

NOTTINGHAM COLLEGE



Central College
Nottingham



Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1	Awarding Institution	Nottingham Trent University
2	Faculty/Campus	Music and Performance Clarendon Campus
3	Final Award	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Theatre Arts
	Course Title	BA (Hons) Theatre Arts
	Modes of Study	Full-time; Part-time
4	Normal Duration	Full-time 1 year; Part-time 2 years
5	UCAS code	Institution Code: N30 Course Code: W490 Short form of course: BA/PA Campus Code: A

6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Theatre Arts course has been developed to meet the needs of students who wish to continue Higher Education studies from QCF levels 4 and 5.

The introduction of the Course contributes towards two of the College's strategic objectives for Higher Education (HE):

- to provide individuals with opportunities to participate in HE
- working in partnership, locally and regionally, with employers, colleges, schools, community groups, universities and other agencies to increase participation in HE.

In developing this Degree, ncn is seeking to build upon existing strengths, to ensure high quality and excellent employment prospects for the graduates.

At the end of the course you will have acquired the professional knowledge and skills to equip you for employment in the Theatre Arts sector and/or further education or training.

The BA (Hons) Theatre Arts is designed to meet the following aims:

- To provide you with opportunities to investigate the areas of the industry in which your interests and future aspirations lie, and to enable you to work with greater expertise and understanding
- To give an overview of the theatre arts industry and provide the underpinning knowledge necessary to operate effectively within it
- To enhance your understanding of the importance of the theatre arts sector and gain the effective skills necessary to theatre arts employers
- To integrate the specific knowledge and skills into a coherent whole, which will encourage you to view the industry holistically
- To develop your understanding of the role and standing of the industry in the broader economic, political, social and technological context.

Course Outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

All outcomes are references against the QAA Dance, Drama and Performance 2015 benchmark statements.

Knowledge and Understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Show a broad, analytical study of relevant theory
- Demonstrate relevant knowledge and understanding of key practitioners
- Explore the processes by which performance is created and realised
- Select and assess the work of key practitioners and practices
- Integrate and explain key components of, and the processes by which performance is created and realised
- Demonstrate an understanding of how to read texts, dance notations and/or scores, and how transitions from page to stage may be effected
- Explain the group and collective processes and the interplay between the performers' conscious and subconscious resources in the realisation of performance
- Explain the interplay between practice and theory

Skills, Qualities and Attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Understand the possibilities for performance implied by text, notation or other stimuli and realise these sources through design and performance
- Explore and analyse a range of issues relating to the creation of performance
- Demonstrate competent use of equipment and skills
- Contribute to the creation and/or production of performance through an understanding and integration of appropriate performance vocabularies, techniques, structures and working methods
- Engage in appropriate independent research, whether investigating past or present performances or as part of the process of creating new performance
- Identify and examine the cultural frameworks that surround performance events and on which these events impinge
- Work in a group and have the creative skills needed for the realisation of practise based work

- Manage personal workloads and meet deadlines and negotiate and pursue goals with others
- Develop ideas and construct arguments and present them in appropriate ways
- Handle creative, personal and interpersonal issues
- Gather, sift, synthesise and organise material independently and critically evaluate its significance.

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

A variety of teaching and learning methods will be incorporated into the course in order to ensure the coverage of all learning outcomes. These will include lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, directed research, case study analysis and visiting speakers/practitioners.

A range of teaching and learning styles will be used in order to take into account the differing learning styles of students.

Learning activities will be planned to help you to achieve the aims of the course and individual modules.

You will be encouraged to further develop independent learning skills through directed learning from module tutors and via self-directed study.

The general philosophy of the teaching and learning method is designed to appeal to a range of learning styles, namely auditory, visual and practical. Teaching will be centred on the individual against the backdrop of the ensemble, in the form of tutorials, seminars, workshops and peer learning.

The emphasis on the student-centred approach reinforces the central aims of the course, fostering independent learning and teamwork, in recognition that students learn most effectively when they have ownership of the process.

Seminars and workshops that combine features of lectures and tutorials are a central feature of the teaching methods for all modules, the prime function being to stimulate students to learn independently and offer guidance for critical analysis. It is the obvious method for introducing subject matter and for dealing with topics where source material is not readily available.

9 Assessment Methods

The assessment methods are appropriate in meeting the learning outcomes of the course. Learning outcomes are clearly identified in individual assignments with specific grading criteria. In the majority of assignments there is a direct link to the module outcomes. The range of learning outcomes often relates to industry. Group-based work forms an integral part of the curriculum and the students' work is appropriately graded with differential judgements on the contributions made by individual students.

