



# Drama and Theatre Undergraduate Studies

Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance



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.

Top-rated for teaching and research and with a distinctively creative campus community rated 14th in the world for Performing Arts (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018), Royal Holloway has one of the largest and most influential Drama and Theatre departments in the world. Our academic staff cover a huge range of theatre and performance studies with particular strengths in contemporary British theatre, international and intercultural performance, theatre history, dance and physical theatre, and contemporary performance practices. Our state-of-the-art performance space, the Caryl Churchill Theatre, sits alongside the Boilerhouse Theatre and Noh Theatre, providing exemplary facilities for study and practice. Our proximity to London gives us unrivalled access to theatres, productions and practitioners, while the Surrey campus offers an intensive and stimulating creative environment.

Students studying Drama and Theatre Studies at Royal Holloway grapple with the big questions: about ourselves and our cultures, about how we make meaning and tell stories, and about ourselves in relation to other cultures, other times, and other forms of story-telling. Our students challenge themselves and learn a range of new skills while developing a sophisticated critical framework. In the process they interrogate the work of others and create and perform their own stories, their own dramas.

I hope very much that you will choose to study at Royal Holloway. Please take the time to visit us on one of our Open Days and see our department and facilities first hand or contact our Admissions Tutor if you would like to know more.

**Professor Jen Parker-Starbuck**  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

# Drama and Theatre



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#### MORE INFORMATION

This brochure is designed to complement Royal Holloway's Undergraduate Prospectus and information on the department's website at [royalholloway.ac.uk/dramaandtheatre](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/dramaandtheatre)

It is also available as a PDF at [royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere)

# Why study Drama and Theatre at Royal Holloway?

## STUDENT VIEW



*"I decided to study Drama and Royal Holloway as it provided that perfect 50/50 balance between critical and creative practice that I was looking for. It's such a privilege to be lectured by the people whose books you are reading and then really get to grips with the course in seminars. With three performance spaces on campus and easy access to London, what more could you want as a Drama student?"*

Clement,

BA Drama & Theatre Studies

- **You will find your place as an informed theatre-maker.**  
Many students come to us knowing that they want to pursue a career in the creative industries, but have too many interests to know exactly which job will be right for them. 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.**
- **In our programmes, 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.
- **Students applying for combined courses with Creative Writing, Dance, English, Languages, Film or Music will enjoy an integrated degree based upon close co-operation between our distinctive departments.**

If what you read inspires you to apply to Royal Holloway, you can find the latest details on admissions and entry requirements at [royalholloway.ac.uk/coursefinder](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/coursefinder). We'd also encourage you to attend an Open Day, where you can see our world-class facilities first hand. [royalholloway.ac.uk/student-life/visit-royal-holloway](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/student-life/visit-royal-holloway)



(QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2018)



# 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



# 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 atmospheric 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



# Handa Noh Studio – International performance

An asset unique to Royal Holloway, the Handa Noh Stage is the only permanently-standing Noh stage outside of Japan. It highlights the international work of the department, which includes:

- Australian & New Zealand Theatre
- Chinese & Japanese theatre
- East European theatre
- Migration, asylum and theatre performance
- Postcolonial theatre
- South Asian dance
- South-East Asian performance and puppetry



# Degree structure

Across all pathways, the **first year** is a foundation year designed to equip all students 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.

## BA Drama & Theatre (UCAS code: W440)

First Year	Second Year	Third year
<p><b>Theatre &amp; Performance Making</b> You will encounter a range of creative methods for work-shopping practice, and produce a 20-minute performance as a response to one company.</p>	<p><b>Theatre &amp; Performance Making 2</b> You will choose an option that enables you to focus on a particular creative skill: for instance, Acting for Camera; Playwriting, Scenography, Theatre Directing, and Dance Theatre.</p>	<p><b>Group Project</b> In groups of 8-10, you will develop a project for public performance under supervision from a tutor. Projects might focus on: Dance; Devising; Physical Theatre; Theatre for young audiences; Site-responsive performance; or the staging of text.</p>
<p><b>Theatre &amp; Culture</b> This course looks at the ways in which theatre reflects, intervenes and questions the culture around it. It will expand your horizons and introduce you to a range of unfamiliar practices.</p>	<p><b>Theatre &amp; Culture 2</b> You will choose an option that enables you to consider the ways in which theatre and culture reflect and resist each other in a particular context, including: Aesthetics of Anxiety, Theatre for young audiences, Southeast Asian Theatre and Dance, and Culture of Memory.</p>	<p><b>Special Project or Dissertation</b> You will undertake an individual piece of independent study, with supervision from a tutor. Studies might take the form of a dissertation, a costume design portfolio; a blog; a web-based, print or digital resource pack; a play script; a group edited journal or book; a seminar; an installation; a portfolio of reviews; a stand-up comedy routine.</p>
<p><b>Theatre &amp; Text</b> This course provides you with enhanced skills in reading, performing and creating theatre from text.</p>	<p><b>Theatre &amp; Text 2</b> Building upon your first year work, you will choose an option that focuses on a particular period or genre that interests you. These might include: Black &amp; Asian theatre, Greek tragedy, Dramaturgy, and Staging the real.</p>	<p><b>Advanced Option (Workshop)</b> These practice-based options relate to key areas of staff research, and might include: Stage to Screen, Voice for the Actor, Creative Learning and Theatre, Theatre and Therapy, and Physical Theatre.</p>
<p><b>Theatre &amp; Ideas</b> This course shows how other disciplines like philosophy, physics, politics and sociology can inform theatre and how the theatre can be a forum for creatively interrogating those disciplines.</p>	<p><b>Theatre &amp; Ideas 2</b> You will choose two options that further develop the dialogue between theatre and other disciplines by exploring key ideas to theatre practice. You might choose to explore live art, acting, time, the body, or gender and sexuality.</p>	<p><b>Advanced Option (Seminar)</b> These theory-based options relate to key areas of staff research, and might include: Theatre, Magic, and Witchcraft; Contemporary British Theatre; Performance and Visual Art; Asylum Seekers in the C21; Naturalist Theatre; and Race Relations in Theatre, Film, and Television.</p>

## BA Drama & Dance (WW45) - 50% Drama 50% Dance

First Year	Second Year	Third year
<p><b>Theatre &amp; Performance Making</b></p>	<p><b>Theatre &amp; Performance Making 2</b></p>	<p><b>Group Project</b></p>
<p><b>Theatre &amp; Text</b></p>	<p><b>Theatre &amp; Text 2</b></p>	<p><b>Special Project or Dissertation</b></p>
<p><b>Moving Bodies</b> The course provides you with practice in contemporary dance technique (broadly defined) in order to facilitate your engagement with the ways that dance technique can help generate movement ideas.</p>	<p><b>Moving Bodies 2</b> The course provides you with intermediate practice in contemporary dance technique (broadly defined). You will have the opportunity to build on the foundational experience from year one and deepen your reflective and technical skills.</p>	<p><b>Dance Repertory and Repertoire</b> This course provides students with the opportunity to develop a comprehensive embodied understanding of contemporary dance practices through continued participation in classes and workshops led by a specific practitioner.</p>
<p><b>World Dance Histories</b> In this course, you are exposed to a variety of dance practices occurring in the 20th and 21st century. You will examine what histories they tell, how they are told and explore their relevance to today.</p>	<p><b>Dancing Bodies, Global Culture</b> This course investigates the relationship between dance practices and its wider cultural contexts. This provides you with ideas to creatively engage with cultural studies when making performance.</p>	<p><b>Dance or Theatre Advanced Option</b></p>

## BA English & Drama (QW34) - 50% English 50% Drama

### First Year

#### Theatre & Performance Making

#### Theatre & Text

Plus three English courses:  
Introducing English Poetry  
Re-orientating the Novel  
Thinking as a Critic

### Second Year

#### Shakespeare from Page to Stage

This special combined English/Drama course involves the close study of four Shakespeare plays. The choice of plays depends upon research and teaching interests in both departments and on the current performance repertoire in the London area. Threaded through the course will also be key theoretical issues that cut across contemporary literary and dramatic criticism.

**Plus other options split equally between departments to make a total of four units**

### Third year

#### English-Drama Research Seminar

A specialist research course co-taught across the two departments. The course balances literary analysis with devised performance practices.

#### Drama and English options of your choice

These can be combined across departments in either a 2:1 or 1:2 ratio. For example, you could choose two modules in Drama and one in English.

## Other joint honours - 50% Drama

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 Modern Languages & Drama (RW94) - Four years with third year abroad

Please see partner departments for the specific modules you will follow outside of the Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance

### First Year

#### Theatre & Performance Making

#### Theatre & Text

### Second Year

**Your choice of any two courses in Drama.**

### Third year

**(Fourth Year for four year degrees)**

**Your choice of any two courses in Drama.**

## BA Drama with Film (W4W6) 75% Drama 25% Media Arts

### First Year

#### Theatre & Performance Making

#### Theatre & Culture

#### Theatre & Text

#### In Media Arts:

Introduction to Narrative  
Screen Narrative

### Second Year

#### Acting for the Camera

In this module you will learn techniques for 'translating' your stage acting skills to mediated performance. You will collaborate throughout the year with directing students in the Department of Media Arts on an internal monologue film, a silent film, and a short scene, and these can later be used as part of an audition reel.

