

Rose Bruford College
Postgraduate Programme Specification



School of Performance

MFA Advanced Devising Practice

Programme Specification

March 2017
(Updated July 2017)
(amended March 2020)

Rose Bruford College

Postgraduate Programme Specification

Introduction: What are programme specifications?

Programme specifications focus on single programmes of study, and outline the intended knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes of a student successfully completing that programme. A programme specification also gives details of teaching and assessment methods as well as linking the programme to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and any subsequent professional qualification and career path.

Since the College gained Taught Degree Awarding Powers in January 2017 it validates the programmes taught at Rose Bruford College and as part of the validation process, the College produces approved programme specifications for all the programmes that it offers. On some programmes, The University of Manchester validates the award for students who have opted to remain on a University degree.

This programme specification forms one part of a set of different types of document about your programme that also includes the prospectus, module specifications and information on the College's website and VLE. The Programme Specification is published on the College's website.

There may be concern that 'specifying' what a student will have learnt at the end of the programme might inhibit innovation within that programme. For this reason it is important not to see programme specifications as 'tick lists'. They offer broad indications of what students might be expected to learn and the types of skills and abilities they might be expected to gain.

Rose Bruford College
Postgraduate Programme Specification

1. General Information

Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of study
MFA	Advanced Devising Practice	2 Years	FT
MA	Devised Theatre and Performance	13 months	FT
PGDip	Devised Theatre and Performance	9 months	FT Exit award only

Institution	Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance
School	School of Performance
Awarding Institution	Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance
External Examiner	Professor Mark Evans Associate Dean (Student Experience and Quality & Accreditation) Coventry University
Programme Accreditation	
Relevant QAA benchmark(s)	NA

2. Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to:

- Offer you as a student and practitioner the opportunity to develop and deepen your own practice and knowledge of theatre and performance within the framework of an international professional theatre school specialising in devised theatre and performance
- Provide specialist professional teaching and opportunities for study, research and embedded practice that is focused to enable you to build, enhance and take ownership of your own practice as an innovative and empowered actor- performer and theatre-maker
- Provide in-depth training and study to develop your artistic and academic expertise within highly specialised performance systems and ecologies and offering opportunities to work within dynamic and diverse performance cultures.
- Provide a range of practical and theoretical approaches to advanced devising practice for advanced practitioners interested in complementing their professional experience in order to develop their future careers with

Rose Bruford College
Postgraduate Programme Specification

advanced study of aspects of theatre

Rose Bruford College
Postgraduate Programme Specification

3. Programme intended learning outcomes

Upon completion of the MFA Advanced Devising Practice you will be able to:

- PO1** Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge about different movement-based theatrical forms and performance languages to the process of devising original work;
- PO2** Create original, compelling, self-generated material for professional performance;
- PO3** Engage critically with theatre creation as culturally significant social phenomenon;
- PO4** Consider critically the ethical, political and social complexities of performance presentation in a trans-cultural and inter-cultural context;
- PO5** Synthesise complex nuanced information and experience through the act of writing and performance;
- PO6** Create, structure, articulate complex ideas and interests through the written word;
- PO7** Initiate and realise independent theatre work;
- PO8** Engage independently in sustained and original research;
- PO9** Develop an area of advanced specialised personal devising practice to professional standards;
- PO10** Be self -reflective and give and receive constructive criticism;
- PO11** Communicate complex subjective experience through the act of performance;
- PO12** Work with an independence of mind and initiative;
- PO13** Evidence an embodied understanding of the creative dynamics and responsibilities of individual and group theatre making;
- PO14** Evidence engagement with the performative body, developing understanding, problem solving, creating knowledge and insight and for testing, analysing,

Rose Bruford College
Postgraduate Programme Specification

articulating, disseminating knowledge.

