
MA MUSIC THEATRE

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME

The MA Music Theatre programme offers a unique opportunity for the postgraduate performer to engage with the many disciplines sought by today's industry. The programme recognises three core disciplines: acting, singing and dancing/movement. The programme develops individual strengths and facilitates development across all areas; the 'performer-creator' is one objective of the programme; the formation of an artist is another.

All theatre work is team-work and collaboration alongside working in an ensemble are at the heart of the year. We do not simply expect you to be employed on a show by the end of the course: we help you to know what to do in order to be asked back again!



Term 1 provides an intensive, multi-disciplinary training, a foundation on which the following three terms depend. Singing, acting, dance and movement skills are the focus of this term. It is followed in terms 2 and 3 by three varied performance projects including the industry showcase and two public productions which all attract interest from agents and the profession. Individual singing lessons are offered throughout most of the year, as is body conditioning. Acting and dance skills are developed through these performance rehearsals. Students are able to bring additional experience into projects as appropriate (e.g. composing, instrumental performance, choreography, writing for stage).



Into the Woods, 2019



The Tunnel, 2019

Throughout the programme students will address the interface between skills and technical vocabulary and arrive at a synthesis through a wider understanding of process, performance and practice. The programme reflects current trends: musicals are a key component of training but there are opportunities to reflect on or pursue diverse aspects of music theatre. Our aim is to help you develop as a skilful, informed and reflective practitioner for whom adaptability is key. The role of music in theatre is extensive and complex; individual genres and directors represent different aesthetic values which constantly shifting through time and fashion. The ability to respond and adapt to this, as well as create your own material, is the basis for a sustainable career.

As part of the postgraduate area of Central, you will be part of a thriving community of practitioners, with a shared vision of learning, able to practice and research your own particular field and push forward the boundaries. As an MA Music Theatre student you will be one of a carefully selected group of music, theatre and drama facilitators embodying the practice of the future, and become connected to a large MAMT family beyond.

The MA Music Theatre programme is a one-year full-time programme for 12 months from the September of entry. Public performances take place at the Embassy Theatre and other Central performance spaces, as well as external venues and on new media, when appropriate.

This programme is offered as full-time only.

2 WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

The programme is for those who wish to work as performing and creative artists across music and theatre. Prospective students will demonstrate high proficiency in two or more areas of acting, singing, movement or dancing in audition. Beyond these core skills, applicants may have interests as actor musicians, in composing, choreography and writing for the stage which they wish to bring to the programme. Before the end of their studies, students may typically find work in West End musicals, theatre productions, touring nationally and internationally, in film or TV, and in creating and producing new work.

MAMT students work as a company and are challenged in terms of their skills and self-development throughout the year. They are encouraged to combine autonomous learning and rigorous self-discipline with the essentially collaborative nature of theatrical performance.

3 DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF THE PROGRAMME AT CENTRAL

- The highest levels of creativity, technical and artistic development in performance are expected through the programme.
- Engagement with a range of performance and performance-related practices and the development of embodied and intellectual knowledge and understanding through participation in a series of performances and production projects.
- Detailed work on singing, acting and dance/movement with specialist tutors together with the option of bring into certain parts of the programme students' own disciplines such as composition, playing of instruments, writing and choreography.
- Awareness of the canon of music theatre, different styles, influences and contexts of production, and experience the unique perspective of creating new and original material.
- A curriculum which celebrates, reflects and responds to the international and cultural diversity of its students.



The Winter's Tale, 2016

4 EDUCEDUCATIONAL AIMS

The aims and learning outcomes of the MA in Music Theatre are closely informed by Central's M (Masters) Framework principles:

- gain knowledge at the forefront of, or informed by, a focussed approach to the academic and professional disciplines of creativity and performance
- take risks, be intellectually rigorous and show originality in your application of knowledge in, for example, practical performances, on-going skills development and sustained written arguments debating the field
- understand how boundaries are advanced through sustained and intense practice and research;
- show originality in tackling and solving problems and deal systematically and creatively with complex performance-related issues in unpredictable environments
- develop practice and scholarship pertinent to the field.

5 LEARNING OUTCOMES

Each unit within the degree has approximately four or five learning outcomes which are directly drawn from the overall degree learning outcomes. Each unit has formal assessment tasks - with a 'magnitude' (i.e. amount or size of task) - which will give students the opportunity to demonstrate that s/he has achieved the learning outcomes of the degree. Assessment criteria show what students will need to demonstrate - or do - to achieve the learning outcomes and in the assessment tasks (e.g. effective use of research). Assessment (or level) descriptors are directly linked to the assessment criteria and indicate the level the student has reached and therefore the level to which the student has achieved the learning outcomes (and the mark awarded to the unit therefore).

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do if you make full use of the opportunities for learning which the programme provides. If you successfully complete the MA Music Theatre at Central:

You will obtain knowledge and understanding of:

- (A1) current critical debates, concepts and programmes in music theatre
- (A2) relevant theories and research methodologies including those most appropriate for students of music theatre (social, cultural, historical, professional, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary)
- (A3) appropriate historical, socio-cultural, aesthetic and dramaturgical contexts
- (A4) systematic approaches to textual and performance analysis and performance presentation.

You will develop the thinking skills that will enable you to:

- (B1) demonstrate your systematic understanding and critical awareness of relevant theoretical knowledge and its impact upon practice
- (B2) develop intellectual rigour and conceptual understanding enabling you to: undertake advanced scholarship and sustained research; critically evaluate and reflect upon your own and others' relevant current practice, research and research methodologies
- (B3) engage productively in performance and its evaluation
- (B4) understand a range of repertoire and materials, including score/text/libretti, performers, creators, specific agendas, performance spaces, event structures and research materials.

