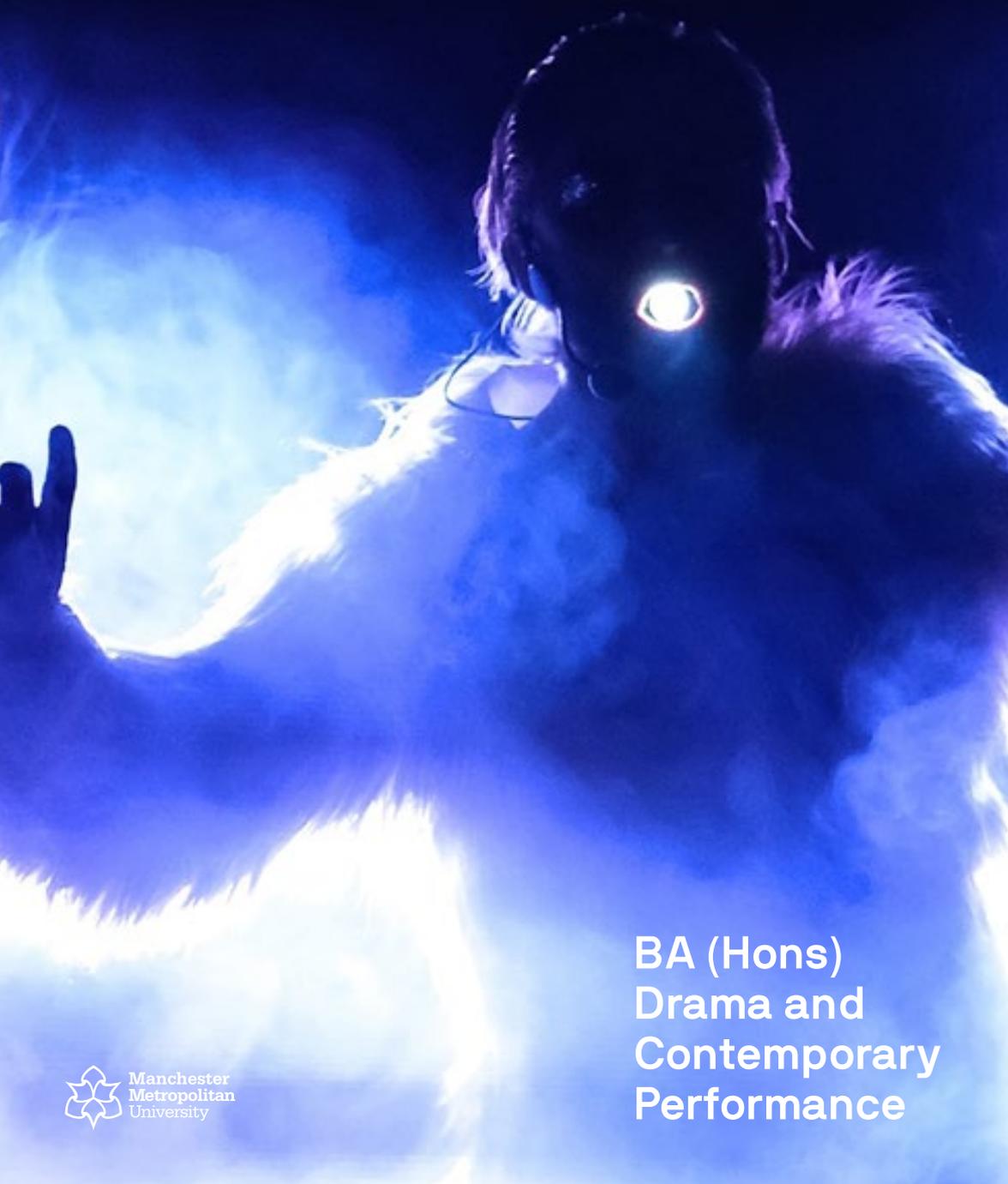


Manchester School of Theatre



BA (Hons)
Drama and
Contemporary
Performance



The Drama and Contemporary Performance degree represents a unique opportunity to make, study and perform innovative new theatre and performance, in the centre of Manchester.

