

BA (Hons)

# Performing Arts



Programme Specification

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, graduates, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide the course described in the Programme Specification, the University reserves the right to make such changes as may be appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to circumstances beyond its control. Any changes are made in accordance with the University's academic standards and quality procedures.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **BA (Hons) Performing Arts** course and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found within this Handbook and on the student portal via moodle.

<b><u>Key Course Information</u></b>	
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Course Title	Performing Arts
Award Title	BA (Hons) Performing Arts
Teaching institution	Bournemouth and Poole College
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the School of:	Performing Arts
<i>Contact details:</i> Telephone number Email	Victoria Clark 01202 205717 <a href="mailto:clarkv@bpc.ac.uk">clarkv@bpc.ac.uk</a>
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	One year full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statement	Dance, Drama and Performance 2015
UCAS code	W470
Language of study	English
External Examiner for course:	Dr Pamela Karantonis Goldsmiths: University of London
	<i>Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly</i>
Date of Validation	April 2016
Date of most recent review	N/A
Date programme specification written/revised	April 2016

## **Course Description**

This course believes in the power of creative arts practice in social, emotional and political contexts and the importance of the role it plays in regional, national and international communities. It will challenge you to engage with and interrogate the arts as well as encourage and support you to become an independent, well informed and highly skilled Performing Arts graduate. You will complete this course ready and able to enter the competitive industry with a clear career goal. This course recognises and understands that in order to be competitive and active within the arts you are required to be independent, forward thinking, proactive, flexible and engaged in your practice.

The course concludes the consolidation of two years intensive training in appropriate study of Contemporary Theatre Performance, Music Theatre or Dance. In order to fully embrace the creative industries as an equipped practitioner you will experience both theoretical and vocational contexts as related to your specific discipline. During this one year programme you will have the opportunity to further your understanding of the various machinations of the arts world in general and your potential role within it. You will be afforded the opportunity to learn about how to actively lead in creative arts practice and how to engage with social cultural and political contexts. You will further develop your understanding of the business and employment laws that will directly affect your after graduation and we believe that the culmination of this mode of study will allow you to make firm career choices. Our overall aim for the course is that you will graduate with the knowledge, skills and materials to enable you to enter the world of employment or further study in the arts at post-graduate level.

## **Course Aims**

The course aims to support and develop forward thinking creative individuals ready to play an active role within arts communities. You will be engaged in current social and political contexts and be able to interrogate and challenge the status quo. You will be a confident arts practitioner with a clearly defined specialism.

We will support you to:

1. Develop and apply independent learning and analytical skills so that they inform the integrity of your work
2. Identify clear progression into further study or development and active application of business skills
3. Introduce you to a wide range of industry links and provide you with the opportunity to enter the international community as successful and productive employees
4. Assist you in establishing yourself as a creative, independent, freelance practitioner
5. Challenge you to engage with seminal published pieces working ethically at all times
6. Support you in gaining confidence in understanding your own unique skill set and how best to assure your progress and achievement

7. Encourage you to question, debate and discuss at a level that acknowledges social and political contexts and the impacts these have on performance and culture

### **Course Outcomes**

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Independently utilise and apply specific performance and transferable skills across a variety of employment possibilities both as performers and in the wider arts community.
2. Demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of the performing arts in order to further your career.
3. Recognise, facilitate and integrate artistic creativity in yourselves and others.
4. Critically evaluate discourse and practice demonstrating established and imaginative understanding of analytical techniques displaying sensitivity to context.
5. Competently identify, organise and participate in the work required in the preparation of performance.
6. Apply critical arguments conducting logical, systematic, independent and resourceful approaches to problem solving and research.
7. Confidently liaise with outside agencies, peers and lecturing staff with a mature and well informed knowledge of your possible career opportunities in the arts.

### **Reference Points**

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Subject Benchmark Statement: *Dance, Drama and Performance 2015*
  - Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- AUB Regulatory Framework and Undergraduate Assessment Regulations

### **Learning, Teaching and Assessment**

#### **Learning and Teaching Strategies**

*6.7 'Students will usually experience work in or related to practical and professional performance contexts (both live and recorded), undertaking a variety of roles as appropriate to their subject area.'* **Dance, Drama and Performance QAA Benchmarks Statements 2015**

Outline:

- **Skills Workshops** offer practical training and exercises in which you will be able to engage in strategies and creative activities relating to a specific practitioner or theorist within a safe and supportive environment

- **Individual tutorials** provide an opportunity to discuss your individual progress within a skill, a unit or in the course generally. They are used by either your personal tutor to discuss specific issues arising or by your unit leader to provide constructive feedback on guidance regarding how to improve
- **Group tutorials** allow you to share your experiences with your group and tutors offering opportunities to assure effective strategies are adopted in the management of your work
- **Rehearsals** will be run with you as company members and unit leaders as Directors. This environment will emulate the expectations of the industry allowing you some insight into the working environment and supporting you with the application of your skill base
- **Lectures** are oral and/or visual presentations on a particular area of study intended to be presented in a formal environment
- **Seminars** are group based activities to generate discussion and debate around a particular topic and/or theory
- **Presentations** allow you the opportunity to prepare and present to a group of your peers. It enables you to engage with a topic on a more formal context assuring you are presenting in line with academic expectations

The BA (Hons) is focused on ensuring you have a varied learning experience as noted above in practical and professional contexts and are fully supported in becoming independent and autonomous learners. Units will begin with a strong tutor/practitioner led focus allowing you to have confidence in your skill set and move toward independent learning as you begin to be assured in your skills. You will continue to work in a workshop, studio based environment. You will have autonomy on scheduling your own rehearsals and process whilst being fully supported by your tutors and lecturers. The BA sees a move to lecturers as mentors available to guide you and provide support alongside you emerging as an independent artist.

