THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES 2018/19
Theatre has been defined and practised in many ways. It’s about people gathering to share stories; to be amazed, make a stand, remember, laugh, feel, and understand more deeply. At Warwick we explore how this is so – at different historical moments, in various places, through diverse dramatic and theatrical conventions. We also focus on performance as a discipline but in the expanded sense, where performance has spilled out of theatres.

Our staff are international, with expertise in creative practice, community theatres, multimedia performance, theatre history and performance analysis. Our teaching strengths include ‘national’ theatres; theatre and exile, trauma and memory; theatre in social settings; globalisation and the environment; popular and political theatres; performance across media; the body in performance; and different forms of writing, directing and dramaturgy.

We involve professional artists and practitioners who lead workshops and help devise performances. Dance-circus company Motionhouse, new writing company Out of Joint and solo performer Tim Crouch have all staged productions and run workshops for our students.

Performance gets you closer to reality. And to understand the intricacies of theatre and performance is to understand real changes in the world.

“Art is a ripening, an evolution, an uplifting which enables us to emerge from darkness into a blaze of light.”

Jerzy Grotowski

Wherever we are, we suit our performance to the environment we are in.
HOW YOU’LL BE TAUGHT

We are deeply engaged in contemporary forms, which we consider in relation to cultural and historical contexts.

By exploring principles of performance in and through practice, you’ll understand specific approaches and styles from the inside. We stand for the value of creativity, the distinctness of critical reflection, and the capacity of theatre to make a difference to peoples’ lives. As a result, we believe in student-focused curricula, research-led teaching and learning by doing.

PATHWAYS AND POSSIBILITIES

Our programme is built around four core modules in Year One, and a series of optional modules in Years Two and Three. This means that you can tailor the programme to suit your own needs and interests. We conceive the optional modules by way of a set of clusters that give a broad indication of routes to further work, study and employability. For further information see pages 12 and 13.

TEACHING AND FACILITIES

Our teaching is delivered via studio-based explorations, small-group seminars and occasional lectures, supplemented by theatre visits, field trips, guest lectures and workshops with practitioners. You will be assessed through a variety of methods, including practical projects, creative logbooks, essays, individual and group presentations and exams. You’ll receive regular feedback on your work across all its dimensions, as an integral part of helping you learn and improve.

You’ll learn in our fully-equipped black-box performance studios, with media and technical support; adaptable rehearsal spaces with sprung floors; video and media editing studios; bespoke seminar rooms; and lecture rooms.

The Arts Centre also hosts workshops and performances for our department.

“Warwick treated me as a person first and a student second, allowing me to take my course and research in a direction that was beneficial to me. My experience in the department is what I take with me as I now stand as a Divisional Officer for the Royal Navy, responsible for the development of men and women who are at times, as difficult and closed as I once was.”

REBECCA ANDERSON
BA THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES
From new writing platform Freshblood to the all-singing, all-dancing Music Theatre Warwick, the societies nurture and support productions destined for Edinburgh, the National Student Drama Festival in Scarborough or one of the many campus-based performance spaces. Many of our students have gone on to produce a diverse and varied body of professional work, often to wide acclaim.

Our university is home to Warwick Arts Centre, one of the largest multi-artform venues of its kind in the UK. It’s where Peter Brook premiered The Valley of Astonishment in 2014, and the RSC staged its 2009 production of Othello. Our drama societies have the opportunity to perform here, as well as internationally renowned companies like Cheek by Jowl, Northern Broadsides, Kneehigh, and Filter. In addition to theatre, Warwick Arts Centre delivers an exciting programme of live music, dance, drama and comedy performances.

Alongside the Arts Centre we also collaborate with the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning in the annual Emerge festival. At the inaugural 2014 Festival and Laboratory, graduate theatre companies including Dumbshow, Fat Git, FellSwoop, Kill the Beast and alumni artists participated in four days of events and experiments. In 2015 the festival celebrated the university’s 50th anniversary through Warwick 2065: Performance and the University, alongside touring work from graduate companies including FellSwoop, Barrel Organ and Walrus.

Let’s also not forget that Stratford-upon-Avon is nearby, once home to the playwright who deemed all the world a stage. With the Royal Shakespeare Company’s three stages and the extensive performance archives of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford offers many opportunities to encounter the Bard. We are also local to the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry which attracts some of the UK’s finest touring productions, including Blood Brothers, The History Boys, Dirty Dancing and The Play That Goes Wrong.

From seminars to studio spaces, there’s always room for creative expression both on and off campus. Our student drama societies are a great testbed for ideas.
We run dedicated careers sessions, including an annual Alumni Event where you’ll have the opportunity to listen and speak to recent Theatre & Performance graduates. We facilitate collaborations with local, national and international companies with the aim to provide work experience, placement opportunities and internships (in the past companies and organisations have included Out of Joint, Interacting Madrid and Fierce Festival). There are a number of opportunities to work with and learn from the many companies that visit the Warwick Arts Centre.

The University has a proactive Careers Service offering advice and training sessions on skills, work placements and developing your CV (for example).

A degree in Theatre & Performance Studies will equip you with a range of transferable skills including advanced literary and communication skills, with the ability to apply these in appropriate contexts; the ability to present persuasive, coherent written and oral arguments; the capacity to process complex information in a structured and systematic way; aptitude for conceptual thinking; excellent people skills; and confidence in public settings.

These are all qualities that are highly valued in the creative industries, as well as public and private sectors alike.

Recent graduates have gone on to work for:
- Royal Court Theatre
- Hat Trick Productions
- Cameron Mackintosh Ltd
- Cheek by Jowl
- BBC Radio 6 Music
- BBC RadioKent
- Royal Shakespeare Company
- AMV BBDO
- Cardboard Citizens
- C&T (creativity, drama and digital culture)
- Royal Opera House and touring company (including China and USA)

Graduates have also gone on to further study at Warwick and elsewhere.

FUTURES

As a Theatre & Performance student at Warwick you will benefit from our outstanding resources and connections to the theatre industries and creative sector.

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You'll gain an understanding of Theatre and Performance Studies by taking four core modules. You will be introduced to diverse performance-making possibilities, as well as given a comprehensive hands-on induction to the use of the technical facilities available to you. You'll learn to become fully conversant with the operation of lighting, sound and video equipment, in preparation for independent use in subsequent years.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES**

This module enables you to explore the links between the interrelated disciplines of theatre and performance, giving you a greater understanding of how one informs the other. You will investigate how Theatre and Performance Studies can throw light on questions of identity; explore the role played by the places, spaces and environments of theatre and performance; and examine how politics and culture intersect in various kinds of performance practice.

**FROM TEXT TO PERFORMANCE**

You'll explore key European theatrical movements, theatre practitioners, and plays and performance texts from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Through discussions geared around selected themes, and practical exploration of a number of plays and performance texts, you will examine the relationship between performance, representation and society, considering how performance is staged, and how it relates to the texts that pre-empt, describe or emerge from it. You'll experiment practically with realising texts in performance, whether through adaptations or excerpts of existing texts. The module will also consider aspects such as staging, genre, narrative structure, performance strategies and the changing role and function of the audience.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

This module addresses critical, conceptual and writing skills that help you to account for various kinds of performances and events, and understand how performance operates in a range of settings. It analyses how other people have ‘read’ performances in reviews and academic articles, and helps you gain sophistication in your own critical reflection and writing. You'll explore specific performances through diverse approaches in relation to (for example) memory, gender, terror, intermediality and the popular. The module will also inform your study in the Second and Third Year. It will help you develop conceptual thinking and ideas concerning your own practice.

**CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE PRACTICES**

Through tutor-led workshops, seminar discussions, and presentations, you will be introduced to a range of contemporary devised performance practices, such as site-specific performance, performance art, physical theatre, autobiographical performance, performance interventions, walking performance, and various forms of multimedia performance. You'll explore these through your own practice, watching DVDs and examining web-based and written documentation of theatre and performance. Where possible, you will participate in theatre visits and artist-led workshops. During the year, you will experiment with various approaches to creating devised performance, and you will improve your own critical and creative responses to work seen and discussed.
CUSTOMISE YOUR DEGREE

In the Second and Third Year you can specialise, follow a couple of specific interests, or go for breadth. We have a list of modules for you to choose from, some of which can be taken in either the Second or Third Year.

We have arranged the options in broad clusters, to give you a sense of the kinds of trajectory you can follow. These are only rough groupings - a number of modules could appear in two or even all three columns. They all involve scholarship of some kind, most of them think about social matters, and many of them involve creative practice. You don’t have to follow a single cluster - you’re free to construct your own route through, and this can include optional modules from other programmes in the University.

The grouping is useful in indicating some routes into the world of work - for example as a writer/director (first cluster), community theatre facilitator (second cluster) or TV researcher (third cluster); or into further study or training - for example, as an actor (first cluster), Drama Education specialist (second cluster) or Research Masters/PhD student (third cluster).

