

**Programme Specification for**  
***MA Theatre Arts***



<b>1. Programme title</b>	MA Theatre Arts
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Teaching institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body</b>	
<b>5. Final qualification</b>	MA Theatre Arts; PGCert. Theatre Arts; PGDip Theatre Arts
<b>6. Year of validation</b> <b>Year of amendment</b>	
<b>7. Language of study</b>	English
<b>8. Mode of study</b>	Full-time/ Part-time

**9. Criteria for admission to the programme**

Normally, admission requires a minimum 2.1 degree in a relevant field. Candidates without formal qualifications, or with other degrees, may be admitted on the basis of relevant alternative qualifications, professional training and experience, and evidence of a developing practice profile.

Students for whom English is not the first language must have a recent IELTS certificate with a minimum overall score of 6.5, with no component of the test below 6.0.

**10. Aims of the programme**

The programme aims to:

- encourage students to experiment with current creative, theoretical and technological developments in performance-based arts;
- extend individual practice through collaborative, managerial and cross-disciplinary

investigations;

- develop independent projects;
- facilitate students in locating their own work and disciplinary specialism within national and international professional and academic contexts;
- prepare students for doctoral study;
- advance skills appropriate to a career in the creative industries.

## 11. Programme outcomes

### A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. Current creative, theoretical and technological developments in performance-based arts.
2. The national and international professional and academic contexts within which individual practices sit.
3. Professional and academic approaches to research and practice in theatre arts and the creative industries.

### Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- interactive lectures on current and contextual issues in theatre arts and the creative industries;
- seminars in which ideas and approaches are debated;
- e-learning methods appropriate to the study including online research and digital archiving;
- advanced independent study and research activity;
- tutor and visiting-specialist practical workshops;
- independent studio based practical research;
- group supervision and individual tutorials in which research strategies are given feedback and approval;
- identification and negotiation of appropriate individual aims and outcomes according to the creative, theoretical, academic and professional contexts of the research assignment in hand.

### Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

- collaborative and individual theatre-arts practical projects culminating in presentations to an audience;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• research essays and analytical presentations, both incorporating appropriate mixed-modal dissemination techniques (such as visual/portfolio documentation, hyperlinks to archived practice, or audio appendices);</li> <li>• each demonstrating sophisticated understanding of theory in/as practice.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inform and analyse theatre practices through advanced theoretical knowledge.</li> <li>2. Employ and critique specialised techniques, concepts and associated terminology.</li> <li>3. Reach and articulate sound judgements and defensible conclusions in the analysis and creation of theatre practices.</li> <li>4. Identify and negotiate appropriate individual learning aims and outcomes according to the parameters of any given research project.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• critical debate and practical investigation conducted with peers, tutors and visiting specialists where theory is explored through/in/as practice;</li> <li>• advanced independent study and research activity;</li> <li>• independent practical and theoretical research, including use of LRC resources and online research and retrieval;</li> <li>• sharing and responding to tutor and peer feedback;</li> <li>• reflecting on practice in discussion and via written modes such as online blogs;</li> <li>• identifying and negotiating personal learning aims and outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engaging in the processes involved in collaborative and individual theatre-arts practical projects culminating in presentations to an audience;</li> <li>• writing research essays and delivering analytical presentations, incorporating appropriate mixed-modal dissemination techniques appropriate to the research assignment;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• addressing peer/tutor feedback in the setting of aims for projects and in subsequent practical analysis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. Practical skills</b></p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore individual practice to a sophisticated level within collaborative, managerial and cross-disciplinary contexts.</li> <li>2. Investigate a range of approaches to research in the theatre arts, in general and in relation to individual practice.</li> <li>3. Organise learning and research through self-management and in acts of collective responsibility, including meeting deadlines for independent and collaborative projects.</li> <li>4. Communicate sophisticated ideas effectively in written form, in discussion and through artistic practice.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• practical investigation conducted with peers, tutors and visiting specialists where theory is explored through/in/as practice;</li> <li>• advanced independent practical investigation and related research activity;</li> <li>• individual practical and theoretical research involving sharing and responding to tutor and peer feedback;</li> <li>• identifying and negotiating personal learning aims and outcomes in the creation of a theatre arts project;</li> <li>• independent online research and digital archiving of practice;</li> <li>• presenting research findings in written and verbal forms, employing appropriate mixed modal dissemination techniques;</li> <li>• presenting project work to an audience.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the identification and negotiation of appropriate individual learning aims and outcomes in any given research assignment;</li> <li>• a collaborative theatre-arts practical project presented to an audience;</li> <li>• research essays and analytical presentations, incorporating appropriate mixed-modal dissemination techniques appropriate to the research area identified by the student;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• addressing peer/tutor feedback in practical analysis;</li> <li>• the realisation of individual, creative projects to professional standards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Graduate skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and manage personal, academic and professional development to an advanced level accepting accountability for individual decision-making.</li> <li>2. Communicate effectively, employing advanced terminology where relevant, and demonstrate leadership qualities and/or productive collaborative skills when working in teams.</li> <li>3. Learn independently, exploring complex concepts and methods in individual and collective situations.</li> <li>4. Use ICT and technical equipment to specialised ends within creative practice and research, in ways that are appropriate to the field and applicable to professional activity and advanced academic study.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engaging in all tutor or specialist facilitated and independent study, including lectures, seminars, workshops, exercises, tutorials, e-learning and digital/technical practice, presentations and performances;</li> <li>• transferable skills are exercised through all project work and independent study.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' graduate skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contribution to collaborative practice;</li> <li>• contribution to discussion and debate during lectures, seminars, practical workshops, and in relation to project work;</li> <li>• application of tutor and peer feedback;</li> <li>• electronic submission of written research essays that incorporate appropriate mixed-modal forms;</li> <li>• presentations of research findings in seminar format, incorporating appropriate mixed-modal forms;</li> <li>• presentation of professional standard practical projects to an audience.</li> </ul>