You will develop the practical skills that will enable you to:

- (C1) use and evaluate relevant practices applicable in music theatre sometimes experimenting with new and/or original ideas
- (C2) apply established techniques to improve your experience and understanding of vocal, physical, musical and dramatic performance
- (C3) work successfully in a collaborative ensemble
- (C4) create, synthesise and sustain character(s) and role(s) in diverse performance situations.

You will develop the broader workplace skills that will enable you to:

- (D1) negotiate the challenges of working in complex and unpredictable situations e.g. making decisions independently or in dialogue with peers and/or external bodies
- (D2) operate successfully as a professional performer (e.g. manage time and deadlines; engage confidently in debate; structure and communicate ideas effectively; engage with relevant industries)
- (D3) take creative risks.

6 LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Practical and research skills for performers are developed practitioner-led lessons and workshops and through working with colleagues. MA students are reflective practitioners and research is embedded in the learning process.

A feature of the programme is its emphasis on your working alongside professional tutors and practitioners in an exploratory and supportive atmosphere designed to enable you to discover your potential within changing configurations and aesthetics.

All programmes at Central maintain a responsive approach and flexibility to your needs, continually assessing and reviewing its learning, teaching and assessment methods.



Oh Dear, What Can The Matter Be? 2017

Research

Research in music theatre is crucially the work done by performers themselves to develop their craft with others. This includes embodied research that is about exploring the foundations, possibilities and limits of the performer's craft, across the different disciplines which they are seeking to master. Research may be considered a continuation of the training of the performer. Other relevant research methodologies which also inform the student's work include historical and sociological enquires into specific narrative and performance traditions, empirical investigations of the performer's process, innovative training methodologies, and practice as research..

Skills

Skills (acting, singing, dance/movement) are taught throughout the programme. In the first term, each student will receive about **30 hours** of skills per week in sessions comprising the whole cohort (e.g. in 'performance workshop'), smaller groups and one-on-one (e.g. singing tuition and coaching). Terms two and three are based around audition, showcase and two public performances, and the skills training aims to fit the requirements of each of these, with associated choreographers, movement directors, directors, musical directors etc. Skills training in terms two and three will be similarly about 30 hours per week or more, delivered as part of the audition, showcase and public productions. Singing tuition and body conditioning continue throughout most of the year.

Assessment

(Full assessment regulations are published for students. This is a summary only.)

- You must pass every unit to achieve the credit required for the MA.
- A percentage mark is given for each unit. The pass mark for each unit is 50%.
- Unless otherwise stated, you must pass each separate element of assessment in the unit in order to pass the unit as a whole. The value of each separate task in the assessment of the unit is listed in the unit outline.
- If you fail a unit, you may be reassessed once. For that reassessment, the maximum mark given is 50%.
- For the award of an MA with distinction, you must achieve an average mark (weighted in proportion to credit) of 70% or more, *and* a mark of at least 60% in the final 60-credit Sustained Independent Project (SIP).
- The weight given to each unit in calculating awards will be in proportion to the credit which the unit carries in relation to the award for which the students is a candidate. Thus a 20 credit unit contributes $\frac{20}{180}$ of the overall average mark for an MA or $\frac{20}{120}$ of the weighted overall average mark for the award of a PG Dip.
- A MA will be awarded if you achieve 180 credits of the prescribed curriculum.
- A PG Dip will be awarded if you achieve 120 credits but do not pass the Sustained Independent Project (SIP).

7 INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3		Term 4
Performance Techniques	Showcase	Contemporary Performance	Audition	
Ensemble Performance				
Sustained Independent Project				<i>continued</i>

****PLEASE SEE SECTION 9 IN RELATION TO DELIVERY DURING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC****

8 SUPPORT FOR YOUR STUDIES

We offer a number of support services should you need them during your time at Central:

- The Student Centre comprises:
 - The Student Advice Service, for pastoral support, information about accommodation, international student support, managing your finances, wellbeing concerns, formal student letters
 - Counselling services for short term counselling support
 - Our Disability and Dyslexia Service
- We provide support for Care Leavers
- Learning Skills

- Guidance on student finance, scholarships, bursaries and hardship funding

For more information, please look at our website: <https://www.cssd.ac.uk/student-support>

9 COVID-19

We have worked with our Course Leaders to develop an approach to learning next year tailored to the individual needs of our courses. This approach is **Hybrid Learning**, involving a combination of onsite teaching and remote teaching activity. Where activities essential to our mission as a small specialist institution for theatre and performance require physical in-person presence, they will take place onsite with appropriate safety protocols and risk assessment. Other learning and teaching activities that can be appropriately and successfully delivered online or remotely, will follow a remote learning approach, for the first term (at least).

Our hybrid approach focuses on a number of key features:

- We want to provide certainty over how your course will be delivered in the first instance whilst explaining our planning for changing circumstances
- Our campus will be Covid-secure. You can be confident that all on-site activity will be rigorously assessed to ensure your safety
- You will meet and train with fellow students on campus as part of your course delivery, ensuring opportunities to bond, share experiences and develop your practice

Individual course plans have been put together following discussions with students and staff across Central as well as taking into account guidance from the Government, Public Health England and the NHS. Our overarching priority is the safety of students and staff at all times; should further restrictions on lockdown come into force we would look to revert to a more fully virtual model so that your professional and academic development is not delayed. In the same way, should social distancing measures be completely removed then we would look to revert to on campus teaching as soon as safely possible. The first term however will be fixed in line with the plans below.

The School has compiled a list of frequently asked questions so students and staff can know '[What to Expect on Campus](#)' and how they can use the facilities safely and responsibly.

To find out more about the changes to programmes during the pandemic, and how we are delivering our programmes, in response to public guidance, please visit our website to see more detail:

<https://www.cssd.ac.uk/approach-course-delivery-autumn-2021>

10 ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Applicants will typically have a degree in a related subject. Students from other disciplines will be accepted if sufficient experience as a performer is evidenced.

Applicants will normally be able to demonstrate the following:

- relevant qualifications (e.g. undergraduate degree or equivalent) or professional experience which has prepared you equivalently for advanced study
- appropriate written reference
- evidence of a specific commitment to the programme with an understanding of relevant issues and practices
- evidence of appropriate level of skills/competencies
- evidence of the ability to work in collaboration with colleagues and, where relevant, with external parties
- evidence of a capacity to work at masters' level e.g. engage with complex matters in the field; demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge.

Invitation to interview/audition and admission will be based on the reasonable expectation from your application that you have the potential to complete and contribute positively to the degree and that you would benefit from masters level study.

We actively seek a cohort that is diverse in ethnicity, dis/ability, age range and heritage.

Admission with prior experiential learning and/or academic credit

The programme's admissions tutor will consider applications for admission with prior experiential learning and/or academic credit subject to the School's policies in this respect. Candidates may not substitute more than one third of the programme (i.e. 60 credits) with prior experiential learning and/or academic credit.

Attainment of English Language Level

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to obtain and present as part of their application a valid Test Report from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as administered by the British Council. Applicants will normally be expected to achieve an Overall Band Score of 7.0, and a minimum score of 7.0 in Listening, 7.0 in Academic Reading, 7.0 in Academic Writing and 7.0 in Speaking.

11 HOW IS THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAMME DEMONSTRATED AND MAINTAINED?

The methods by which quality and standards are maintained include:

- assessment moderated by external examiners
- feedback from and consultation with students through programme committees, surveys and informal discussion
- annual monitoring of the programme, through consideration of statistics, feedback, graduate destinations
- review of the curriculum and organisation of the programme every five years
- The involvement of teaching staff in practice, research and staff development.

The quality of the MA Music Theatre has been demonstrated through:

- excellent completion statistics

- the quality and reputation of the professional contributors, who regularly mentor and contribute to the programme from companies and current productions
- the high level of achievement of its graduates, currently employed at many of the major theatres – including West-End Musicals (e.g. *Chess*, *Legally Blond*), National Theatre (e.g. *Caroline or Change*), Globe Theatre (e.g. *Titus Andronicus*) and major International Festivals (e.g. Shaw Festival, Canada)
- graduates of the programme creating companies for new work
- active professionally in a wide range of disciplines embracing creativity and performance, as soloists and collaborators in ensembles.

12 MAPPING THE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Unit	Performance Techniques	Ensemble Performance	Audition & Showcase	Contemporary Performance	Sustained Independent Project (SIP)
Learning Outcomes					
A1					X
A2		X			
A3	X				
A4	X			X	
B1					X
B2					X
B3			X	X	
B4	X		X		
C1		X			
C2	X	X			
C3		X		X	
C4		X		X	
D1		X			
D2			X	X	
D3				X	X

13 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND MARKING DESCRIPTORS

Assessment criteria

Not all the assessment criteria apply to each unit although all will be incorporated *across* each Masters degree. (The compulsory units include all these criteria already.) The assessment criteria to be considered will be clear in each unit outline. Tutors will give feedback relevant to these criteria with references to specific examples from your work.

Work is assessed on evidence of the extent to which you have met the learning outcomes demonstrated through:

- sustained, independent written argument;
- progress in relevant practice-based techniques;
- taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately;
- originality in the application of knowledge in relation to the matter of the unit;
- analytical and critical awareness of relevant contemporary issues;
- intellectual engagement;
- understanding and effective use of research and advanced scholarship;
- recognising practice that is at the boundaries of the specialism;
- successful collaborative processes;
- tackling and solving problems and dealing with complex situations in professionally-related environments.

Marking descriptors (relating to the assessment criteria)

Work that is marked near a borderline is likely to have characteristics of work in the next closest bracket, but these are outweighed by characteristics described in the bracket in which the work is placed. The languages of these descriptors will be used by staff in feedback to make clear the level the student has reached. In addition, tutors will make reference to the learning outcomes and whether these have therefore been achieved.

80% and over (distinction)

Your written work demonstrates a fluent, lucid and advanced argument of a near-publishable level. You show exceptional evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have demonstrated a highly impressive exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas with acuity. There is clear and sustained evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated excellent qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues throughout the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement are exceptional; you have developed original knowledge making use of extensive and highly complex research. You display strikingly effective practice, demonstrating an advanced understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You work at the highest of standards in group situations (if relevant), exercising most effective collaborative strategies. There is evidence of exceptional ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is characterised by its sustained excellence and is of equivalent achievement to striking professional practice at the forefront of its field.

70% and over (distinction)

Your written work demonstrates sustained, advanced argument at an academically high level. You show outstanding evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the

unit. You have demonstrated an impressive exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas with acuity. There is clear evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated very good qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement are impressive; you have developed areas of original knowledge, making use of extensive and complex research. You display most effective practice, demonstrating an advanced understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You work at high standards in group situations (if relevant), always exercising effective collaborative strategies. There is evidence of clear ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is characterised by excellence and is of equivalent achievement to professional practice at the forefront of its field.

