

School of Performance, Design & Technical Arts

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

# Contemporary and Popular Performance

Programme Specification January 2022

#### 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.

The College produces approved programme specifications for all the programmes that it offers.

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.

Teaching Institution	Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance Tramshed
Awarding Institution	Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance
External Examiner	
Programme Accreditation	
Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)	Dance, Drama and Performance (2019)
Other Points of Reference	

#### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

UCAS Code	Name of Final Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of study
	BA (Hons)	Contemporary And Popular Performance	3 Years	Full Time

#### **Intermediate Awards**

Dip HE	Contemporary And Popular Performance	2 Years	Full Time
Cert HE	Contemporary And Popular Performance	1 Year	Full Time

#### 2. AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME(S)

Contemporary and Popular Performance will guide and support your development towards a professional career in the cultural industries. This development will be based on nurturing your abilities and confidence as a popular arts practitioner, theatre-maker, change-maker and producer who can create and support artistic, popular and community-engaged projects that shape our world in new and necessary ways.

Some of today's most impactful and renowned artists and producers are those creating performance work which can speak to wider diverse audiences, referencing popular culture and are rigorously engaged with and accountable to their communities. Impactful and leading artists of our times benefit from high quality performance skills and are innovative in technique and storytelling abilities, their practice strategically built for maximum effect and affect. Programme staff, visiting artists, designers and producers, and professionals across the UK working in the field of popular performance and social change will work closely with you on developing the practical, analytic and creative skills you may require in order to produce and execute original and inspiring contemporary and social change-related performance work, popular and change-making events and campaigns, as well as the paperwork and strategic plans that facilitate all. Your training will reflect the shape of today's creative industries by focusing on the potential for performance, theatre and art to effect change inside communities, bringing the worlds of popular entertainment, contemporary performance and socially-engaged practice, production and theatre-making into productive dialogue.

Throughout your time on the programme, we will work closely with you to develop your creative and practical skills and ambitions, so you can become a confident, enterprising and resourceful performer and artist, producer and change-maker.

The programme aims to:

01.	develop you as an artistic creator of contemporary and popular performance and a change-maker with a comprehensive grounding in the skills of theatre and performance making and creative producing, who can respond to the rapidly-changing theatre and cultural industries
02.	give you an understanding of contemporary and popular performance in its artistic, business, cultural, social, ethical, political, historical and theoretical contexts
03.	give you the artistic, technical and organisational skills appropriate to the contemporary performance practitioner
04.	develop your independent and collaborative skills in research, critical awareness and analysis.
05.	enable you to become a response and reflective practitioner
06.	enable you to make an effective, responsive and innovative contribution to the creative and cultural industries, and wider society
07.	enable you to work collaboratively with practitioners from other disciplines

#### 3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

#### A. Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

		Benchmark
A1.	engage in the creation and/or production of performance through an understanding of appropriate performance vocabularies, techniques, crafts, technologies, structures, contexts, working methods and research paradigms	DDP 7.10.i
A2.	communicate, perform and present with the ability to articulate and communicate ideas and information in a variety of forms, as appropriate to content	DDP 7.11.vi
A3.	collaborate on the creation of work including, for example, devised performances, local campaigns, events and research.	DDP 4.3.vii
A4.	identify and employ a range of performance, social change and critical theories and traditions	DDP 4.2.v
A5.	understand group dynamics and professional practice to operate collaboratively within collective, creative and professional contexts to generate and pursue shared goals	DDP 5.8.ii

#### **Learning & Teaching Processes**

(to allow you to achieve intended learning outcomes)

Much of your learning will be through practical activities, where you will be encouraged to both 'think' and 'do'. Technique Modules and Seminars deliver basic principles and knowledge that underpin the work of the performer and change-maker. You will consolidate this through independent study in Level 6.

You will contextualise your learning in your written tasks such as essays and your performance work and practical presentations. These range from solo performances to short seminar presentation to funding applications to portfolios based on practical performance, event and festival production.

Tutor support is available to advise you throughout the programme, but you will become increasingly independent of tutor guidance as you develop your ability to set your own questions, research tasks and research strategies.

Resources at Rose Bruford allow you significant practice-time, and electronic / online resources (through the VLE) are available to aid you in gaining further knowledge.

#### **Assessment**

(of intended learning outcomes)

Your achievement of the learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of practical exercises such as performances and funding applications, public and in-class presentations, portfolios and case studies that demonstrate your knowledge within the context of professional practice.

Practical work may be accompanied by a report or commentary that allows you to explicitly demonstrate your achievement of the learning outcomes.



#### **B.** Intellectual Skills

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

		Benchmark
B1.	describe, theorise, interpret and evaluate performances, movements, interventions and events from a range of critical and technical perspectives and using appropriate subject-specific vocabularies	DPP 5.3.i
B2.	understanding the ways in which performance originates, is constructed, circulated and received; particularly when through 'embodied knowledge' and 'practice research'	DPP 3.2.i
В3.	operate and think reflexively, creatively, critically and technically to develop ideas and construct arguments	DPP 5.7.i
B4.	engage interdisciplinary approaches and understand different theories or paradigms of knowledge	DPP 5.7.iv

#### **Learning & Teaching Processes**

You will develop your intellectual skills through engagement with practical projects and workshops as well as through seminar discussion, site visits and guest lectures. You will be required to respond to a variety of briefs that may have an undetermined outcome, which will prepare you for the situations and scenarios that you will encounter in your professional life.

