



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH,
DRAMA AND CREATIVE
STUDIES

DRAMA AND THEATRE ARTS



Why study Drama and Theatre Arts at Birmingham?

The course is designed to enable you to specialise in those aspects of Drama and Theatre that you are most interested in, from critical research in seminars and dissertations, to the creation of new performance in a professional context, helping you to build a diverse and attractive professional profile.

- The Department has a long and proud history and in 2015, we held our 50th anniversary celebrations. By studying with us, you will be joining an established and respected institution, with an exciting future ahead.
- We are a Russell Group Drama Department, with a distinctive strength in the practical aspects of drama, as well as its theory. We are ranked in the Top 5 in the *Complete University Guide 2020* and Top 100 in the *QS World University Subject Rankings 2019*.
- Come to Birmingham to study Drama and you will be part of an academic department that is not only respected nationally and internationally, but also has close links with theatres and professional practitioners in Birmingham, Stratford-upon-Avon, London and beyond.
- All staff are leading researchers in their fields and many continue to practise in the professional theatre industry, collaborating with professional artists from large-scale operas to site-specific performances in caravans and igloos. Whether your interest is in Elizabethan drama, live art, British playwrights or theatre for young audiences, it is guaranteed that you will be taught by an expert at all stages of your study. You will also have the opportunity to apply for an excellent range of work-related opportunities, helping to build your CV while at University.
- Birmingham is an ideal place to study Drama, as it has one of the highest concentrations of live theatre in the country.

It is home to many established theatres and artistic organisations including the Birmingham Hippodrome, the Birmingham Rep, mac Birmingham and the Old Joint Stock. It also benefits from local and international arts festivals including the renowned Fierce and BE festivals and a state-of-the-art public library.

- The Guild (our Students' Union) has nine different drama and theatre student societies including Article 19 (who stage innovative productions of 'classical' drama), Footnotes Comedy (for those interested in stand-up comedy), Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Guild Musical Theatre Group, Infinity Stage Company (who are charity based and get involved in volunteer work), Live Art Society, Panto Society, Three Bugs Fringe Theatre (dedicated to alternative theatre and take performances to the Edinburgh Festival) and Watch This (who produce original and experimental plays).
- Drama is located on the University's picturesque Selly Oak campus, which offers extensive facilities including our purpose-built theatre in the George Cadbury Hall. The Selly Oak campus is a walkable distance from the main Edgbaston campus and free transport between the campuses is provided. Additional facilities for Drama and Theatre Arts students include the Orchard Learning Resource Centre and the BBC Drama Village, which offers some exciting placement opportunities.

'Our partnership with the University of Birmingham is a brilliant opportunity for students to get right into the heart of the RSC, using the theatre and its resources as part of their undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Their presence, alongside our artists, will bring a real energy to the building.'

ERICA WHYMAN, Deputy Artistic Director of the RSC



ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY COLLABORATION

The University of Birmingham has a long standing relationship with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and we are currently engaged in an exciting five-year collaboration (2015–2020) with them. This pioneering project has seen the reinstatement of the iconic RSC Studio Theatre at The Other Place. Opened in 2016 to coincide with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, The Other Place is the RSC's creative hub for rehearsal, training, learning and research.

The collaboration between the RSC and the University of Birmingham provides our students with access to creative and teaching spaces at The Other Place, as well as the expertise of RSC artists and practitioners. Our students also benefit from the opportunity to attend RSC productions and events.

Further information at:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/theotherplace

'The course is ideal for me to gain as broad a spectrum of theatrical knowledge and experience as I can.'

EDWARD, BA Drama and Theatre Arts



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



OUR PROGRAMMES

BA Drama and Theatre Arts

Within BA Drama and Theatre Arts, we are committed to integrating practical and study based approaches to the subject. Drama and Theatre Arts at Birmingham is a unique course that combines professional training – modules in acting, directing, devising, playwriting, stage management, design and technical production – with the critical study of historical and contemporary theatre and performance.