PO15 Be conversant with current contemporary professional practices and

Rose Bruford College

Postgraduate Programme Specification

employment expectations;

Learning and teaching focuses on:

- the development of each student's artistic universe as a creator of her/his own work;
- collaboration as the privileged learning form for the emergence of original work;
- an exploration of archetypal images deeply rooted in the human body and psyche and their impact on personal, cultural and artistic developments;
- a deep engagement with the life and art practice of embodiment;
- a practical understanding of playfulness, complicity and individuation as core components of the programme's pedagogical matrix;
- an exploration and analysis of those movement principles which govern the interaction between the human body and external or internal environments;
- a growing awareness of the different phases within the process of collaborative devising;
- an introduction to dramatic structures which privilege an intense use of the moving body through use of masks;
- the application of dramatic and post-dramatic principles to the creation of original work;
- research and critical reflection as essential components in the development of artistic autonomy;
- an understanding of the administrative aspects of promoting your own work
- the emergence of generosity, commitment and personal responsibility as necessary qualities within an ensemble;
- supporting the transition to professional practice and independent work as a theatre collaborator.

Learning

Learning is supported by: workshops, rehearsals, performances, performative writing, online resources (including use of the College VLE), library resources, student-led presentation, lectures, seminars, self-directed study, progress reviews, group and individual tutorials, feedback tutorials, screenings, discussions, teamwork, exercises, information gathering/research and enquiry, visiting speakers, critical reflection and creation of devised work.

Teaching

Classes, workshops and lectures will be conducted by staff members from LISPA and members of College staff and a range of external experienced and recognised specialists in both academic and practicefields

Rose Bruford College
Postgraduate Programme Specification

5. The structure of the programme

Postgraduate Diploma – Exit award only			
Provisional module code	Module title	Credits	ETCs
MFAAD 701	The Poetic Body	30	15
MA 702	Performative Writing	30	15
MFAAD 703	From Life to Art	60	30
		120	60

Provisional module code	Module title	Credits	ETCs	Study hours
MFAAD 701	The Poetic Body	30	15	300
MA 702	Performative Writing	30	15	300
MFAAD 703	From Life to Art	60	30	600
MFAAD 704	Advanced Devising Practice	60	30	600
MA 700	Independent Research Project	60	30	600
		240	120	2400

6. Student induction, support and development

The previous experience of the subject team members at teaching at postgraduate level, at both LISPA and Rose Bruford College, has informed the support systems which have been instituted to assist you and other postgraduate students through your studies.

An induction event is arranged at Eden Studios at the beginning of the academic year at which you are introduced to the teaching team and to the spaces and to the librarian and VLE Development Manager at RBC online.

The Programme Director has overall responsibility for leading the programme and for your academic and professional development with the support of module coordinators and a Programme Administrator based at Rose Bruford College and at LISPA. You will be encouraged to discuss module-related issues with your module coordinator.

At the start of the academic year, you will be introduced to the VLE where you can find the course outline and appropriate module specifications and briefs. The module specifications detail the syllabus, teaching and learning arrangements, assessment requirements with clearly articulated assessment criteria, and will provide an

Rose Bruford College
Postgraduate Programme Specification

appropriate bibliography.

Rose Bruford College

Postgraduate Programme Specification

Student representation from the MFA Programme will be sought in order to participate online in a number of appropriate committees, ranging from Programme Committees to School Board and various other College-wide panels and committees.

The services available within the College's Student Services include general, health and financial advice, accommodation options, counselling, study abroad programmes and a range of support for disabled students.

At the programme level:

- You will receive a Student Handbook at Registration;
- Each module throughout the programme is introduced with a briefing by the module coordinator;
- Peer learning and mentoring, are intrinsic to the programme's learning and teaching strategy;
- You will receive written feedback on all assessment tasks, and will be debriefed in a tutorial following the majority of practical projects, to encourage reflection on practice and to identify future learning goals.

At the College level:

- A Specialist Support and Equality Officer is available. (You are contacted at the admissions stage and invited to disclose any disabilities/medical conditions);
- Dyslexia and general welfare and study support is available;
- At key points during the programme, you will discuss your personal and professional development with a programme tutor, and plan future action;
- You will be introduced to the Learning Resources Centre online at induction, and receive both targeted and ongoing research skills and information literacy instruction and support during the remainder of your programme;
- Ongoing academic support is available through the specialist Academic Support Team, and through online support materials;

7. Curriculum map of modules against programme intended learning outcomes

Module Title and Code	Programme Intended Learning Outcome															
	C/O	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
MFAAD 701 The Poetic Body	C	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x		x			
MA 702 Performative Writing	C	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x				
MFAAD 703 From Life to Art	C		x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
MA 700 Independent Research Project	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
MFAAD 704 Advanced Devising Practice	C	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x = intended learning outcomes of the programme are assessed within this module; C = compulsory module; O = optional module

8. Categorisation of programme intended learning outcomes

Categorisation of Programme Intended Learning Outcome	Programme Intended Learning Outcome														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Practice	x	x			x		x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Informed critical reflection			x	x	x	x	x		x			x			
Transferable and personal qualities				x	x			x		x	x		x	x	x

9. Criteria for Admission

9.1 Applications

An applicant wishing to join a postgraduate taught degree programme at Rose Bruford College should satisfy or expect to meet the College's general requirements for entry outlines on our Postgraduate degree regulations.

Applications for the MFA Devised Theatre and Performance are made initially to LISPA who then refer students to the College. As part of the application process with LISPA, you will be required to make a written statement outlining your interest in the subject area and the programme. In all cases, the selection panel will look for a high degree of explicit ability, of self-motivation and criticism with an informed enthusiasm capable of sustaining you within the more rigorous and challenging conditions of the MFA programme.

You will normally be expected to hold a first-degree qualification (2.2 or above), hold an equivalent qualification or be able to demonstrate considerable professional or practical experience at a level commensurate with Masters' level study. The award should be in a discipline which underpins your proposed programme of study or which can be shown to have provided appropriate practical or conceptual skills to contribute to the study.

9.2 Recognition of prior learning

The College operates a policy for recognising prior learning (RPL) which may be certificated or experiential. Requests for recognition of prior learning must be accompanied by the appropriate documentary evidence outlined in the College's policy, which is available on application.

A maximum of 60 credits, excluding the final Independent Research Project module may be certified in this way. All applications for RPL are considered by an academic panel on their own merits and are not automatic.

9.3 Selection

Selection is by written statement and interview and sometimes workshop, which is intended to ascertain whether the applicant will benefit from the programme and whether the demands of the programme are likely to be fulfilled by the applicant. The audition and interview panel consists of programme tutors.

9.3 Additional requirements for non-UK/EU applicants

All teaching and examination is carried out in English and consequently competence in written and spoken English is a requirement. Non-EU/UK applicants are required to hold an IELTS¹ with an overall minimum score of 6.5 with no less than 6.0 in each section.

10. Progression and Assessment Regulations

Progression

You are registered at Eden Studios in Berlin at the beginning of the academic year. This is followed by a period of induction where you are introduced to the academic community, the details of the programme, the facilities, and its links with the industry.

Attendance is compulsory for all classes, workshops and projects. During production periods a detailed schedule is negotiated allowing time for research and reflection.

You will have regular feedback sessions on all areas of the programme and you will be made aware, therefore, of your academic progress and personal development.

The MFA Advanced Devising Practice comprises five taught modules (including three double-weighted modules). Students completing the first three modules may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Devised Theatre and Performance. This is an exit award only.

Assessment Schedule

Assessment takes place at the completion of each module. Once your work is marked, you are advised through tutorials with the Module Coordinator and/or Programme Director of the *indicative* grade. You cannot receive your final mark until completion of the degree and following confirmation of those marks by the relevant Board of Examiners.

Marking Categories for the MFA:

70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Pass
0 – 49%	Fail

¹ IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is now the only Secure English language Test (SELT) recognised by UK Visas and Immigration for student requiring a Tier 4 visa.

Marks and Classification of Awards

To qualify for the award of the MFA degree (240 credits over all modules), Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits in Modules One to Three), you must complete all of the programme requirements and must pass all modules.

The Postgraduate Diploma is an exit award only. The MFA Advanced Devising Practice does not have a Postgraduate Certificate option. Students could opt to graduate with an MA in Devised Theatre and Performance, should they not wish to complete the full MFA.

Classification	MA	PGDip
Distinction	Aggregate average mark of all modules of 70-100 including a mark of 70+ in the final Independent Research Project Module	
Merit	Aggregate average of all modules of 60-69 including a mark of 60+ in the final Independent Research Project Module	
Pass	50-59	50-100
Fail	0-49	

Performance in work for which an award of credit for prior learning has been made is not taken into account in the calculation of the final award.

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