caryl Churchill Theatre – Contemporary performance

Named after one of the most influential British theatre writers of the last hundred years, the Caryl Churchill Theatre is a flexible fully equipped modern theatre, capable of handling sophisticated lighting and complex scenery, with seating for up to 178 people.

We use the Caryl Churchill Theatre to investigate:

- Casting, race and gender
- Contemporary theatre companies and practitioners
- Directing • Live art • Playwriting • Political theatre
- Post-war and contemporary British theatre



International performance

The study and practice of international performance plays a key role in our department. Areas of interest include:

- Australian & New Zealand theatre
- Chinese & Japanese theatre
- East European theatre
- Migration, asylum and theatre performance
- Postcolonial theatre
- Latin American performance
- South Asian and British Asian dance/theatre

Student life



The wider campus and surrounding area also inspire performances, including site-specific and site responsive work, promenade performances, and work with and in the local community.

Our curriculum offers you the opportunity to explore theatre-making in the wider world through the study of areas such as:

- Applied performance
- Community theatre
- Site-specific performance
- Theatre education
- Theatre & museums
- Theatre & therapy

A student-led drama society is based in the department. Called Student Workshop, the society organises extra-curricular performances in all of our department spaces and organises workshops across the academic year. You can participate in performances as a director, actor, writer, or technician to help support your personal development.

Our undergraduates are able to book one of our five rehearsal rooms and many of our performance spaces outside of teaching hours.

Your future career

Our very successful graduates embark on a wide variety of careers as well as further academic study, for example in acting, stage management, arts administration, journalism, teaching, health, marketing, and PR.

Some of our recent graduates have gone on to work for:

- Royal Shakespeare Company
- Lyric Hammersmith Theatre
- Hamburg Schauspielhaus
- Lyceum Youth Theatre, Edinburgh
- The Salmon Youth Centre, London
- Youth Music Theatre UK
- Canterbury Institute for the Performing Arts
- Lazarus Theatre Company
- Next Stage Theatre Company
- K Talent Artist Management
- Imperium Management Talent Agency
- M&M Theatrical Productions
- Octagon Theatre Bolton
- RLC Productions Event Management
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Alpha Hospitals Mental Health
- Unity Trust Schools and Academies

We are proud to be able to offer networking events with our alumni, which will allow you to explore a vast array of career options, and you can ask our graduates how they pursued their own career pathway. We alert you to professional placements throughout the year, and organise a programme of placement activities for students in the summer term. These include opportunities to participate in professional skills development workshops,

obtain industry-related work placements, or gain specialist assistance with preparing your CV. We actively support students wishing to perform their work publicly in festivals such as at the Edinburgh Fringe, and we offer follow up workshops aimed to help you turn a project developed for Edinburgh into an active theatre company.

We work closely with the College's dedicated Careers Service to help you enhance your employability and prepare for the choices ahead. The Careers Service is open across the year, and assist with CV development, work placements, and even help you find part-time jobs. They also offer themed career weeks, including 'Creative and Media Careers' week.

Whether you choose to work in the theatre industry or not, our degrees will give you:

- Confidence and self-presentation skills.
- The ability to lead.
- Self-discipline, organisation, planning and self-motivation skills.
- Analytical skills, critical and independent thought through research.
- Communication skills, both written and oral.
- The ability to negotiate and handle interpersonal issues through the creation of original work in groups.
- The ability to construct arguments and present them persuasively.
- Enhanced creativity and imagination.
- The ability to apply performance and production skills to communicate with an audience.

This brochure was produced in September 2020 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



Royal Holloway, University of London

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at **[Royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays)**

Royal Holloway, University of London

Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX

+44 (0)1784 434455

royalholloway.ac.uk