

AS/A2 Level PERFORMANCE STUDIES



Course Guide

Level 3 Two-year course

2010/11

This course would suit students who are interested in Dance, Drama and Music and working to create their own performances. Students who also enjoy working in a team environment should consider studying this course.

Subject introduction

This is a very practical course with a particular focus on physical theatre, specifically contemporary dance/theatre practice. Performance Studies is multi-disciplined in approach. It is ideal for those who wish to acquire skills and study performance in Dance, Drama and Music. Through the study of practitioners and genres you will be introduced to the cultural, social and historical contexts in which the performing arts operate. Throughout the course you will develop qualities of imagination, sensitivity and artistic appreciation. By the end of the course you will have developed an understanding of performance theory and the ability to discuss your practical work using appropriate technical language.

Year 1 study outline

Unit 1: Creating Performance

Elements include:

- Skills-based workshops in each individual art form (Dance, Drama and Music)
- A short performance in each individual art form
- A longer performance that combines elements of all three art forms to be performed in a community venue
- A written commentary on the practical work and the longer community piece are both assessed

Unit 2: Performance Contexts 1

Candidates will study two practitioners as prescribed by the awarding body.

Year 2 study outline

Unit 3: Performance Contexts 2

Candidates study nine extracts (three from Dance, three from Drama and three from Music) from a topic prescribed by the awarding body.

SEE WHAT'S NEXT

Unit 4: Performance Project

Candidates will undertake two performance assessments as follows:

- A performance realisation from one of the works studied in either Performance Contexts one or two
- A student devised performance produced in response to a commission chosen from a set selection

Methods of study

In workshop sessions you explore the skills and forms of expression used by dancers, actors and musicians. Using those approaches you will devise and perform in groups. The heart of the course is improvising, rehearsing, and performing. A variety of other forms of study support this approach such as lectures, seminars, and independent research. The written coursework and examinations are founded on the practical work.

Special features

Throughout the course there will be a variety of opportunities to see live performances in all three art forms. You will need to take advantage of available theatre visits organised by the department which will be at an extra cost to you but which are a vital part of the

course, on average you should budget for £75 per year (financial support is available). You might also support your studies with involvement in extra-curricular performing arts activities such as the SEEVIC Youth Theatre, Dance enrichment classes or the College Gospel Choir.

Subject combinations and careers

Performance Studies can be studied alongside other performing arts subjects such as Theatre Studies, Dance, Music, or Music Technology. Alternatively you might combine it with a wider range of A Levels such as English, Art & Design or Media Studies.

After completing A Level Performance Studies you could choose to progress onto Higher Education studying at either degree level or at Drama, Dance, or Music College to work in the Arts.

Performance Studies is good preparation for anyone needing effective communication skills. Career options are wide ranging and include professional performer, arts management and administration, community arts, arts therapy, teaching and social work.

Success stories

Students have progressed onto a variety of university courses, for example Liverpool University, LABAN, Bangor, Rose Bruford, and London Guildhall.

Others have moved directly into employment. Past students have gone on to work professionally in the theatre.

Methods of assessment

- 70% practical performance and written coursework
- 30% written exam