The principles of scholarly referencing, language, structure and research are delivered formally through seminars, but achievement of the learning outcomes also relies on significant amounts of group and independent, library-based study and project work. You will receive frequent formative and summative feedback.

#### **Assessment**

Your achievement of the learning outcomes will be assessed through performance, written work, critical reflective journal, your portfolios, research projects (including dissertations) and small group and individual presentations.

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You will be required to demonstrate these skills through critical reflection on practical activities in your essays, through your dissertation and through presentations at all levels.

#### C. Practical Skills

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

		Benchmark
C1.	demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in a range of performance, design, production and presentation skills appropriate to the contemporary performance practitioner and change-maker	DPP 5.2.i
C2.	demonstrate the application of theory to practice within performance	DPP 6.4
C3.	produce written work with appropriate scholarly and professional registers/conventions, particularly in relation to funding applications and strategic planning	DPP 5.9.ii
C4.	consider, acknowledge and respect diverse opinions and the social, cultural and ideological positions from which they arise	DPP 5.8.v
C5.	understand group dynamics to operate collaboratively within collective, creative and professional contexts to generate and pursue shared goals	DPP 5.8.ii

#### **Learning & Teaching Processes**

Practical skills are gained through a variety of learning activities guided by both resident and guest practitioners.

Your learning in workshops and seminars is consolidated through numerous practical projects completed both inside Tramshed, Rose Bruford College and further afield.

These practical projects are the laboratory for your learning and may be workshop based, in public presentation or in a professional environment through workbased learning. Use of the College's extensive resources means you are offered opportunities to develop your practical skills through focused independent study.

#### Assessment

The learning outcomes are assessed through tutor assessment of your projects and through the submission of portfolios, case studies, syllabi, workshop plans and through viva voce. You will also submit creative and technical documents, funding applications and engage in peer-led assessment on one group task.



#### D. Transferable Skills/Personal Qualities

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

		Benchmark
D1.	work independently, show initiative and set your own deadlines	DPP 5.2.vii
D2.	employ a range of interpersonal skills and demonstrate an ability to listen and respond to the ideas of others	DPP 5.8.iii
D3.	present ideas, concepts and plans using communication techniques appropriate to the intended audience	DPP 7.11.vi
D4.	take full responsibility for your own learning strategy	DPP 5.2.vii
D5.	be innovative in problem solving and decision making	DPP 5.8.i

#### **Learning & Teaching Processes**

Tutor guided practical work and presentations will develop your personal qualities, interpersonal skills and ability to work collaboratively. Your studies will require that you are able to meet deadlines through the timely submission of work and demonstrate independence through initiating and leading projects, and in setting goals for your self-directed studies. You will be required to respond to a variety of briefs that may have undetermined outcomes, which will prepare you for the real-world situations and scenarios that you will encounter in your professional life. You will engage with contemporary, popular and socially engaged performance organisations, activists and other industry professionals who possess skills derived from the industry. Seminars and tutorials support your professional development and preparation for entry into work.

#### Assessment

Your achievement of the learning outcomes is demonstrated through a range of coursework including assessment of presentations, portfolio submissions, performances and facilitated workshops. Your achievement is also demonstrated by continuous assessment, peer assessment, and assessment from work placement professionals.



### 4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

### **Modules and Credit Weighting**

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	ECT Credits
Level 4			
CPP401	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance (Skill, Devising and Context) I	40	
TSC410	Activating Change I	40	
TSC421	Producing Change I: London & Social Change	20	
TSC422	Producing Change II: Producing on paper & in Practice	20	
Level 5			
CPP501	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance (Skill, Devising and Context) II	40	
TSC510	Activating Change II	40	
CPP521	Producing Change III: Short Work Placements	20	
TSC522	Producing Change IV: Producing for the Fringe(s)	20	
Level 6			
CPP601	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance (Skill, Devising and Context) III	40	
TSC610	Activating Change III	40	
CPP621	Producing Change V: Extended Work Placements	40	

# **Programme Structure**

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance –Skill, Devising and Context I	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance –Skill, Devising and Context I
Activating Change I	Activating Change I
Producing Change I: London and Social Changes	Producing Change II: Producing On Paper & In Practice
Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance – Skill, Devising and Context II	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance – Skill, Devising and Context II
Activating Change II	Activating Change II
Producing Change III: Work Placements	Producing Change IV: Producing for the Fringe(s)
Level 6	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance – Skill, Devising and Context III	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance – Skill, Devising and Context III
Activating Change III	Activating Change III
Producing Change III: Extended Work Placements	Producing Change III: Extended Work Placements

### 5. CURRICULUM PROGRESSION: INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR EACH YEAR

Year	Intended learning outcomes								
Year 1 (Level 4)	Level 4 introduces and develops the academic and intellectual skills that you will need for study and professional development. In addition, you will begin to learn the practical and technical skills of the performer and creator, producer and change-maker and contextualise these in a developing understanding of contemporary, popular and socially engaged performance and theatre. On completion of level 4, you will be able to:								
	* demonstrate a range of technical skills including Voice, Cabaret and Circus Skills, Movement, Production and Design								
	* integrate these various skills and techniques into solo and group performances								
	* apply historical and contextual research to performance in a manner which extends its reach;								
	* articulate informed ideas and concepts, about the producing of new popular performance, in seminar discussion and in writing;								
	* deploy the basics of practice-based research in artistic and analytic ways.								
Year 2 (Level 5)	Level 5 develops your skills towards a level appropriate to pre- professional work and gives experience of outside professional and community contexts, including via work placement, group facilitation and guest lecture series. On completion of level 5 you will be able to:								
	* negotiate organisational and logistical planning for making and producing both group devised performances and Practice as Reserach performative lectures.								
	* articulate your artistic and intellectual ideas on contemporary, popular and social change performances, genres and movements in both written and practical modes;								
	* present your theoretical ideas confidently using appropriate performance methodologies.								
	* manage projects both on-campus at Tramshed and Rose Bruford and beyond College sites.								
Year 3 (Level 6)	Please refer to programme level ILOs								

#### 6. STUDENT INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Student induction and support take place at both the programme and College level.

#### 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.
- You are allocated a personal tutor from the programme team, to provide both academic and pastoral support.
- Peer learning and mentoring, both within a year group and programme and between year groups and programmes, 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 to all students (students are contacted at admissions stage and invited to disclose any disabilities).
- Dyslexia support is available.
- You will take part in the College's Personal Development Planning scheme. At four points during the programme, students discuss their personal and professional development with a programme tutor, and plan future action.
- On-going study support is provided through the specialist Academic Support Team, and through on-line support materials.

The programme is designed to be developmental; each successive level represents a distinct phase in your development, and the level Learning outcomes reflect this. At Level 4, induction and study support equip you for degree-level study, while regular tutor contact with core programme staff ensures that you are aided in putting all aspects of your studies into the context of the live performance industry and your developing professional practice.

At Level 5, projects introduce more complexity and demand greater personal responsibility; associated tutorials will both guide you through projects and encourage reflection and contextualisation.

Placements and studies of a variety of industry contexts will enable you to assess the appropriateness of different approaches to given situations.

At Level 6, you are expected to be a self-directed learner; again regular tutorials associated with specific projects will guide you and ensure that your learning is appropriately contextualised.

Through all three levels, Personal Development Planning will frame your learning in individual and professional terms.

#### 7. CURRICULUM MAP OF MODULES AGAINST INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

#### (A = Skills assessed within the module) Theatre & Social Change

			Knowledge and understanding				Intellectual skills				Practical skills					Transferable skills and personal qualities						
	Code	Module title	Credits	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	В3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Level 4	CPP 401	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance Skill, Devising and Context I	40	х	х		Х		х	х	Х	х	х	х		Х		х		Х	Х	
	TSC 410	Activating Change I	40			Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	TSC 421	Producing Change I: London & Social Change	20				х		х	х		х			х		х		Х			
	TSC 422	Producing Change II: Producing on paper & In Practice	20	х	х	х	х	х	х		х		х	х	х	х	Х		х	х	х	Х

				Knowledge and understanding			Intellectual skills				Practical skills					Transferable skills and personal qualities						
	Code	Module title	Credits	A1	A2	А3	A4	A5	В1	B2	В3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Level 5	CPP501	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance – Skill, Devising and Context II	40	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х
	TSC510	Activating Change II	40		Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х
	CPP521	Producing Change III: Short Work Placement	20		х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х		х	х		х	х	х	
	TSC522	Producing Change IV" Producing for the Fringe(s)	20		х		х		х			х	х	х	х			х		Х	х	
Level 6	CPP601	Creating Contemporary and Popular Performance Skill and Devising IIIS	40			х	х	х	х		х	х	х	x	Х	х	х		Х	х		х
	TSC610	Activating Change III: Dissertation	40	Х			Х		Х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	х	
	CPP621	Producing Change III extended work placements	40	Х	х	х		х	х	х	х	х	х			х	х	Х	Х	х	х	х

#### 8. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

The criteria for admission is set out on the College website and prospectus.

#### 9. PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Please refer to Rose Bruford College Undergraduate Academic Regulations.

#### 10. MECHANISM FOR PROGRAMME REVISION

The programme is regularly reviewed through the College's annual programme monitoring process. As part of this process, the Programme Committee receives feedback from students, external examiners and academic staff. Recommendations for any revisions to the programme can be discussed as part of this annual monitoring process.

Any proposed modifications by the programme team should be discussed with the Head of School. They should then be sent for consideration by the relevant External Examiner and discussed with students. The proposed modifications, together with the completed proforma, will then be sent to the Academic Development Committee.

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