Drama and Contemporary Performance at Manchester Met is all about your development as a theatre artist, performer, thinker and professional, and in close contact with the city's vibrant theatre and performance scene. Working with leading theatre academics, artists and professionals, and drawing on established local, national and international networks, you will be part of a close knit course community, working in one of the most vibrant sectors of a city internationally acclaimed for its creativity.

Drama and Contemporary Performance has a unique focus on cutting edge practices across contemporary performance and dramatic theatre. Combining artistic practice, academic enquiry and professional development, the degree has close relationships with Contact Theatre, HOME, The Royal Exchange and other Manchester-based theatre venues and organisations, as well as a number of international partners.

Focused on finding exciting connections between different contemporary perspectives and theatrical/performance practices, the course builds on many years of experience in the teaching of Drama and Contemporary Theatre and Performance (CTP), and in the development of artists, performers, producers and teachers, in related fields and at all levels.

When you leave you will have been introduced to a range of possible futures, and you will have actively engaged with some relevant career paths. You will also be part of a network of emerging and established practitioners, and have developed the skills and confidence that comes with the wealth of artistic, academic and collaborative experiences on offer.

But above all you will have greatly enhanced your creative practice, your understanding of theatre and your intellectual potential, and you will take with you a real world appreciation of how to make the most of it all.

Manchester School of Theatre

We are actors, theatre makers, performers, researchers, thinkers and doers.

Based within the wider creative community of Manchester Metropolitan University, we are surrounded by artists, filmmakers, scriptwriters and others. Collaboration, experimentation and performance craft are at our core.

Supported by research and industry-active staff, with a range of expert guest lecturers, students on our BA (Hons) Drama and Contemporary Performance, BA (Hons) Acting and MA/MFA Performance courses are encouraged to develop their understanding of drama and performance, enhance their craft and explore their own strengths as performers and creatives.

Manchester is our dynamic home city, and a hub of creative activity with nationally and internationally renowned media institutions and theatres such as the BBC, HOME, Royal Exchange Theatre, Contact Theatre and The Lowry within easy reach of campus. The city also hosts festivals that offer opportunities to see inspiring theatre and performance, such as the Manchester International Festival, SICK! Festival and The Flare International Festival of New Theatre, the latter run by staff and students in the School.

As well as being a source of inspiration, our city also provides us with an active network of partners who we work with to develop courses informed by industry. Our partnerships with the Hallé Orchestra, RNCM, HOME and Chetham's School of Music provide an exciting range of opportunities for our students to be involved with Manchester's thriving media, theatre and performance scene.

Further afield, we also work with the likes of The Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent, Institut français and universities in Romania, Brazil and Denmark.



Course Outline

In Year 1 students explore a number of practices and strategies used in the making of new theatre, and study key critical concepts and debates as they develop their critical writing and thinking skills. They also try out a number of performance strategies, styles and techniques, and develop and apply their performance practice as part of an ensemble performance project.

In Year 2 students study contemporary theatre and performance from historical, artistic and conceptual perspectives as well as opting to be part of one of a number of public-facing performance projects. They also choose whether they would like to focus on developing their own work as artists making original, contemporary, performance pieces, or to develop their practical skills in acting and performing in relation to dramatic texts. And they can choose to creatively explore the work of leading theatrical innovators, or to develop skills in directing and dramaturgy working with a range of dramatic texts.

Year 3 provides a forum for students to discuss key critical ideas, and to further develop their writing and research skills in the examination of new theatre as a cultural practice. They are also taught to develop an informed and pro-active approach to the key professional pathways available when they graduate, and engage in three performance projects — one with the stimulation and guidance of an invited artist, one smaller project in response to this and one final major project on the degree, all working with the support of tutors.

Teaching and Learning

The degree is taught by a dedicated team of experts in the practice and theory of drama and contemporary performance, with close connections to professional practice, supported by visiting professionals and a dynamic team of technicians who provide training and support in all the relevant technology.

