COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) Musical Theatre

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Course Title	BA (Hons) Musical Theatre
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, BA
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U2495FTC / U2495PYC / 2B69
Mode of study	Full time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	from September 2026 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Creative and Cultural Industries
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Film, Media, and Creative Technologies
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/school-of-film-media-and-creative-technologies
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-theatre
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	N/A
Office for Students Conditions of Registration	*https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/registering-with-the-ofs/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/conditions-of-registration/*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 6

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.
This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Musical Theatre degree provides students with an excellent opportunity to explore popular musical theatre as an art form through practical and scholarly engagement. The practical nature of the course weaves together three core strands:

- Making, Doing and Devising
- The Musical in Global and Local Contexts
- Histories, Dramaturgies and the Archive

These core areas of expertise in the course team, and content at all levels, offers a unique course focus on integrating subject-specific knowledge with transferable skills development as part of its renewed focus on employability beyond the subject area itself.

The broader aims and intentions of the course are as follows:

- To provide a stimulating and coherent course of study that allows flexibility and develops subject-specific and transferable skills;
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop critical and practical skills relating the musical theatre and the performing arts more broadly;
- To equip graduates with skills necessary for lifelong learning, employability and enterprise, hard and soft transferable skills, and flexibility in the context of labour markets;
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to enhance career and postgraduate study opportunities;
- To support the development of skills in the reading and critical analysis of theoretical, dramatic and musical texts;
- To provide an understanding of the historical and cultural context of performance, and an awareness of its role in articulating and shaping values, ideas, identities and cultures;
- To provide an opportunity to study a wide range of musico-dramatic performances and artefacts from a variety of historical periods and cultures, with a focus on transnational intersections, interactions and discourses;
- To enable students to develop a high standard of literacy, communication skills, and skills of critical argument.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

Office for Students Conditions of Registration

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
A1	The histories, forms and traditions of theatre, music and performance, and the theoretical explanations for those histories (DDP)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios, Viva voce.
A2	Historical and contemporary contexts of production, circulation and reception of various types of interdisciplinary performance (DDP; MUS)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work, Workshops.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios, Viva voce.
A3	Traditional and contemporary critical debates and how these relate to texts and performance practice (DDP)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios, Viva voce.
A4	Key practitioners, practices and theorists in their critical, historical or processual contexts (DDP)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work, Workshops.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios, Viva voce.
A5	Significant sources and critical awareness of the main research methods used to collect and analyse data (DDP)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios.

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
B1	Describe, theorise, analyse and critically examine musico-dramatic texts from a range of critical and cultural perspectives (DDP)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work, Workshops.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios, Viva voce.
B2	Assimilate complex information from diverse sources, and integrate and organise that information in relation to defined goals (E)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work, Workshops.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios, Viva voce.
B3	Deploy information and argument effectively and in a self-reflective manner, and to evaluate alternative perspectives or points of view	Lectures, Seminars, Group work.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios, Viva voce.
B4	Understand, interrogate, and apply different theoretical positions; develop an awareness of their applicability in interpreting artefacts, making new work, and in the production of essays and other projects (DDP)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work, Workshops.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios, Viva voce, Performance.
B5	Identify significant sources and demonstrate critical awareness of the main research methods used to analyse and interpret data.	Lectures, Seminars, Group work, Workshops.	Essays, Presentations, Portfolios.

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	Demonstrate the capacity for creative engagement with musico-dramatic texts particularly in the process of understanding the relationship between, and translating, 'page to stage' (DDP; MUS)	Lectures, Seminars, Group work, Workshops, Performances.	Essays, Portfolios, Presentations, Viva voce, Performances.
C2	Demonstrate an understanding of a style or genre through practical skills development (MUS; DDP)	Individual work, Group work, Workshops, Performances.	Portfolio, Workshops, Performances, Viva voce.
C3	Use critical and written skills in the close reading and analysis of performance texts (musical, dramatic, post-dramatic) to articulate the relationship between theory and practice (DDP)	Seminars, Group work, Individual work, Performances.	Essays, Portfolios, Presentations, Performances, Viva voce.
C4	Show awareness of the roles of global social, cultural and economic contexts in shaping the production, reception and analysis of meaning in musical theatre performance	Seminars, Group work, Individual work, Performances.	Essays, Portfolios, Presentations, Performances, Viva voce.
C5	Show awareness of Health and Safety concerns, including risk-assessment as appropriate and the appropriate handling of equipment in the theatre or performance environment (including processes for site-specific or Applied Theatre performances)	Seminars, Group work, Performance.	Portfolios, Performances, Viva voce.

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
D1	Produce practical work at an appropriately professional level of performance, presentation, exhibition or publication within the University or local community context (MUS)	Seminars, Group work, Workshops, Performances.	Portfolios, Presentations, Performances.
D2	Demonstrate advanced communication skills, both oral and written and electronic, including the ability to present a rhetorically effective and coherent, well supported, and sustained argument (DDP)	Seminar, Group work, Workshops.	Essays, Portfolios, Presentations, Performances, Viva voce.
D3	Identify and interrogate questions or problems, and propose interpretative or explanatory solutions, and where appropriate devise practical responses or outcomes	Lectures, Seminars, Workshops, Group work.	Essays, Portfolios, Performances, Viva voce.
D4	Demonstrate time-management, organisational and administrative skills, including the ability to plan and work to clear goals and objectives	Group work, Individual work, Workshops, Performances.	Portfolios, Presentations, Performances, Viva voce.
D5	Review progress in pursuing objectives, identify strategies for improvement, and reflect on the transferability of skills, strategies and approaches	Seminar, Group work, Individual work, Workshops.	Portfolios, Presentations, Viva voce.

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course. Approved course exemptions can be found here.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services, this course also provides:

CCI Creative Skills: One-to-one support sessions and group tutorials in creative technology, software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: To support learning strategies and techniques through one-to-one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Success Advisors: Each student is individually allocated a dedicated Student Support Advisor who provides personalised pastoral and practical support throughout their studies.

Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum
- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for **Dance, Drama and Performance, English, Music**
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **N/A**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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