You will submit assessments that include portfolios and evaluations and will continue to be assessed on process and performance as appropriate to your discipline. In response to industry demands you will take part in a Q&A as part of your 'Artistic Practice and Production' unit providing you with the opportunity to verbally articulate your responses and ideas.

Wherever possible you will be afforded the opportunity to engage in work based learning opportunities and will be actively encouraged to take your practical work to outside audiences.

At level 6 you will also be expected to attend regular 1:1 tutorials with your unit leaders regarding your progress. This may be for both practical work and theoretical study. It is expected that you will attend these sessions fully prepared with your portfolios and working notes to allow effective discussion and target setting. You are responsible for the management of this process and need to attend sessions when booked rather than relying on ad hoc appointments.

### **Learning Agreements**

Learning Agreements are introduced at Level 6 as a way of supporting you to define your individual learning in the context of the course. Within the Learning Agreement you will indicate why and how you are going to fulfil the unit aims and outcomes. This

allows you to vary the work you produce according to your own personal and professional aspirations whilst meeting the specified aims and learning outcomes of the unit.

## **Assessment**

Each unit is assessed separately and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

For every unit of your course you will be provided with a Unit Handbook, which will state what you are expected to learn; what you have to submit; how your work will be assessed; and the deadline for presenting your work for assessment.

You will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). Each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are \*2, \*5 and \*8 (eg 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

All learning outcomes must be passed to successfully complete the unit.

On successful completion of your Honours degree course, you will be awarded a degree classification based on your unit marks. The final classification is determined using all unit marks at Level 6 using two different algorithms. If the two algorithms produce different results, you will be awarded the higher class of degree.

For further information on progression, awards and classifications, please visit MyBPC

## **Course Structure**

All students are registered for the award of BA (Hons).

For the award of a BA (Hons) you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6. This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your course.

A BA without Honours may be awarded if you have achieved a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6.

## **Course Content**

### ***RESOLUTION***

Level 6 study is an advanced course that moves beyond the FdA Level covered in levels 4 and 5, encouraging you to become owners of your own academic and career journey culminating in a significant body of assessed work. You will be expected to produce work that is sophisticated in its form and content both practically and theoretically, working toward a 'resolution' of your skill base as an arts practitioner.

The theoretical journey concludes with 'Special Subject' a 5000 word extended essay in which you engage critically and theoretically with a topic of your choice. You will be encouraged to consider and apply various critical theoretical concepts to performance and further your knowledge of a particular area of the arts to BA level. You will conduct effective and in depth research presenting your findings in a Literature Review. You will then attend 1:1 tutorials and group sessions to support your final written submission.

Your skills journey moves into gaining practical working strategies in the 'Professional Development' unit providing you with the opportunity to showcase your skills in a show reel that is of a professional standard. In addition you will engage in performing arts business looking at entrepreneurial strategies, how to set up a business and manage yourself as a freelance artist.

In the unit 'Artistic Practice and Production' you will have the opportunity to learn how to direct and lead, with the unit culminating in a short directed 30 minute piece. You will be responsible for cutting a published script, score or dance repertoire and working with students as your company members. The final showings will take place in the studios with an invited audience and you will be given the opportunity to discuss your work in a post-show Q&A. This is specifically included to mirror the industry and what would be expected of you from a funding body or playhouse interested in staging your work.

The final unit 'Performance Laboratory' is the culmination of skills covered across the three years of study. You have had the chance to work with in-house and out-house directors, you have worked in performance in alternative contexts and you have been responsible for leading your own creative practice. This unit therefore supports you in deciding on your specialism for assessment and in collaboration with your peers you will work on creating an original piece of material for an outward facing project. As actor, singer, dancer, director, script-writer or choreographer (this list is not exhaustive and is open for negotiation with your supervisors) you will be required to work as a production company toward a final performance.

### **Course Units**

<b>Unit Code</b>	<b>Unit Title</b>	<b>Credit Weighting</b>
EPFA651	Professional Development	20 Credits
EPFA652	Special Subject	20 Credits
EPFA653	Artistic Practice and Production	40 Credits
EPFA654	Performance Laboratory	40 Credits

## Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in Unit Handbooks.

Level 6																														
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	<b>EPFA651 Professional Development</b> (weeks 1-28) (20 credits)																													
	<b>EPFA652 Special Subject</b> (weeks 1-19) (20 credits)																													
	<b>EPFA653 Artistic Practice and Production</b> (weeks 1-14) (40 credits)														<b>EPFA654 Performance Laboratory</b> (weeks 15-25) (40 credits)															
	<i>Tutorial / PDP 1.5 hours per week</i>																													