Teaching consists of workshops, training sessions, seminars, supervised rehearsals and tutorials, and student assessments take the form of performances, theatrical compositions, seminar presentations, written studies, further documentation and oral analysis.

“During my degree I developed a huge range of skills from lighting and sound to script writing and physical theatre. The course allowed me to explore my strengths and weaknesses as a performer, which led me to grow as an artist and discover my path for after university. Incredibly valuable — and so much fun!”

Amy Vreeke
CTP Graduate, Theatre Maker
and Stand-up Comedian

“The course set me up for everything I’m doing now — it introduced me to a whole new world of theatre practice. Now I perform and collaborate with the people I was learning about during my three years studying and not only am I extremely proud of that, I’m really grateful to the course for setting me up so well for what is now my career.”

Nicki Hobday
CTP Graduate, Forced Entertainment



Meet the Tutors

Dr Patrick Campbell specialises in psychophysical training with a focus on the physical and vocal expressivity of the performer. His teaching encompasses a wide range of practical and theoretical concerns. He is co-organiser of the Third Theatre Network, which foregrounds group theatre practice from Europe and Latin America.

John Deeney has worked as a professional director, and has a background in new writing development in theatre and television. His teaching specialisms embrace acting, directing, dramaturgy and dramatic theory. John has published extensively — on modern British drama, political theatre, and the theatrical representation of alternative sexualities.

Dr Josh Edelman worked as a theatre director for over a decade, in Ireland, New York, Scotland and Texas. His teaching covers directing, performance theory, arts policy and contemporary performance work. Josh also writes books and articles on the intersections of theatre, politics and religion in the modern world.

Kevin Egan is a theatre maker, academic and artist who regularly performs with internationally renowned theatre company, Reckless Sleepers. His work with the company feeds directly into his teaching and research, with an emphasis on contemporary performance, composition and structure, performing, and effective collaboration.

Dr Shane Kinghorn previously worked as a professional dramaturg and director. His research and teaching explores relationships between the performance text and its applications in theatre. He specialises in the study of documentary or verbatim theatre practices, the subject of several performances and publications in the UK and Europe.

Neil Mackenzie specialises in international experimental theatre practice. He is a theatre maker, curator and researcher, and the artistic director of the Flare International Festival of New Theatre. He regularly works with the leading theatres in Manchester, and his teaching focuses on theatre making and professional development.

Dr Michael Pinchbeck is a Reader in Contemporary Performance at Manchester Met. He is a writer and maker who is engaged in an ongoing investigation into practice-as-research as a dramaturgical process. His performance work has been selected for the British Council's Edinburgh Showcase four times and toured extensively nationally and internationally.

Dr Jane Turner is a teacher and researcher excited by developing and sharing knowledge. Her teaching is concerned with the contexts of performance and the critical ideas that help to understand and develop it. Her recent research, in collaboration with Patrick Campbell, focuses on Third Theatre and laboratory theatre practice.



The School of Theatre recently relocated to a state of the art creative hub on our All Saints Campus. This inspirational training venue for the School and a number of other subjects features:

- A 180 seat fully equipped studio theatre, with full production facilities
- A second performance space and lecture theatre
- 2 performance studios and a large movement studio
- Additional rehearsal studios
- TV and radio studios
- Tutorial rooms
- Computer labs
- A café
- A range of studying and socialising spaces

Grosvenor East is a six-story structure connected to the Grade II listed Art School building, Grosvenor West – home to The Holden Gallery – which also houses other visual art facilities, gallery and exhibition spaces.

The listed portico to Grosvenor Square has been re-established as the principal entrance of the new building, which welcomes the public as well as students. Public spaces on the ground floor include a generous atrium and foyer space for exhibitions and events; and a cafe, bar and restaurant.

Find out more about our plans for your future training and study spaces at:
www.theatre.mmu.ac.uk/newbuilding

For full details on how to apply, entry requirements and fees please visit:
www.theatre.mmu.ac.uk/ba-drama-and-contemporary-performance

This leaflet was developed in Autumn 2021. The information provided therefore reflects the course, staff and resourcing as it was at that time.