The degree covers all the key practical and theoretical dimensions of theatre work and we will train you to be a confident researcher and performer, with fantastic career prospects in the theatre and related professions. You will learn every aspect of stage production, with the chance to take part each year in a season of plays closely tied to your academic and practical work. In the third year, you have the opportunity to perform in one of these productions, enjoying an intensive, full-time



rehearsal period, working under a professional director and culminating in a week-long public performance. Professional directors for the productions over the years have included Tom Mansfield, Jane Moriarty and Peter Lesley Wild, as well as local theatre company Little Earthquake.

BA Drama and English

This new innovative single honours programme provides students who have a particular interest in both Drama and English Literature, the opportunity to combine the study of both disciplines in a single coherent curriculum. You will study both theoretical and practical Drama modules throughout the programme and in the final year, you will have the opportunity to take part in one of a series of public performances, directed by experienced members of staff or visiting professional directors and supported by the Department's full-time production staff.

Foundational modules in Drama will equip you with the key skills you'll need to study Drama at university and will give you an introduction to the key theoretical and practical approaches to theatre and performance. Foundational modules in English Literature explore the role and value of English in society, while modules that explore prose and poetry give you an excellent grounding in the major historical periods and genres of literature. In your second and third years, you'll be able to choose from a wide variety of practical and study options in drama, theatre and performance. Your study of Drama will be strongly complimented by the suite of English Literature modules available to you. You will study a range of literature across all periods, from medieval to contemporary and you will be able to specialise in areas that most suit your individual interests.

MODULES

Indicative BA Drama and Theatre Arts modules for selection in the second and third year range from practical work in modules such as Acting, Monologue or Theatre for Young Audiences (Year 2), Advanced Acting, Directing or Site-Specific Performance (Year 3), to a wide range of contemporary and historical areas of analysis including, Creative Industries, Cyber Theatre, Performance and Nation, Playwright's Theatre, Staging Shakespeare and Victorian Drama.

'You can adapt the course to suit whatever your interests are or career path you want to take, with incredible opportunities for work experience and jobs along the way. The relatively small year groups means your friends become your family.'

CHARLOTTE, BA Drama and Theatre Arts



Entry requirements

Course	UCAS code	Typical offer
BA Drama and Theatre Arts	W440	AAB-ABB
BA Drama and English	WQ43	AAB

A-level English Literature or English Language and Literature, at grade A, is required for BA Drama and English.

Careers and employability

Graduates leave with a real depth of knowledge in the field and the skills to apply it to their chosen career. 94% of our Drama and Theatre Arts students enter work or further study within six months of graduation (DLHE 2017) and we consistently rank very highly in subject league tables for graduate employability.

Alumni in recent years have pursued successful careers in performance, directing, producing, marketing, teaching and more. Recent graduates have gone on to work for companies including the BBC, Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Rep and The RSC, while others have forged successful careers as freelance theatre makers and producers, many setting up their own companies.

We have an award-winning Careers Network team, hosting regular insight, networking and development events, tailored to the student's needs. In parallel with this, through our extensive network of local companies and alumni, we regularly feature opportunities for students to enhance their experience including workshops, volunteering, work experience and internships. Students have recently gained experience with BBC Drama, Birmingham Opera Company, Birmingham Rep, The RSC and several independent festival, theatre and TV producers, numbering well over 100 each year. This experience can vary from marketing assistance, through performance roles to production and backstage work, there is a real variety to choose from.



'I have had the time of my life in the years that I have spent here, so much so that I never want to leave!'

MARY, BA Drama and English

NEXT STEPS

How to apply

Apply through UCAS.

Admission Workshop

If you are made an offer for BA Drama and Theatre Arts, you will be required to pass a Drama Admission Workshop. On this day, you will also have the opportunity to find out more about the Department and meet staff and students on the course.

LEARN MORE

Email: study-drama-ug@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Full details on all courses with year-by-year breakdown can be found at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/drama

 [@artsatbham](https://www.instagram.com/artsatbham)



This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study, some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note, the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication, but may be subject to change (June 2019).

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Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk