

Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance Postgraduate Programme Specification

1. General Information

Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of study
MFA	Contemporary Directing Practice	2 Years	FT
PGDip	Contemporary Directing Practice	9 months	FT Exit award only

Institution	Rose Bruford College
School	School of Performance
Awarding Institution	Rose Bruford College
External Examiner	TBC
Programme Accreditation	
Relevant QAA benchmark(s)	NA

2. Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to develop directing practice for the stage and screen through an intensively taught course of study, engagement with the contemporary performance and creative sector, mentorship and instruction from established artists and scholars, and the development of a network of creative relationships. Students own professional work will be the vehicle for investigation, practice research, reflection and experimentation. They will be introduced to a range of approaches and concepts including the reflective, strategic, practical, theoretical and academic, which will guide their practice and career within the contemporary performance environment.

The MFA offers an experiential two-year programme of developing a vocabulary and finding your own voice and vision as a theatre director, while acquiring and honing a diverse range of skills, techniques, tools and devices. In Year 2 it also offers a thorough introduction to Directing for the Camera (including writing, directing and editing short films).

The Postgraduate learning space is both experimental and experiential. It is also a critical space, in that it both encourages and challenges individual students to identify and gain a significant degree of mastery and oversight over their particular chosen artistic pathway.

3. Programme intended learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the MFA Contemporary Directing Practice you will be assessed to the extent that you:

LO1 Apply a range of skills, effective methodologies and competencies that enable you to articulate, structure, present your ideas and work creatively and productively as director and theatre maker in diverse professional situations;

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LO2 Combine and utilise the insights, practices and knowledge you have developed within the programme to lead the project and collaborate with the acting ensemble, and creative/ production teams throughout the process;

LO3 Articulate and create practice that reflects, embodies and embraces complex social, political, and cultural values and perspectives;

LO4 Demonstrate depth, originality and creative thinking in research that complements and enriches your practice;

LO5 Implement practical skills honed during the course in budgeting a production, scheduling and planning rehearsals, and delivering productions on budget and on time;

LO6 Apply vital technical and creative skills for working with recorded media;

LO7 Demonstrate your originality and insight in approaches to new writing for stage and in developing/ writing for screen.

4. Learning and teaching

With a commitment to experiential, holistic learning and teaching, the programme is designed to develop working methods that encourage collaboration, creativity, responsibility for learning, critical reflection, self-evaluation and team work. You are expected to play an active part in determining and shaping your independent learning as well as learning through being a member of the ensemble.

Learning and teaching environment at Rose Bruford College offers a unique opportunity to collaborate with acting and performance undergraduate/ postgraduate students in the School of Performance, as well as staff and students from the School of Design, Management and Technical Arts.

Learning is supported by: workshops, rehearsals, field trips, practical seminars encounters with and talks by industry professionals; Director's Lab professional practice, showings and performances; online resources (including use of the College VLE), library resources, student-led presentations, lectures, self-directed study, progress reviews, group and individual tutorials, feedback tutorials, screenings, discussions, teamwork, exercises, information gathering/research and enquiry, critical reflection and work based learning.

Classes, workshops and lectures will be conducted by senior academic and practitioner members of College staff and a range of external experienced expert and recognised specialists in both academic and practice fields.

5. Student induction, support and development

An induction event is arranged at the Sidcup campus at the beginning of the academic year at which you are introduced to the teaching team and to the campus and to the librarian and VLE Development Manager. A follow-up session will take place in the postgraduate teaching space.

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The Programme Director has overall responsibility for leading the programme and for your academic and professional development with the support of a Programme Administrator. You will be encouraged to discuss module-related issues with your Programme Director or module co-ordinator.

At the start of the academic year, you will be introduced to the VLE where you can find 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 appropriate bibliography.

Student representation from the MFA Programme will be sought in order to participate in a number of appropriate committees, ranging from Programme Committees to the 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 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:

- Welfare advice and counselling is available to all students.
- 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 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 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;
- Placements operate within the College's Placement Policy, to ensure that you, employers and tutors have a common understanding of the purpose of the placement and of your various responsibilities.

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6. Curriculum map of modules against programme intended learning outcomes

Module Title and Code	C/O	Programme learning outcomes						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MA CDP701 Embodying the Space	C	x	x					
MA CDP702 Framing the Space	C	x	x					
MA CDP703 The Director's Journey: Dialogue with the Playwright & Director's Lab	C	x	x	x	x	x		
MA CDP704 Professional Directing Practice	C	x	x	x		x		
MFA CDP705 Independent Professional Directing Project: IPDP Part 1 & Part 2	C	x	x	x	x	x		
MFA CDP706: Professional Placement & Introduction to New Writing	C	x	x					x
MFA CDP707 Directing for Camera	C	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

7. Categorisation of programme intended learning outcomes

Categorisation of Programme Intended Learning Outcome	Programme learning outcomes						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Practice	x	x			x	x	x
Informed critical reflection			x	x			x
Transferable and personal qualities	x	x	x		x		

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MFA CONTEMPORARY DIRECTOR PRACTICE PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

MFA in Contemporary Directing Practice										
2021			YEAR 1			2022				
TERM 1 Weeks 1 to 10			TERM 2 Weeks 11 to 25			TERM 3 Weeks 25 to 30			Summer	
Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March/ April	April/ May	June	July/ Aug		
MA CDP701 Embodying the Space										
Physical Skills & Ensemble			MA CDP 701 Embodying the Space			MA CDP 704 Directing Practice Preparation				
MA CDP 702 Framing the Space										
Spatial & Visual Framing			MA CDP 702			MA CDP 704 Directing Practice Preparation				
			Design Lab & Music							
MA CDP 703 The Director's Journey										
Dialogue with the Playwright			MA CDP 703			MA CDP 704 Production Directing Practice				
Director's LAB			Dialogue with Directors							
			Director's LAB			MFA CDP705: IPDP PART 1 PITCH			AUDITIONS	PREP/ RESEARCH

MFA in Contemporary Directing Practice										
2022			YEAR 2			2023				
TERM 1 Weeks 1 to 7			TERM 2 Weeks 8 to 15			TERM 3 Weeks 16 to 25			Weeks 26 to 45	
Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May/ June/ July/ Aug	Sept	Oct
MFA CDP 705: IPDP PART 1										
REHEARSALS	SHOWS	MFA CDP 706 Professional Placement + New Writing Director's LAB								
1 ACT PLAYS					MFA CDP 707 Directing for Camera (Mon to Thurs)					
Independent Work			IPDP (Fridays			MFA CDP 705:			IPDP PART 2 SHOWS DOCS	
			Independent Work			PRACTICAL PITCH				

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8. Criteria for Admission

8.1 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 outlined in our postgraduate degree regulations.

Applications for the **MFA Contemporary Directing Practice** are made directly to the College. As part of the application process, you will be required to make a written statement outlining your interest in the subject area and the programme. The selection panel will look for a high degree of commitment to professional theatre directing, self-motivation and intellectual curiosity capable of sustaining you within the more rigorous and challenging conditions of the MA 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 the applicant's proposed programme of study or which can be shown to have provided appropriate practical or conceptual skills to contribute to the study.

Relevant professional qualifications and relevant experience in an associated area will be considered. Extensive and recent practical theatre experience might compensate for a lack of the normal academic qualifications.

8.2 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.

8.3 Selection

Selection is by workshop and interview, 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.

8.4 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.

To comply with UK immigration legislation, successful non-UK/EU candidates will be required to be in receipt of a Tier 4 visa, (or such documentation required by the UK Government in force at the time), before they can commence their studies.

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.

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9. Progression and Assessment Regulations

Progression

You are registered at the College 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 College's 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 Contemporary Directing Practice** comprises four taught MA modules in Year One and **three** MFA modules in Year Two including an Independent Directing Project: Part 1 & 2. Students completing the first four modules may be awarded a **Postgraduate Diploma in Contemporary Theatre Practice**. 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 Examinations Board.

Marking Categories for the MA/MFA

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

Marks and Classification of Awards

To qualify for the award of the MA degree (180 credits over all modules), Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits in Modules One to Four), you must complete all of the programme requirements and must pass all modules.

(The **Postgraduate Diploma** is an exit award only. The **MFA Contemporary Directing Practice** does not have a Postgraduate Certificate option).

To qualify for the award of the MFA degree (240 credits over all modules), you must complete all of the programme requirements and must pass all modules: Modules MA CDP701, MA CDP702, MA CDP703, MA CDP704 and MFA CDP705, MFA CDP706 and MFA CDP707.

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Classification	MA/MFA	PGDip
Distinction	Aggregate average mark of all modules of 70-100 including a mark of 70+ in the final Independent Professional Directing Project	
Merit	Aggregate average of all modules of 60-69 including a mark of 60+ in the final Independent Professional Directing Project	
Pass	50-59	50-100

Date of original production:	23 rd November 2020
Date of current version:	27 th January 2021