**12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)**

**12. 1 Overall structure of the programme**

**Full-time**

**Year 1**

**THE4001** Research Methods in the Arts: Reflecting Practices (30 credits) – October-May

**THE4120** Professional Contexts & Placements: Managing Practices (30 credits) – October-May

**THE4110** Specialist Investigation: Exploring Practices (30 credits) – October-December

**THE4002** Collaborative Project: Connecting Practices (30 credits) – January-May

**THE4200** Independent Project: Extending Practices (60 credits) – June-September

**Part-time**

**Year 1**

**THE4001** Research Methods in the Arts: Reflecting Practices (30 credits) – October-May

**THE4110** Specialist Investigation: Exploring Practices (30 credits) – October-December

**Year 2**

**THE4120** Professional Contexts & Placements: Managing Practices (30 credits) – October-May

**THE4002** Collaborative Project: Connecting Practices (30 credits) – January-May

**THE4200** Independent Project: Extending Practices (60 credits) – June-September

**NB:** For full time students, **THE4000** and **THE4120** both begin in Term 1 and run across terms 1 and 2 as 'long' modules concurrently with the 'short' modules **THE4110** (Term 1) and **THE4002** (Term 2). You will be guided through how this works at induction and as the programme progresses.

**12.2 Levels and modules**

Level 7

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION  
REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p><b>THE4001</b></p> <p><b>THE4110</b></p> <p><b>THE4002</b></p> <p><b>THE4120</b></p> <p><b>THE4200</b></p>		<p>60 credits are required for the award of PGCert in Theatre Arts.</p> <p>120 credits are required for the award of PGDip in Theatre Arts.</p> <p>120 credits in total are required to progress to Independent Project (<b>THE4200</b>).</p> <p>NB: <b>THE4001</b> and <u>either</u> <b>THE4110</b> <u>or</u> <b>THE4002</b> are designated modules for the award of a PGCert in Theatre Arts.</p>
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### 12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

Module level	Module code
Level 7	THE4001, THE4110, THE4002, THE4120, THE4200

### 13. Curriculum map

See attached.

### 14. Information about assessment regulations

The Programme conforms to the Middlesex University Regulations. In view of the developmental and collaborative nature of the work on this programme, an attendance requirement may be made clear on modules. The work is marked using the University's standard 20-point scale in accordance with MA levels of attainment. Self-deferral is not permitted on any modules within the programme. Students wishing to defer must consult the Assessment Officer or Student Achievement Advisor. For specific issues, please see Middlesex University Regulations.

### 15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

Self-initiated (and in some instances staff facilitated) placements are encouraged and available as an assessment option by negotiation for all students on **THE4120**

### **16. Future careers (if applicable)**

Students of the MA in Theatre Arts will typically proceed to careers in their chosen discipline within the arts or follow associated career paths in the wider creative and cultural industries. London is an international centre for theatre arts in particular and for an exciting range of opportunities in the creative/cultural field.

This programme has been designed to provide an academic framework that places students in an excellent position for employment as well as self-managed portfolio careers in their chosen discipline.

All Theatre Arts students have access to the University's Employability service. Individual professional practice and career development and planning is embedded in the learning outcomes of the programme. Specialist tutors on the programme can also address employment-related issues as they arise in the course of teaching.

### **17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)**

MA Theatre Arts students have access as needed to specialist studio and performance space and equipment, workshops, Masterclasses and specialist tutors in the development of their creative skills.

Visiting speakers from the arts, media and cultural industries feature in a good range of research seminars, symposia, and Masterclasses.

Excellent facilities exist across the campus to which students are encouraged to negotiate access, including Digital Media Workshops.

Specialist teaching staff, whose academic research is recognised domestically and abroad and have strong industry links, are available within the Theatre Arts teaching team and the School of Media & Performing Arts.

The campus benefits from all that London offers as a world renowned creative and cultural centre.

Wider support for learning across the University is rich and varied; the LDU offers academic support and workshops; students who are returning to HE after some years and students whose first language is not English are especially encouraged to use the Learning Support sessions provided by the LDU

(<http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/ldu/index.aspx>); campus support services offer support with health, well-being and safety including on-site counselling, welfare support, childcare and disability support services (see <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/index.aspx>).



**18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)**

W442

**19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)**

Dance, Drama and Performance (2007)

**20. Reference points**

The following reference points were used in designing the Programme:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ), 2008: Level 7
- QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (2010) Middlesex University Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Middlesex University Regulations

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

## Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

### Curriculum map for MA Theatre Arts

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

#### Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Current creative, theoretical and technological developments in performance-based arts.	C1	Explore individual practice to a sophisticated level within collaborative, managerial and cross-disciplinary contexts.
A2	The national and international professional and academic contexts within which individual practices sit.	C2	Investigate a range of approaches to research in the theatre arts, in general and in relation to individual practice.
A3	Professional and academic approaches to research and practice in theatre arts and the creative industries.	C3	Organise learning and research through self-management and in acts of collective responsibility, including meeting deadlines for independent and collaborative projects.
		C4	Communicate sophisticated ideas effectively in written form, in discussion and through artistic practice.
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Inform and analyse theatre practices through advanced theoretical knowledge.	D1	Identify and manage personal, academic and professional development to an advanced level accepting accountability for individual decision-making.
B2	Employ and critique specialised techniques, concepts and associated terminology.	D2	Communicate effectively, employing advanced terminology where relevant, and demonstrate leadership qualities and/or productive collaborative skills when working in teams.
B3	Reach and articulate sound judgements and defensible conclusions in the analysis and creation of theatre practices.	D3	Learn independently, exploring complex concepts and methods in individual and collective situations.
B4	Identify and negotiate appropriate individual learning aims and outcomes according to the parameters of any given research project.	D4	Use ICT and technical equipment to specialised ends within creative practice and research, in ways that are appropriate to the field and

			applicable to professional activity and advanced academic study.
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Programme outcomes														
A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4
Highest level achieved by all graduates														
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code by Level	Programme outcomes														
		A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4
Research Methods in the Arts: Reflecting Practices	THE4001	X	X	X	X	X				X					X	
Collaborative Project: Connecting Practices	THE4002					X		X	X	X		X		X		
Specialist Investigation: Exploring Practices	THE4110			X				X	X		X	X				
Professional Contexts & Placements: Managing Practices	THE4120		X	X				X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Independent Project: Extending Practices	THE4200	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X