**Your choice of two more Drama modules**

#### In Media Arts:

Your choice of two film theory courses (0.5 units) or one film practice course (1 unit)

### Third year

#### Group Project

#### Special Project or Dissertation

#### Drama Advanced Option (Workshop or Seminar)

#### In Media Arts:

Your choice of two film theory courses (0.5 units) or one film practice course (1 unit)

## BA Drama with Philosophy (W4V5) - 75% Drama 25% Philosophy

### First Year

#### Theatre & Performance Making

#### Theatre & Culture

#### Theatre & Text

#### In Philosophy:

Epistemology and Metaphysics  
Plus one other of your choice.

### Second Year

**Your choice of any three courses in Drama.**

#### In Philosophy:

Introduction to European Philosophy  
Mind and World

### Third year

**Your choice of any three courses in Drama, and one course in Philosophy.**

## STUDY ABROAD

All of our degree programmes 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 courses equivalent to those you would have studied at Royal Holloway.
- Under a College scheme, you can apply for a placement in the USA, Canada, Japan or Australia (this is a competitive scheme with limited places open to a number of departments).

## Our creative campus and beyond

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.



### STUDENT VIEW



*"There's a great crossover between the academic side of things and the practical, extra-curricular side, which you can get involved with whenever you want!"*

*Rachel,  
BA Drama & Theatre Studies*

# 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:

Lyceum Youth Theatre, Edinburgh	2020 Casting
The Salmon Youth Centre, London	RLC Productions Event Management
Youth Music Theatre UK	BMS Sales
Canterbury Institute for the Performing Arts	Miro Magazine
Block Stop Game Makers	Mediacom 24-7 Ltd
Lazarus Theatre Company	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Next Stage Theatre Company	Alpha Hospitals Mental Health
K Talent Artist Management	Savantini Healthcare
Debi Allen Associates	National Citizen Service with The Challenge
Imperium Management Talent Agency	FutureSend Foundation
M&M Theatrical Productions	Unity Trust Schools and Academies
Octagon Theatre Bolton	

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 available to you, and you can ask our graduates how they pursued their own career pathway. We alert you to professional placements throughout the year as they become available, and organize 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 to you across the year, and they can assist with CV development, work placements, and even help you find part-time jobs to financially support your studies. 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.

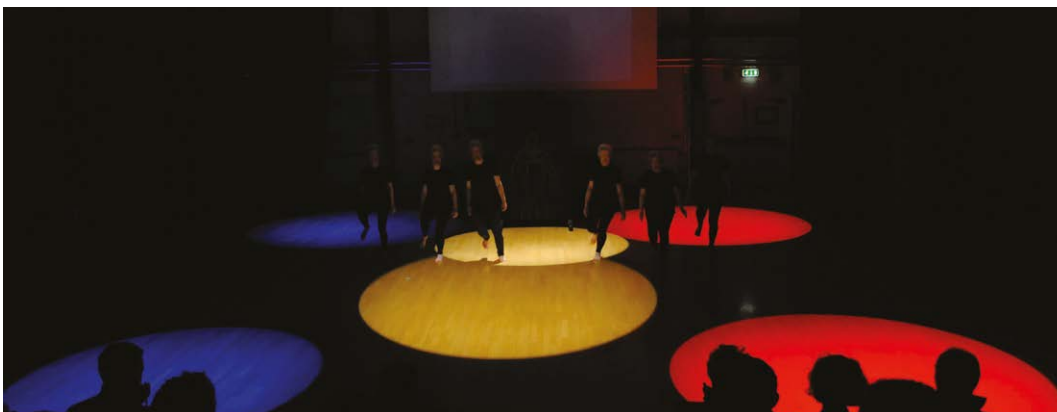
## GRADUATE PROFILE



Image: Martha Pavlidou

*"We are completely indebted to Royal Holloway for its amazing support - none of our future successes would have been possible without the encouragement we received during our time there".*

*Max Olesker and Ivan Gonzalez, Max and Ivan, award-winning comedy writer/performers, BA Drama & Theatre Studies.*



This brochure was published in May 2018 and the information given was correct at that time. It is intended primarily for those considering admission to Royal Holloway, University of London as undergraduate students in 2019-20. Occasionally it may be necessary for the University to vary the content and delivery of programmes so we advise all applicants to refer to the website prior to making any application. Full terms and conditions of admission can be found at [royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere).

Royal Holloway, University of London, is ranked in the top 30 universities in the UK (Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018) and the top 200 universities in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018). Through world class research that expands minds and changes lives, the dedication of our teachers and the feel of the Royal Holloway experience, ours is a community that inspires individuals to succeed academically, socially and personally.

The university was founded by two social reformers who pioneered the ideal of education and knowledge for all who could benefit. Their vision lives on today. As one of the UK's leading research-intensive universities we are home to some of the world's foremost authorities in the sciences, arts, business, economics and law. We are strengthened by diversity, and welcome students and academics who travel from all over the world to study and work here, ensuring an international and multi-cultural perspective within a close knit and historic campus. here, ensuring a global perspective within a close knit, safe and historic campus.



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