

BA (Hons) Theatre Design

Programme at a Glance

Year 1

- An introduction to set and costume design for theatre, together with an exploration of artistic, analytical and technical skills
- Design methodology and visual communication
- First project working with a professional director and designer
- Investigation of the design process including costume history, costume design and lighting design
- Second project working with a professional director and designer on a Shakespearean or Jacobean text.

Year 2

- Collaborative practice within a studio based performance project with students from other programmes
- Design project working with a professional director and designer and based on small scale touring
- Collaborative practice – workshop and performance
- Vocational practice – work placement within the industry (6 weeks plus)
- Design project for a College production

Year 3

- Independent research project – research into an aspect of theatre design
- Design project – the full design for a College public production
- Design project – conceptual design for opera, working with a professional director and designer

Why join this programme?

The programme offers you an education in set and costume design to degree level, within the professional training environment of a leading theatre and performance college. All of the design projects that you will undertake are led by practising professional designers and directors, and you will work with your peers from other courses to explore ideas within a collaborative process of theatre making. We have a range of excellent facilities including dedicated design studios, where you will have your own space, a digital laboratory with CAD and visualisation software, a Learning Resources Centre, fully equipped workshops and theatre and performance studios. You will extend your learning through conceptual design projects and peer group collaborative productions, and you will design at least two fully realised productions in a variety of public venues.

Resources and facilities

The programme has dedicated design studio space for each student, with access to specialist areas such as the scenery and costume workshops, lighting laboratories, and the digital laboratory with its CAD and visualisation facilities. Productions take place in a variety of venues including the College's own 350 seat theatre-in-the-round and a 99 seat Barn Theatre. The College also has a dedicated learning resources centre containing specialist books, videos, support materials and an extensive collection of research material on this subject.

Industry and professional links

The programme regularly employs experts in their field to enhance the core staff team. Taking time out of their busy professional work, their

Duration

3 Years.

Entry Requirements

A levels, BTEC or equivalent. All applicants are invited for interview (portfolio required).

How to Apply

Applications made through UCAS

Institution code name:

Rose

Institution Application code:

R51

Programme Code:

W460

Term Start

September, 2010.

input into specific modules helps to ensure that you will achieve professional standards and learn up-to-date practices. Often these professionals can offer you placements and advice on specific production issues, and may even lead to full time employment.

Placements and exchange opportunities

Under tutor guidance you will undertake work placements in both your second and third years, in order to develop and test your skills and to find out more about the industry you will be entering. Your placements may be with theatres or specialist companies and professionals, applicable to your interests and needs.

The College has links with other institutions worldwide, such as Divadelni Fakulta, Prague, Czech Republic, Teatterikorkeakoulu (Theatre Academy), Helsinki, Finland, Centre de Formation Professionnelle aux Techniques de Spectacle, Paris, France and Institut del Teatre, Barcelona, Spain and it is often possible to undertake some of your study abroad. The majority of students who do this find it a hugely enriching and valuable experience.

Graduate success

Graduates from the Theatre Design programme have gone on to work as designers for main-house venues, including the New End, Bridewell, Greenwich, Finborough and The Lion & Unicorn Theatres. Others have designed for touring productions including the Yellow Earth Theatre Autumn 2009 tour, whilst others have worked with opera, film, fringe and theatre-in-education companies, and as design assistants, exhibition/event designers and model makers. Several have also taken up post-graduate studies.

Your interview

Most students joining the programme will typically have A Levels, BTEC or Scottish Highers. However, we do also consider applicants who show exceptional talent but have not come through the more conventional routes. A foundation course in Art and Design, although not compulsory, can be valuable, and we welcome applications from mature students.

Entry is through the UCAS application system and applicants who fulfil the standard requirements set out in the prospectus are invited to an

interview with programme tutors during which there will be a chance for you to present your portfolio of work to support your application. There will be at least one student on hand to talk to you about the programme and show you around the College.

We generally look at your portfolio in advance of the interview, and you should include work that you feel represents your ability and aptitude for theatre design, and which shows the full range of your creative and artistic skills. Suggestions for work included in your portfolio: Life drawing, colour and texture studies, 2 & 3 dimensional work, photography, sketch books containing visual notes, found material, reference, research and any theatre design projects you may have undertaken, including set and costume drawings. We are interested in seeing and discussing your work process as well as the finished product. We hope your work will demonstrate:

- an ability to communicate visually and with some confidence
- a background of experimentation with colour, texture, space and form, in different media
- an ability to work expressively as well as with precision
- the use of visual research within a creative process
- the ability to develop an idea

Cost of study

You will need to provide tools and art materials, as well as some core books that you will be expected to buy, although there are a limited number of copies in the College library. You will also need to budget for theatre visits and some travel. In all, you should allow approximately £400 a year in addition to your tuition fees and living expenses.

Contact

020 8308 2600

Head of School

Nick Hunt

Programme Director

Iona McLeish

Core Staff

Pip Nash

Visiting Professionals

Sandy Maberley

Sophie Jump

Due to the specialist nature of the College, our courses often have longer contact hours than at some universities and require a lot of stamina. Hours can be irregular with some evening and weekend work required in the run-up to shows. These long hours reflect practice in the creative industries and help to prepare students for the realities of work in this sector.