60% and over (merit)

Your written work demonstrates a sustained and clear argument. You show very good evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have demonstrated an effective exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas appropriately. There is clear evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated good qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement are good; you have made often made use of detailed research. You display effective practice, demonstrating a good understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You work well in group situations (if relevant), frequently exercising effective collaborative strategies. There is evidence of good ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is of a good standard and, on several occasions, is equivalent to professional practice at the forefront of its field.

50% and over

Your written work demonstrates a developed argument that is reasonably sustained. You show evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have demonstrated exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas appropriately. There is evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated reasonably good qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement are adequate; you have made use of research at times. Your practice is at a reasonable standard, and you have demonstrated an understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You contribute to group situations, adopting reasonably effective collaborative strategies for most of the time. There is evidence of some ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is of a fair or good standard and, on occasion, is equivalent to professional practice at the forefront of its field. It is likely to be reasonably strong in some areas but less developed in others, and it may be inconsistent.

40-49% (fail)

Your written work demonstrates an argument but one that is only sporadically sustained. You show limited evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have only occasionally demonstrated exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas appropriately. There is limited or little evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have demonstrated limited qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement were not always adequate; you have made little use of research. Your practice is not always of a reasonable standard, and you have rarely demonstrated an understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. You contribute to group situations, although you do not often adopt effective collaborative strategies. There is limited evidence of ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is only of a fair standard and is rarely equivalent to professional practice at the forefront of its field. You have not sufficiently demonstrated that you have met the learning outcomes of the unit, although it is likely that your work shows potential.

Less than 40% (fail)

Your written work does not sufficiently demonstrate an argument. You show insufficient evidence of progress in specific techniques relevant to the practical work of the unit. You have rarely or never demonstrated exploration of creative risks and options and selected and implemented ideas appropriately. There is little or no evidence of originality in your applications of knowledge in practice. You have rarely demonstrated qualities of analysis and critical awareness of contemporary issues in the unit. Your levels of intellectual engagement were inadequate; you have made little or no use of research. Your practice is not of a good enough standard, and you have not demonstrated an understanding of the boundaries of your specialism. Your contribution to group situations is very limited, as are your effective collaborative strategies. There is little or no evidence of ability in tackling and solving problems and addressing complex situations in professionally-related environments. The work is not equivalent to professional practice at the forefront of its field. You have not demonstrated that you have met the learning outcomes of the unit.

14 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Full-time students

You will take all units indicated, according to the published schedule of activities. The table below is **indicative** and the specified weeks could change from year to year. The School's VLE, Learnzone, will contain the most up to date timetable. You may not undertake the Sustained Independent Project (SIP) unit before completing the programmed work for all previous units.

NB: The typical MT week is five days. Evenings are used for some rehearsals and performances. Occasionally a Saturday may be required.

Term 1

UNIT	Week 1	Weeks 2-6	Week 7	Week 8-15
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1 and 2 Performance Techniques	INDUCTION WEEK Introduction to and organisation for the classes and lessons	Individual singing lessons Coaching lessons Dance and movement classes Acting classes Voice classes Performance Workshops Conditioning classes	Reading Week	Individual singing lessons Coaching lessons Dance and movement classes Acting classes Voice classes Performance Workshops Conditioning classes
Unit 3 Ensemble Performance		Weekly Ensemble class		Weekly Ensemble class
Unit 7 SIP				Introduction

Term 2

UNIT	Weeks 1-5	Week 6	Weeks 7-9	Weeks 10-12
Unit 3: Ensemble Performance	Rehearsals including devising and skills teaching	Performances		
Unit 4: Audition & Showcase				Showcase preparation and performance
Unit 7 SIP	Continued development in classes			

Term 3 & 4

UNIT	Term 3 Weeks 2-8	Term 4 weeks 8-11(approx.)
5 & 6: Contemporary Performance	Skills Preparation, Rehearsals and Performances	
Unit 4: Audition & Showcase		Audition preparation and performance
7: SIP	Practical or Performance Sessions	Writing

**** PLEASE SEE SECTION 9 ON DELIVERY DURING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC ****

UNITS

15.1 PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES					
Level	7	Credits	40	ECTS	20
Notional Student Study Hours	400 hours, approximately. 300 hours taught, 100 hours student managed				
Unit Leader	Programme Tutors				
Programme(s) for which the unit is mainly intended	MA Music Theatre			Compulsory	
Prerequisite Learning	Performing standard ascertained at audition				

Aims

- Gain knowledge at the forefront of, or informed by, a focussed approach to the academic and professional disciplines of creativity and performance.
- Take risks, be intellectually rigorous and show originality in your application of knowledge in, for example, practical performances, on-going skills development.
- Develop practice and scholarship pertinent to the field.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- (A3) appropriate historical, socio-cultural, aesthetic and dramaturgical contexts
- (A4) systematic approaches to textual and performance analysis and performance presentation.

You will develop the thinking skills that will enable you to:

- (B4) understand a range of repertoire and materials, including score/text/libretti, performers, creators, specific agendas, performance spaces, event structures and research materials.

You will develop the practical skills that will enable you to:

- (C2) apply established techniques to improve your experience and understanding of vocal, physical, musical and dramatic performance.

Transferable Skills Developed

Practice in your field; evaluation of practice (self & others)

Indicative Unit Content

This unit focuses on the identification of skills appropriate to performance-based elements in music theatre and the development of core specific techniques in relation to three areas: singing, acting, dance/movement.

Current critical debates and concepts in music theatre, along with its impact on practice, are taught in the Repertoire, Ensemble classes and Performance Workshop.

Feedback is continual throughout the unit as both formal and informal, peer to peer and from tutors.

How You Learn

- Staff-led class/workshop.
- Various informal performance opportunities.
- One-to-one tuition where appropriate.
- Independent preparation and planning.

Assessment Summary		
Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)	Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc.)	Weight within the unit (e.g. 50%)
Progress against areas identified in the personal skills audit, evidencing ability to apply specific techniques and undertake independent personal development across the period of the programme	Continual supervised progression with feedback	pass/fail
A personal development plan incorporating the initial skills audit.	750 words	Pass/fail
You must pass both elements of assessment to pass the unit.		
Examination at end of unit	1) Dance exam as a group 2) Monologue performance 3) Song Performance	33% 33% 34%
Assessment Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in relevant practice-based techniques. • Intellectual and embodied engagement. • Taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately. 		

15.2 ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE					
Level	7	Credits	20	ECTS	10
Notional Student Study Hours	200 hours (150-160 taught hours; 40-50 student managed)				
Unit Leader	Programme Tutors				
Programme(s) for which the unit is mainly intended	MA Music Theatre			MA Music Theatre	
Prerequisite Learning	N/A				

Aims

- Gain knowledge at the forefront of, or informed by, a focussed approach to the academic and professional disciplines of creativity and performance.
- Take risks, be intellectually rigorous and show originality in your application of knowledge in, for example, practical performances, on-going skills development.
- Understand how boundaries are advanced through sustained and intense practice and research.
- Share learning with other students.
- In collaboration with peers and independently, show originality in tackling and solving problems and deal systematically and creatively with complex performance-related issues in unpredictable environments.
- Develop practice pertinent to the field.

Learning Outcomes

You will obtain knowledge and understanding of:

- (A2) relevant theories and research methodologies including those most appropriate for students of music theatre.

You will develop the practical skills that will enable you to:

- (C1) use and evaluate relevant practices applicable in music theatre sometimes experimenting with new and/or original ideas
- (C2) apply established techniques to improve your experience and understanding of vocal, physical, musical and dramatic performance
- (C3) work successfully in a collaborative ensemble
- (C4) create, synthesise and sustain character(s) and role(s) in diverse performance situations.

You will develop the broader workplace skills that will enable you to:

- (D1) Demonstrate an ability to operate at a professional level appropriate to your discipline or field e.g. take decisions in complex and unpredictable situations independently and in dialogue with peers and/or external bodies.

Transferable Skills Developed

Practice in your field; evaluation of practice (self and others).

Indicative Unit Content

This unit comprises working in a company to perform a short piece of music theatre comprising solo and ensemble performance. After initial research you will create or select material for performance within a scenario that links and supports the material, the focus is on the acting, movement and vocal work of the performers on stage in a synthesis of elements from Unit 1.

Acknowledgement of existing models and excerpts, if used, will play an important part in the process of research and contextualisation of the work. Links to work in other units are encouraged, as is original work.

How You Learn

- Staff-led workshop.
- Peer review.
- Supported rehearsal.
- Professional Feedback.
- Public Performance.

Assessment Summary		
Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)	Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc.)	Weight within the unit (e.g. 50%)
An ensemble performance	Full Length	100%
Assessment Criteria		
Work is assessed on evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progress in relevant practice-based techniques • taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately • intellectual and embodied engagement. • understanding and effective use of research and advanced scholarship • recognising practice that is at the boundaries of the specialism • successful collaborative processes. 		

15.3 AUDITION AND SHOWCASE					
Level	7	Credits	20	ECTS	10
Notional Student Study Hours	200 hours, approximately 150 hours taught, 50 hours student managed Study hours in this unit are likely to include ‘taught’ sessions, time spent being directed, as well as time working independently in small groups.				
Unit Leader	Member of the programme team				
Programme(s) for which the unit is mainly intended	MA Music Theatre			Compulsory	
Prerequisite Learning	Previous units				

Aims

- understand key practical issues and debates of relevance to your own practice(s)
- develop and apply skills and techniques relevant to the contexts
- engage critically and creatively with current and emergent processes in your field
- undertake sustained practice/s, possibly in two contexts, developing your understanding, application and critical processes of practice within your discipline through an extended range of experience.

Learning Outcomes

You will develop the thinking skills that will enable you to:

- (B3) engage productively in performance and its evaluation
- (B4) understand a range of repertoire and materials, including score/text/libretti, performers, creators, specific agendas, performance spaces, event structures and research materials.

You will develop the broader workplace skills that will enable you to:

- (D2) operate successfully as a professional performer (e.g. manage time and deadlines; engage confidently in debate; structure and communicate ideas effectively; engage with relevant industries).

Transferable Skills Developed

Practice in your field; evaluation of practice (self and others).

Indicative Unit Content

You will continue to learn the three core skills of singing, acting and dance/movement as part of your audition and showcase preparation. You will perform a monologue and a song in front of a panel, simulating an audition.

Audition:

Applying your experience from the earlier performing units you will define the process of selecting and preparing repertoire which is effective and useful for your professional needs. The repertoire you select may be of value in the Showcase (see below) and in the profession beyond.

Showcase:

You will rehearse and present a public production to an audience including professionals within the field of music theatre. You will focus on the presentation of music theatre skills. This element is designed to enable you to synthesise your learning experience as a performer on the programme into a cohesive, technically astute and assured public creative expression.

Multiple disciplines may be demonstrated here.

How You Learn

You will learn through engaging with practical activities appropriate to the particular practice of the field. You will learn, also, from an experienced professional (tutor, director etc.) with whom you will work.

Assessment Summary		
Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)	Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc.)	Weight within the unit (e.g. 50%)
Monologue	5-10 mins individual	50%
Song	5-10 mins individual	50%
Showcase Performance	Typically a 60 minute ensemble performance	Pass/Fail
Assessment Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in relevant practice-based techniques. Taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately. Analytical and critical awareness of relevant contemporary issues. Intellectual engagement. Recognising practice that is at the boundaries of the specialism. Successful collaborative processes. Tackling and solving problems and dealing with complex situations in professionally-related environments. 		

15.4 CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE

Level	7	Credits	40	ECTS	20
Notional Student Study Hours	400 hours, approximately 300 hours taught, 100 hours student managed. Study hours in this unit are likely to include 'taught' skills sessions appropriate for the performance, time spent being directed, as well as time working independently in small groups.				
Unit Leader	Member of the programme team				
Programme(s) for which the unit is mainly intended	MA Music Theatre			Compulsory	
Prerequisite Learning	Previous units				

Aims

The unit aims to enable you to:

- understand key practical issues and debates of relevance to your own practice(s)
- develop and apply skills and techniques relevant to the contexts
- engage critically and creatively with current and emergent processes in your field
- undertake sustained practice/s, possibly in two contexts, developing your understanding, application and critical processes of practice within your discipline through an extended range of experience.

Learning Outcomes

You will obtain knowledge and understanding of:

- (A4) systematic approaches to textual and performance analysis and performance presentation.

You will develop the thinking skills that will enable you to:

- (B3) engage productively in performance and its evaluation.

You will develop the practical skills that will enable you to:

- (C3) work successfully in a collaborative ensemble
- (C4) create, synthesise and sustain character(s) and role(s) in diverse performance situations.

You will develop the broader workplace skills that will enable you to:

- (D2) operate successfully as a professional performer (e.g. manage time and deadlines; engage confidently in debate; structure and communicate ideas effectively; engage with relevant industries)
- (D3) take creative risks.

Transferable Skills Developed

Practice in your field; evaluation of practice (self and others).

Indicative Unit Content

You will work in a company to present a contemporary piece of musical theatre, supported by professionals from the industry. In consolidation of earlier units, the focus will be in particular upon the integration of acting, singing and dance through rehearsal and performance, allied with other disciplines. The unit offers an opportunity for students to develop and synthesise all skills taught on the programme.

How You Learn

You will learn through engaging with practical activities appropriate to the particular practice of the field. You will learn, also, from experienced professionals such as directors with whom you will work.

Assessment Summary		
Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)	Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc.)	Weight within the unit (e.g. 50%)
Contemporary Performance Project	full production	100%
Assessment Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in relevant practice-based techniques. • Taking creative risks, selecting and implementing from these appropriately. • Analytical and critical awareness of relevant contemporary issues. • Intellectual and embodied engagement. • Recognising practice that is at the boundaries of the specialism. • Successful collaborative processes. • Tackling and solving problems and dealing with complex situations in professionally-related environments. 		

15.5 SUSTAINED INDEPENDENT PROJECT (SIP)					
Level	7	Credits	60	ECTS	30
Notional Student Study Hours	<p>600 hours</p> <p>The exact breakdown of hours will be specified in the unit briefing paper. A minimum of ten hours contact time is expected. Each MA has different requirements for teaching depending upon the assessed outcomes of the unit. It is the norm for supervision to be completed by July, however.</p>				
Unit Leader	Programme Leaders				
Programme(s) for which the unit is mainly intended	MA Music Theatre			Compulsory	
Prerequisite Learning	All other units. (Some may run concurrently with the start of SIP).				

Aims

This unit aims to enable you to:

- extend your understanding of critical debates and practices within a specific area of drama/theatre/performance
- make appropriate, intelligent and informed selections from a wide range of possibilities of approach or research materials
- engage in a sustained, focused, independent piece of work that constitutes a summative contribution at the end of your programme
- develop as a contributor to the field including developing your vocabulary of critical reflection.

Learning Outcomes

You will obtain knowledge and understanding of:

- (A1) current critical debates, concepts and disprogrammes in music theatre.

You will develop the thinking skills that will enable you to:

- (B1) demonstrate your systematic understanding and critical awareness of relevant theoretical knowledge and its impact upon practice
- (B2) develop intellectual rigour and conceptual understanding enabling you to: undertake advanced scholarship and sustained research; critically evaluate and reflect upon your own and others'.

You will develop the broader workplace skills that will enable you to:

- (D3) take creative risks.

Transferable Skills Developed

Independent research, awareness of contemporary and/or historical practice, reflexivity, ability to bring an extended, independent piece of work to completion.

Indicative Unit Content

In MAMT the SIP will begin concurrently with all other units. This is to encourage you to consider your sustained independent project as an on-going journey that reflects your development across the year. The SIP therefore becomes a sustained, summative reflection of your Masters level study. Seminars in preparation for your SIP will also engage with the content of the rest of your practical work enabling you to critically reflect on your practice and equally allow your experiential work to inspire academic discoveries.

The content of the Sustained Independent Project (SIP) will be programme-defined. The work must be relevant to the matter of the discipline and agreed by tutors.

MAMT students will submit a SIP consisting of one of two options:

1. a dissertation on a relevant research topic of your choice
2. a theatre or performance artefact with a critical reflection on process.

In either option, you are expected to engage with an area or aspect of music theatre that interests and challenges you. You will make a proposal, submit it to the unit leader for comment and complete the work by the end of term 4. (Precise dates to be given in Term 1 introduction phase.)

For both options, students are expected to consider a range of MA dissertations in the School's library, identifying the range and level of research required and the nature of topics selected prior to completing the SIP proposal form.

Further detail for Option 2:

You will develop an idea for solo or small group performance which exhibits and creates dialogues with non-traditional, experimental modes of music theatre performance and is performed offsite, thereby defining its specific parameter. You will pursue site-specific, media or other off-site options. The performance and artefact will not receive 'production resource' by the School. This separation from the resources of the School will need to be carefully planned and prepared. You may work as an individual or within a small group. If the latter, you will ensure that your own contribution is clearly identifiable (as you are assessed on your independent work). Your proposal will identify whether you are working individually or within a small group. During the summer period, you will take your work to an agreed encounter with an audience, carefully recording and documenting this process. For example, you may decide to encounter your audience in a public situation; within a site-specific environment; or in a new situation entirely planned and designed by you. Your audience may be large or small and encountered over a large number of performances, or very few. You may also encounter your audience in different ways – for example, through live and/or virtual means.

You will produce a critical reflection on your work, whose form and content will have been agreed with the unit leader at the Proposal stage.

The requirements of the Proposal for both Options will be carefully briefed. You will undertake research around your project, ensuring you have a good understanding of the critical context in which you will be making it, prior to the Proposal. You will provide a clear and consistent working plan for your project (Option 1 or 2 above) clarifying your working methods and the ideas or approach around which your project will be gathered. Once agreed by the unit leader, you will proceed with your Dissertation or artefact/performance. In tutorials, the emphasis will be on pushing you to achieve what you have set out to achieve, and helping you to move forward where difficulties occur.

How You Learn

You will learn through engaging with an individual, sustained task. This will be supported by a nominated supervisor. The SIP is designed to enable you to draw on the practice of the programme and enhance your dramaturgical, research, reflective and, potentially, your practical skills.

Assessment Summary		
Type of task (e.g. essay, report, group performance)	Magnitude (e.g. No of words, time, etc.)	Weight within the unit (e.g. 50%)
Theatre Artefact	e.g. 5-10 minutes per person	50%
Critical Reflection	4,000 words	50%
OR		
Dissertation	12,000 words	100%
Assessment Detail		
<p>EITHER:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A dissertation assessed by the 12000 word presentation 2. A theatre performance or artefact (50%, composition or performance), with complementary Critical Reflection of 4,000 words (50%). <p>The proposal.</p> <p>This choice, subject and content of the SIP will be authorised by the unit leader and the student. It will be submitted to a relevant tutor and agreed by a selected programme-specific date. Significant changes to the proposal must be approved. (See Sustained Independent Project (SIP) Proposal Form, Appendix B) The proposal is not assessed but has to be 'passed' before you may undertake the work.</p>		
Assessment Criteria		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained, independent written argument. • Originality in the application of knowledge in relation to the matter of the unit. • Analytical and critical awareness of relevant contemporary issues. • Intellectual and embodied engagement. • Understanding and effective use of research and advanced scholarship. • Implementation of relevant creative and technical techniques and expertise. 		

PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES**Key Texts****ACTING**

Hodge, A (2000) *Twentieth Century Acting Training*, London, Routledge

Stanislavsky K (1989) *An Actor Prepares*, NY, Routledge

Deer, Joe; dal Vera, Rocco (2008) *Acting in Musical Theatre: a comprehensive programme*. London: Routledge.

Loui, Annie (2009) *The Physical Actor* Routledge

Merlin, Bella (2010) *Acting: the basics*, Routledge

MOVEMENT

Hendricks, G (1995) *Conscious Breathing: Breathwork for Health, Stress Release, and Personal Mastery*, New York: Bantam Books

SINGING

Bunch, M (1982) *Dynamics of the Singing Voice*, New York, Springer Wien

Wedge G (1995) *Ear Training & Sight Singing, US*, Schirmer

Taylor, Millie (2008) *Singing for Musicals: a practical guide* The Crowood Press

VOICE

Berry C (1973) *Voice and the Actor*, NY, Wiley Publishing, Inc

Rodenberg, P (1992) *The Right To Speak*, US, Routledge

PERFORMANCE THEORY

Fortier, Mark (2002) *Theory/theatre: an introduction*. London, Routledge, 2nd ed.

Supportive Reading**ACTING**

Adler, S (1990) *The Technique of Acting*, Bantam Trade Paperback

Balk, W H (1977) *The Complete Singer-Actor/Training for the Music Theatre*, Minneapolis U.S.A, University of Minnesota Press

Barker, C (1988) *Theatre Games*, London, Methuen

Chekov, M (1988) *On the Technique of Acting*, US, Harper Perennial

Meisner, S; Longwell, D (1997) *Sanford Meisner on Acting*, NY, A Vintage Original

Mitter, S(1992) *Systems of Rehearsal: Stanislavsky, Brecht, Grotowski, and Brook*, NY, Routledge

MOVEMENT

Alberts, D (1997) *The Expressive Body: Physical Characterization For The Actor*, UK, Heinemann

Bogart, A; Landau, T (2005) *The View Points Book*, NY, Theatre Communications Group

Brennan, R. (2003) *The Alexander Technique Workbook, Your Personal System for Health, Poise, and Fitness*, UK, Vega Books

Evans, M (2008) *Movement Training for the Actor*, Routledge

Feldenkrais M (1990) *Awareness through Movement*, UK, Penguin

Laban R (1980) *Mastery of Movement*, London, Northcote House

Newlove, J (1993) *Laban for Actors and Dancers*, NY & London, Routledge.

Richards, T (1995) *At Work with Grotowski on Physical Actions*, NY & London, Routledge

SINGING

Barker P (2003) *Composing for the Voice*, NY, Routledge

Husler, F; Rodd-Marling, Y (1965) *Singing: The Physical Nature of the Vocal Organ*, London, Faber & Faber

Kayes, G (2000) *Singing and the actor*. London: A. & C. Black

Manen, L (1974), *The Art of Singing*, London, Faber & Faber

Reid, C (1950) *Bel Canto*, NY, Josef Pattelson Music House

Sell , Karen (2005) *The Disciplines of Vocal Pedagogy: towards an holistic approach* , Ashgate,

VOICE

Boston, J; Cook, R (2009) *Breath in action: the art of breath in vocal and holistic practice*, London: Jessica Kingsley

Linklater K (1976) *Freeing the Natural Voice*, Drama Publishers

Mithen, S (2006) *The Singing Neanderthals*, London, Phoenix

Rodenburg P (1993) *The Need for Words*, US & Canada, Routledge

Rodenburg P (2002) *The Actor Speaks*, NY, Palgrave MacMillan

PERFORMANCES THEORY AND HISTORY

Bogart, A (2003) *A Director Prepares, seven essays on Art and Theatre*, NY, Routledge

Brook, P (1988) *The Shifting Point*, London, Methuen

Harvie, Jen; Lavender, Andy (2010) *Making Contemporary Theatre: International Rehearsal Processes* Manchester

Jackson, S. (2004) *Professing Performance, Acting from Philology to Performativity*, Cambridge University Press

Pavis, P (2003) *Analyzing performance : theater, dance, and film*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press

Schechner, R (2003) *Performance Theory*, NY, Routledge

Shepherd, Simon, and Wallis, Mick (2004) *Drama/theatre/performance. The New Critical Idiom*, London, Routledge,

Willet, J (1986) *The Theatre of Bertolt Brecht, A Study from Eight Aspects*, London, Methuen

Salzman, E; Desi, T (2008) *The New Music Theatre: seeing the voice, hearing the body*, Oxford

Journals

For survey of current critical theory in Music theatre: *Contemporary Theatre Review* 14:1

For survey of current critical theory in Musical theatre: *Contemporary Theatre Review* 19:1

For current scholarship in Musical Theatre: *Studies in Musical Theatre Journal* (Intellect Ltd)

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- **ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE**

Key Texts

Bicat, T; Baldwin C (2002) *Devised & Collaborative Theatre: A Practical Guide*, Crowood Press

Brook P (1990) *The Empty Space*, UK, Penguin.

Mudford, Peter (2000) *Making Theatre: from text to performance*, Athlone Press

Mock, Roberta ed. (2000) *Performing Process: creating live performance*, Intellect Books,

Supportive Reading

WRITING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

Frankel, A (2000) *Writing the Broadway musical*, Da Capo Press

Spencer, D (2005) *The Musical Theatre Writer's Survival Guide*, Heinemann Drama

Rosenhaus, S.L; Cohen, A (2006) *Writing Musical Theater*, Palgrave Macmillan

Taylor, M (2009) *British Pantomime Performance*, Chicago University Press

AUDITION AND SHOWCASE

- **Key Texts**

Hammond, M (2009) *Thank you – that's all we need for today...* London, Edition Peters

Supportive Reading

Craig D (1993) *A Performer Prepares*, NY & London, Applause

Craig, D (1990) *On Singing on Stage*, NY & London, Applause

Devenney, D (1998) *The Broadway Song Companion*, NY, Scarecrow Press

Mapleson P (1994) *Auditioning for Musicals*, Australia, Currency

Please see relevant texts from other unit outlines also, depending upon the focus of the work undertaken.

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CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE

- **Key Texts**

- [Acting in Musical Theatre: A Comprehensive Programme](#) by Vera, Rocco Dal and Deer, Joe (Routledge, 2008)
- [Directing in Musical Theatre: An Essential Guide](#) by Deer, Joe (Routledge 2014)

Supportive Reading

Craig D (1993) *A Performer Prepares*, NY & London, Applause

Craig, D (1990) *On Singing on Stage*, NY & London, Applause

Please see relevant texts from other unit outlines also, depending upon the focus of the work undertaken.

SUSTAINED INDEPENDENT PROJECT (SIP)

Key Texts/ Supportive Reading

The key texts and supportive reading will be entirely dependent upon your choice of subject matter. It is expected that you will use texts and resources referred to earlier in the programme as well as material new to you at this point in the programme.

17 KEY FACTS

PROGRAMME NAME	MA Music Theatre
TEACHING INSTITUTION	The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London
AWARDING BODY	University of London
FHEQ	The MA Music Theatre is a qualification at Level 7 in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, carrying 180 credits at level 7.
AWARD(S)	MA (180 credits)
FINAL AWARD NAME	A PG Dip may be awarded on the basis of 120 credits to a student who has not passed the 60 credit Sustained Independent Project.
MODE OF STUDY	Master of Arts in Music Theatre
EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER SCHEME (ECTS)	Full-time only
ACCREDITATION	The MA is a qualification at the end of the second cycle as defined within the European Higher Education Area, carrying 90 ECTS credits
LANGUAGE OF STUDY	N/A
EXTERNAL BENCHMARKS	English

Programme Approval

Specification Version	2019/20
Last Periodic Review	2018/19

External Examiner Information

Name	Position	Organisation	Tenure (MM/YY)
Dr Benjamin Macpherson	Principal Lecturer and Course Leader	University of Portsmouth	09/2019 – 12/2023

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