In modules that require practical work the usual method of assessment follows a 50% practical (process and performance) 50% written (creative journal and evaluation) pattern.

10 Course structure and curriculum

The course is a top-up degree at QCF Level 6 and available on a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time delivery will take one year, with part-time study over two years. Delivery options will be discussed at interview.

In order to achieve the award you are required to successfully complete the Academic Research Skills module PA601 and four 30 credit point modules comprising the three 30 credit point modules PA602, PA604, PA605 and your choice of one other 30 credit point module from options PA603, PA606, PA607 and PA608 (see module information below).

Semester 1	Semester 2
PA601 - Academic Research Skills (Notional)	PA605 – Performance Practice 2 (30cp)
PA602 – Performance Practice 1 (30cp)	
PA603 – Practice as Research – option (30cp)	
PA604 – Industry Practice (30cp)	
PA606 – Popular Performance and Politics – option (30cp)	
PA607 - The Hired Body – option (30cp)	
PA608 – The Evolving Practitioner - option (30cp)	

Modules are mapped against the course learning outcomes. This ensures that you meet all the course learning outcomes during the completion of the course. Students who do not complete sufficient work to gain the BA (Hons) qualification may qualify for an Ordinary degree.

The course has been designed to meet the recommendations of the QAA benchmark statements for Dance, Drama and Performance.

Empirical research and the collation of primary material will be the foundation for much of the formative knowledge gained during the course. You will be expected (during the early stages of study) to have identified relevant areas of interest and a prospective career path that you wish to pursue.

Currency will be integrated into the curriculum via Educational Visits, Theatre Visits,

Guest Speakers/Workshop Leaders, Live Briefs, Work Experience Opportunities, and the use of Industry Advisors.

Module information:

Academic Research Skills PA601

This module has been designed specifically to aid your transition from Level 5 to Level 6. It develops your existing academic and research skills to a higher level in order to ensure you have the best opportunity to produce high quality work at Level 6. The module will run during the first semester to support your achievement in other modules and, in particular, to enable you to complete your chosen option module to a high level in the second semester.

Although the credit for this module is notional, you must complete it in order to achieve the full award. You will be required to demonstrate appropriate methodology and critical analysis skills for Level 6, which can be applied to other areas of the course.

Performance Practice 1 PA602

The aim of this module is to introduce you to the concept of the reflective practitioner whilst encouraging experimental and innovative work. It will introduce you to the working environment at ncn and develop a common methodology and vocabulary for your work. The performance will be based on the cohort as an ensemble.

Practice as Research PA603 (option)

The aim of this module is to provide an opportunity for you to enter into the debate concerning performance practice and research. It will provide a context for you to consolidate theoretical and practical knowledge as well as skills and experience encountered so far in your development. It will also provide the context in which to explicitly unpick and articulate some of the current debates concerning the interrelation between theory and practice in your specialist field, set against the background of the socio-economic circumstances and developing cultural theory.

Industry Practice PA604

This module aims to develop you as practitioner and entrepreneur. You will be expected to liaise with various bodies in order to negotiate your work. It gives you the opportunity to work as a community artist and develop your facilitation skills or the opportunity to be based with a company operating in the performing arts sector. As such it provides opportunities for you to develop networks for future professional work.

Performance Practice 2 PA605

The aim of this module is to provide you with practical experience of managing the creative and operational procedures of a working performance company and allow you to apply and realise the skills set that you have built incrementally throughout your higher education. You will initiate and execute original practical work. You will develop your specialism in one project but may contribute to others. This module gives you the opportunity to build a foundation for your future professional work. Presentation and the marketing of your work will be included for these public and professional events.

Popular Performance and Politics PA606 (option)

The aim of this module is to allow you as an actor to examine the scope and variety of performance that can be deemed 'popular' and 'political'. You will study the different

areas through workshops and discussion. You will initiate and execute original practical work to explore the themes covered in class.

The Hired Body PA607 (option)

The aim of this module is to introduce you as a dancer to a range of techniques to parallel the evolving practices of Modern Dance. You will be encouraged to attend a range of workshops in order to expand range of movement/extend your technical range. Working across a range of practices you will be encouraged to engage with current developments and changes in the role and purpose of training.

The Evolving Practitioner PA608 (option)

The aim of this module is for you as a technical theatre student to examine the range and variety of creative working methodologies in order to develop your role as an emerging practitioner. Through research and theory you will gain a highly developed conceptual understanding of contemporary performance practice. You will attend a series of practical workshops and seminars, the purpose of which will be to expand and challenge pre-existing ideas and perspectives. The brief will be initially offered by the 'client' and through practical application the work will evolve collaboratively to produce an original and imaginative piece of work. At specific points during the process you will be expected to present your emerging concept with the justification of theoretical research which will inform the assessment procedure.

11 Admission to the course

The course seeks to recruit students who are capable of benefiting from and successfully completing the modules on offer. Prior learning is likely to play a large part in admission to the level 6 course and each application will be judged on its merit.

Admission will be available to:

- Applicants who possess **one** of the following:
 - Foundation Degree (FdA), or
 - Higher National Diploma (HND)*, or
 - Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)*
- * *with a merit/commendation or distinction overall, in dance, acting, performance, technical theatre or theatre*
- A Higher Education-level course in another field of study with relevant industrial experience
- Mature students with significant professional experience and a higher qualification in an appropriate subject area.

Successful entry onto the course will include attending an interview and the submission of an example of academic writing.

Applicants from non-traditional routes who cannot demonstrate appropriate recent relevant certificated or experiential prior learning can only be accepted onto the course with 240 CATS/120 ECTS points. It may be necessary, therefore, to complete an HND or Foundation Degree, before progressing to the BA (Hons) Theatre Arts.

Direct entry International students will require an IELTS score of at least 6.0 in addition to the standard entry criteria of 240 CATS/120 ECTS points.

Typically a student will have undertaken a prior course of study, equivalent to QCF level 5, that incorporates the following aims:

- to provide an educational foundation for a range of careers in the theatre arts industry;
- to provide specialised studies directly related to individuals' vocations and professions in which students intend to seek employment;
- to provide flexibility, knowledge, skills and motivation as a basis for future studies and career development;
- to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

12 Support for learning

- There is an induction course (including IT and Learning Centre use) and you will receive a Course Handbook that provides all the essential information about the course and the support we provide for your learning.
- You will receive regular academic and pastoral tutorials with your Course Leader or allocated personal tutor who will monitor your progress on an individual basis. You will be given at least three personal tutorials throughout the academic year.
- The majority of staff teaching on the course have or are working in the industry, participate in industrial activities and undertake consultancy. They bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the course delivery.
- The Learning Centre and other learning resources (equipment/IT) are continually updated to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- As part of your course you will have regular study skills sessions to give you advice on written academic work. You will also have access to a dedicated Academic Coaching and Employability Skills team who are available for small group or one-to-one sessions.
- The Faculty of Performing Arts and Music has a range of physical resources including two dance studios, six rehearsal rooms, two theatres, design and construction workshops and other classroom spaces which can be used for teaching, learning and the realisation of your work.

13 Graduate destinations/employability

The main progression routes for BA (Hons) Theatre Arts graduates are:

- Progression onto further Higher Education (MA/PGCE etc) or training (Drama School)
- Employment within the Performing and Creative Arts industries.

Graduates from ncn higher education courses in Performing Arts have progressed into: post graduate education/training; employment in the creative industries, workshop leaders, storytellers; teaching, youth and social work, arts administration, prison work.

14 Course standards and quality

As a student you will play a central role in the maintenance of standards and quality. This includes:

- Completion of module feedback sheets at the end of assignments
- A cohort representative at the Faculty of Performing Arts and Music HE student board chaired by the Head of Faculty
- Involvement in discussions with the External Examiner
- Completion of student satisfaction surveys (mid-term and end of year)

The Faculty also has a robust Internal Verification system whereby all assignments and marked student work are sampled. All work at First Class level will be double marked.

The Course Leader will participate in the regular HE Course Leaders' Seminars, which are a forum for debate on current issues relating to HE and all operational aspects of HE courses where ncn has standard processes and procedures that ensure consistency of approach.

The Examination Board is held at the end of the academic year. This is preceded by a Faculty Standards and Moderation meeting. The composition of the Examination Board is outlined in the BA (Hons) Framework Regulations approved by Nottingham Trent University as the framework within which all ncn BA (Hons) degree courses will operate.

15 Assessment regulations

This course is subject to ncn's HE Assessment Policy (located in the Handbook for Higher Education Students). A copy will be made available to you at induction.

16 Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s): Nottingham Trent University

Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements: Dance, Drama and Performance 2015

Course recognised by:

Date implemented: September 2017

Any additional information: