

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Postgraduate Certificate in Physical Theatre for Dancers and Actors**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2011**.

The aims of the programme are:

- to study the practice of physical theatre in relation to the techniques utilised by a chosen performance company;
- to engage the student with practical methods and skills of creating physical theatre work as a creator, a performer or a creative viewer;
- to support experienced dancers and actors moving into a new area of work, namely dance theatre, by introducing new techniques that combine vocal, kinaesthetic and visual skills and responses;
- to understand and explore methods and approaches of creating physical theatre work

The programme is delivered in a single stage, equating to one year of full-time study (52 weeks) and is a Continuing Professional Development programme for postgraduate experienced dancers and actors moving into a new area of work namely dance theatre, introducing new techniques that combine vocal, kinaesthetic and visual skills and responses. The programme will be convened by academic staff from the Drama department and taught by specialist Visiting Lecturers. It will be taught via weekend intensive workshops which are held once a month and a week-long residency in late June. All of teaching will take place in the Boilerhouse on the Egham Campus at Royal Holloway.

The successful completion of this programme may count as Accredited Prior Learning towards the MA in Theatre (Physical Theatre and Performance). If candidates were successfully admitted to the MA programme they would then have to complete a dissertation, research methodologies and one core taught course.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge and insight into the practice of a chosen physical theatre company;

- understanding of how a performer might use dance and voice skills to develop an independent creative response;
- understanding of the application of contextual and theoretical modes of inquiry;
- critical understanding of aspects of British society, politics, culture and the operating contexts of contemporary theatre;
- a familiarity with a wide range of spatial forms used in modern performance;
- a wide ranging insight into methods of developing the voice and the physical expressiveness of the performer as well as the traditions and cultural background underlying these training methods;
- acquisition of a growing insight into the ways in which the body in its totality is the principal creative source and resource of the performer;
- a critical understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of physical theatre, including the use of film/video technology, set and props;
- development of experience and knowledge in analysing and applying collaborative strategies for performance making drawn from both dance and theatre processes.

Skills and other attributes

- undertake research into new ways of creating physical dance theatre work;
- experience of evaluating and reflecting on dance theatre performance and practice;
- experience of working with video, set or props to understand how visual language can bring another dimension to dance theatre work;
- use space creatively, with an enhanced understanding of how space conditions meaning, and of the possibilities open to a maker of theatre;
- experiment with, and question, ideas and practices which aim to combine the disciplines of dance and theatre;
- analyse the theories and practices inherent in physical theatre;
- apply and demonstrate their skills and insights in an independent performance project for public presentation;
- bring insights into the voice, body and expressiveness of the performer together for the creation of a short performance;
- release the imagination by a greater understanding of technique;
- work collaboratively within a group;*
- present seminar material through a range of media;*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning are mainly by means of sessions that are taught at intensive weekend sessions (six hours per day on Saturday and Sunday) which are held once a month and a final week-long session Monday to Friday held in mid-June (six hours per day supervised and rehearsal time in addition). These would typically combine periods of critical discussions, workshops and rehearsals. Where possible, these are student-led, with participants being encouraged to devise exercises engaging with the relevant issues and to direct their fellow-students in these experiments.

Assessment is by means of coursework which includes the creation of studio-based performance piece and an Artist's reflective logbook to include critique of performance. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Programme Handbook or from the [Department](#).

Details of the programme structure(s)

The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the [Department](#).

Students take:

DT5605 Physical Theatre for Dancers and Actors (100% weighting)

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Progression and Award requirements

To pass the programme a student must achieve a final mark of 50% for DT5605.

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The **Postgraduate Certificate** with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves a final mark of 60.00% or above for DT5605.

The **Postgraduate Certificate** with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves a final mark of 70.00% or above for DT5605. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any element of DT5605. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

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Student support and guidance

- Personal Tutor: The Programme Director serves as personal tutor. The tutor's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Advisers are available for consultations within office hours.
- Teaching staff are available either via Moodle or their e-mail addresses, which are published in the programme handbook. They can also be contacted via the pigeon-holes in the Department.
- Detailed programme handbook and course resources.
- The department's postgraduate Induction sessions for incoming students in the first week of the Autumn term, aligned with the College's induction procedures.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service Liaison Officer. The department also arranges careers evenings, usually once a term, bringing in external speakers to advise on careers of particular interest to Drama graduates. A document directing students to members of staff with particular career advice expertise is available in the departmental office.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Royal Holloway International, Students' Union, Health Centre and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs.
- A Staff-Student Committee is held each term with representatives from each degree programme. A representative of students on this Certificate programme will be invited to such meetings. Minutes of these meetings are posted in the Department.
- Students are able to gain entrepreneurial training through the Young Enterprise's (YES) Graduate Programme run by the Research and Enterprise Office.
- Use of performance spaces (including The Noh Theatre, Studio Theatre and the Boilerhouse).

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Admission requirements

Students are normally required to have at least taken vocational dance and acting courses at degree level. They should have at least a good upper second-class Honours degree in Theatre Studies, Dance, Performance Studies, Media Arts or a related discipline or an equivalent overseas qualification. Students will also be required to undertake an audition prior to acceptance on the programme. The audition is run by the specialist Visiting Lecturers teaching the programme with the Programme Director. It will take the form of a three hour workshop at Royal Holloway that includes technical dance and theatre elements alongside creative dance and theatre tasks. No preparation is required for the audition and applicants must have applied online and be invited in order to attend.

However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants (such as those with considerable professional experience within the discipline, but without the standard qualifications). Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. For further details please refer to the [Prospective Students](#) web page. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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Further learning and career opportunities

It is expected that the majority of graduates from this programme will pursue careers in dance and or physical theatre. As this area of performance grows in popularity there is a demand for performers and performance makers who can span and are trained in both dance and drama. This is the gap in the

market that this programme hopes to fill. However drama postgraduates do not follow any kind of typical pattern, but embark on a wide variety of careers and further postgraduate training programmes (for example, teacher training, arts management, PhDs and other research). Some start their own theatre companies, or serve as educational officers at places like Shakespeare's Globe, while others leave the theatre behind to become chartered accountants, librarians, and web-page designers: the options are limitless. The usefulness of a Postgraduate Certificate in Physical Theatre is not at all surprising, as students obtain the sort of transferable skills that graduate employers most demand, according to the Employment Satisfaction Survey. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research. The Department of Drama and Theatre was ranked joint 9th in the top 10 universities in the country in terms of proportion of 3* and 4* research.

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List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation

The programme is taught by specialist Visiting Lecturers, and the Postgraduate Certificate leads to an award of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. Programmes in Physical Theatre are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme code is given in parentheses.

Postgraduate Certificate programme in Physical Theatre

PG Certificate in Physical Theatre for Dancers and Actors (2409)

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