Please note that the modules listed are among those that we have previously offered, and that the choice in any one year is subject to variation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creative practice and production</th>
<th>Applied, community, and socio-political theatres</th>
<th>Theatre/Performance studies and scholarship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECOND YEAR</strong> Options</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Theatre in the Community</td>
<td>20th Century Irish Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing for Theatre &amp; Performance</td>
<td>Mad, Bad, and Sad: Madness and Cultural Representation</td>
<td>19th Century Melodrama in Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Online</td>
<td>South African Theatre</td>
<td>Religion, Secularity &amp; Affect in the Modern World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wired</td>
<td>Socially Engaged Performance</td>
<td>Audio-Visual Avant-Gardes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tragedy in Performance: Conventions, Discourses, Dramaturgies</td>
<td>Theatre in the African Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immersive</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THIRD YEAR</strong> Options</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intercultural Performance Practice</td>
<td>Performing Gender &amp; Sexuality</td>
<td>Theatre &amp; National Identities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dramaturgy</td>
<td>You, Me &amp; Everyone We Know: Identity &amp; Performance</td>
<td>Interpreting the Theatrical Past: Approaches to Theatre Historiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptation and Transformation</td>
<td>Post-war British Theatre &amp; Social Abjection</td>
<td>Love: Performance, Theory &amp; Criticism</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Author Dies Hard</td>
<td>Food and Performance</td>
<td>Contemporary European Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THIRD YEAR All</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation / Specialist Independent Project</td>
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Credit: Walrus Theatre
JOINT HONOURS PROGRAMMES

BA ENGLISH AND THEATRE STUDIES (QW34)
This degree offers a mix of literary and dramatic study, and includes a focus on the exploration of texts in relation to theatrical representation and performance.
In your first year, you’ll gain an understanding of English literature from the classical past to the here and now; you’ll look at post-war British theatre from the ‘angry young men’ to the women of the ‘awkward brigade’; and ask big questions about how politics and culture intersect with the study of theatre and performance and about how performance and theatre construct identity.
In your second year you’ll think about theatre as an intervention in public space. You’ll study English language plays that have shaped democratic institutions around the world as well as plays from the Greeks to the present that constitute the European tradition of theatre. You’ll also start selecting from a fascinating array of modules that allow you to take your degree in the direction of your interests. In your final year you’ll study Shakespeare as a jobbing playwright. And you’ll choose modules that extend your horizons, including proposing your own research project as a dissertation.

BA THEATRE & PERFORMANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (W4L8)
This joint degree enables you to investigate the contemporary problems that our governments, scientists, philosophers, educators and charities are grappling with, and challenges you to explore possible and practical solutions. The degree is aligned closely with the United Nations’ Global Development Priorities and we encourage you to engage critically and creatively with the UN’s policies, its global initiatives and local interventions.
You’ll combine your study of sustainable development with Theatre & Performance Studies and will learn how to apply your expertise to the investigation of the world’s most pressing concerns. You will address ‘big questions’ from economic, social and environmental perspectives, and engage with methods and techniques employed by expert researchers in those fields.
Your knowledge of Theatre and Performance Studies will stand you in good stead, helping you to develop wider transferable skills concerning textual and event analysis, cultural studies, issues to do with personal and social narratives and identities, the relationship between representation and change, and effective communication in a range of settings.

BA THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (QW34)
A Level: AAB to include A at A Level English Language and Literature

YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN:

BA ENGLISH AND THEATRE (QW34)
A Level: AAB to include A at A Level English Literature or combined English Language and Literature

BA FRENCH AND THEATRE STUDIES (R1WB)
A Level: AAB including French

BA GERMAN AND THEATRE STUDIES (RW24)
A Level: AAB to include an A Level in a modern or classical language

BA HISPANIC STUDIES AND THEATRE STUDIES (R4W4)
A Level: AAB to include an A Level in a modern or classical language

BA ITALIAN AND THEATRE STUDIES (R3WA)
A Level: AAB to include an A Level in a modern or classical language

*The typical offers listed are indicative. For more information go to warwick.ac.uk/ug
COURSE INFORMATION

This course information was accurate at the time of printing.

Our course and module content and schedule is continually reviewed and updated to reflect the latest research expertise at Warwick, so it is therefore very important that you check the website for the latest information before you apply and when you accept an offer.

For the latest information on fees and funding, please visit: warwick.ac.uk/services/academicoffice/finance/fees