CLOSER TO REALITY

THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES 2019/20

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
Drama, theatre and performance have been defined and practised in many ways. They are 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 conventions. We also focus on performance as a discipline but in the expanded sense; where performance has spilled out of theatres and social media.

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

We involve professional organisations, artists and practitioners who lead workshops, help devise performances and host our students in internships. World class dance-circus company Motionhouse, international multi-arts company Dash Arts, the BE (Birmingham European) Festival, solo performer Tim Crouch and Warwick Arts Centre have staged productions, offered internships and run workshops for our students.

Performance gets you closer to reality. Performance is its own reality. And performance provides a window on a world of change and transformation.

Jerzy Grotowski

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

Top 10 in the UK for the subject*

Wherever we are, we suit our performance to the environment we are in.

*Complete University Guide 2019, The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018
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. 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.

Warwick Arts Centre hosts workshops and performances for the department, along with our Summer Term Festival, and collaborates with us in delivering a module on the creative arts.

“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 GRADUATE
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, cinema, 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. The Festival continues as an important showcase for graduate companies. 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 (used by one of our modules), 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 best touring productions, including Blood Brothers, The History Boys, Dirty Dancing and The Play That Goes Wrong.

We have excellent contacts with local and regional companies in the burgeoning Midlands cultural and creative arts scene, including Theatre Absolute (which runs Coventry’s innovative Shop Front Festival), Stan’s Cafe (touring devised work internationally), Motionhouse (the celebrated multimedia dance company) and the Festival of European Youth Theatre (Birmingham REP).

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.
FUTURES

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

We run dedicated careers sessions, including an annual Alumni Event where you’ll have the opportunity to listen and speak to Theatre and Performance graduates. We facilitate collaborations with local, national and international companies with the aim to provide work experience, placement opportunities and internships (last session companies offering internships included BE (Birmingham European) Festival, Dash Arts (international arts innovation), the Festival of European Youth Theatre, Fierce Festival (for live art), Out of Joint (nationally touring new writing company), and Warwick Arts Centre.

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

A degree in Theatre and 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 teamworking and people skills; sophisticated problem-solving and project management 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:
BBC Radio 3; 6Music; C&I, Cheek by Jowl; Recorded Delivery; Royal Shakespeare Company; Science Museum; Shell; Southbank Centre, London; Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh; Watershed Pervasive Media Studio, Bristol.

Former Theatre students* are employed in the following roles:
Actor; Actress; Community Development Worker; Digital Content Producer; Director; Drama Teacher; Production Manager; Recruitment Consultant among others.

In addition to working on projects with companies including the National Youth Theatre, National Theatre, Royal Court Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse, our graduates have won accolades including National Film Award for Best Screenplay; National Student Drama Festival award for Best Emerging Company; Observer Top 50 Cultural Leaders in the UK; Screen International Stars of Tomorrow; and Woman in the Arts Next Generation Leader.

*Source: Alumni DataServices

warwick.ac.uk/theatrestudies
You’ll gain an understanding of Theatre and Performance Studies by taking four core modules. You will be introduced to diverse performance-making possibilities, key concepts in theatre and performance, 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, intermediacy 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.

OUR DEGREES

BA THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES (W440)

We believe that theatre and performance occur not only in theatre buildings, but also in cities, on streets, in rituals and daily life, and in spaces real, virtual and imagined.

Our Single Honours degree allows you to engage creatively and critically with performance-making and with contemporary and historical issues through the lens of Theatre and Performance Studies.

You will learn in an intimate and supportive environment, where teaching is delivered through both practical and seminar-based modules. In your final year you will undertake independent and/or group-based work culminating in either a dissertation or practice-based project. We’ll share innovative practice-based learning approaches, and you will typically combine conceptual and theoretical thinking with practical exploration and realisation.

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FIRST YEAR

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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. There are only rough groupings – a number of modules could appear in two or even all three columns. They all involve critical reflection 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).

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<th>Applied, community, and socio-political theatres</th>
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<td>Writing for Theatre &amp; Performance</td>
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<td>Dramaturgy</td>
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<td>Practice-Based Project / Dissertation</td>
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SECOND AND THIRD YEAR

CUSTOMISE YOUR DEGREE

Please note that the modules listed below are those offered in recent sessions, and that the choice in any one year is subject to variation.
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. On the Theatre side of your degree we offer specialisms in historiography, national theatre cultures, and theatre and performance that intervenes in public discourse, city life and at the cutting edge of technological change.

Each programme is split 50/50 across the respective departments, with a balance of core and optional modules that ensures a suitable focus on your chosen subject areas. In your final year you will follow research-led modules taught by experts in their field.

BA THEATRE & PERFORMANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (W4L8)

This joint degree enables you to investigate the contemporary problems that our governments, scientists, philosophers, educationalists 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 these 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.

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

TYPICAL OFFERS*

- BA THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES (W440)
  A Level: AAB
  IB: 36
  BTEC: D*D* in a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma

- BA THEATRE & PERFORMANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (W4L8)
  A Level: AAB including Grade B/Grade 6 in English and Mathematics at GCSE

- BA ENGLISH AND THEATRE STUDIES (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 A Level in French

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

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

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

* The typical offers listed are indicative. For more information go to warwick.ac.uk/ug
FIND OUT MORE

12-16 hours a week working with tutors and visiting practitioners - more intensively as you get closer to production periods.

5-12 hours a week working with colleagues to develop and prepare projects, undertake joint research and plan for presentations.

10-15 hours a week of independent study time to undertake research, scholarship, writing and individual creative development.

13 academic staff in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies and a number of staff in other departments in the University who teach and research theatre.

Around 30 academics with skills and specialism in the discipline.

Visiting practitioners and tutors ensuring wide coverage of the subject and close connection with our industries.

For more information, go to warwick.ac.uk/theatrestudies

Dr Wallace McDowell
(Admissions Tutor, BA Theatre and Performance Studies)
Wallace.B.McDowell@warwick.ac.uk

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