

# MA PERFORMANCE DESIGN AND PRACTICE



## MA Performance: Design and Practice

<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of the Arts London
<b>College</b>	Central Saint Martins
<b>School</b>	C School
<b>Programme</b>	CSM Performance (L035)
<b>Course AOS Code</b>	CSMMAPDPX02
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7 Masters
<b>Course Credits</b>	180
<b>Mode</b>	Extended Full Time
<b>Method</b>	Face to Face
<b>Duration of Course</b>	2 years
<b>Teaching Weeks</b>	60 weeks
<b>Valid From</b>	2025/26
<b>Collaboration</b>	N/A
<b>UAL Subject Classification</b>	Performance and Design for Theatre and Screen
<b>PSRB</b>	N/A
<b>Work placement offered</b>	N/A
<b>Course Entry Requirements</b>	<p>MA Performance: Design and Practice is focussed on the individual student's practice and the development of this practice within a collaborative context.</p> <p>The 2 models of collaboration which frame the course are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where artists work together to realise a shared creative vision.</li> </ol>

	<p>2. Where artists work together to support and realise an individual artist's creative vision.</p> <p>These models are intended to reflect the realities of professional practice.</p> <p>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An honours degree</li> </ul> <p><b>Or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An equivalent EU/international qualification.</li> </ul> <p><b>AP(E)L – Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</b></p> <p>Exceptionally applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A portfolio of creative practice or relevant experience.</li> <li>• The quality of the personal statement.</li> <li>• Recommendations from employers or professionals in relevant fields of practice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Or</b> a combination of these factors.</p> <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p><b>English language requirements</b></p> <p>IELTS level 6.5 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our main <a href="#">English language requirements</a> webpage).</p>
<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<p>We select applicants according to potential and current ability in the following areas as evidenced through the application, portfolio and personal statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior experience as a creative practitioner evident through documentation in the</li> </ul>

	<p>portfolio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of independence in learning and research or enquiry.</li> <li>• Awareness of cultural and social contexts of relevance to the candidate and their practice.</li> <li>• Appropriate communication skills and a preparedness to cooperate with others in the learning community.</li> <li>• Your motivation for developing your practice through study on this course.</li> </ul>
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## Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

### Year 1

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60

### Year 2

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)	120
Master of Arts	180

### Scheduled Learning Split by Level

Level 7	22%
<b>Total Scheduled Learning Split</b>	<b>22%</b>

## Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	To develop your ability to participate in processes, individual and collaborative that produce work which explores the boundaries of contemporary performance practice.
Aim	To expand and extend your existing performance practice with emerging hybrid and cross-disciplinary forms, new skills, and cooperative approaches.
Outcome	A significant individual contribution to post graduate level creative practices that engage in or innovate in the field of contemporary performance.
Outcome	The ability to communicate, at a post graduate level, a developed critical understanding of the contextual issues framing your practice.
Outcome	A highly developed and appropriate synthesis of practical, research, evaluative and reflective skills evidenced through the production of new work.

	Distinctive Features
1	<b>Experimental Practice:</b> the course promotes creative methodologies that involve risk-taking based on rigorous research, curiosity and self reflection.
2	<b>Transmedial and Transdisciplinary Practices:</b> The course encourages a transdisciplinary approach to performance making across a range of platforms including live performance, moving image and digital technologies.
3	<b>Practice driven:</b> the course is focussed on practice and delivered by practitioners and research active staff with international profiles producing work across a wide range of media.
4	<b>Industry focussed:</b> Students are prepared for professional practice.
5	<b>Context:</b> a richly diverse community of practice that is part of a postgraduate environment at CSM and UAL offering connection across disciplines.

## Course Detail

MA Performance: Design and Practice asks; What is the socio-political context for contemporary performance? What is its purpose? Who is it for? What might it be?

The course will support you to become an independent practitioner in your chosen field. You will be encouraged to create work which interrogates existing performance conventions, traditional roles, and hierarchies.

MA Performance: Design and Practice encourages you:

- To explore new compositional strategies for time-based practice.
- To interrogate the relationship(s) between media, performance, socio-political context and audience.
- To develop a more critical/methodological approach to your own cultural consumption.
- To use research/knowledge as a base for radical experimentation.
- To develop strategies for working collaboratively.
- To think strategically about professional practice.

Through an integrated and individual approach to practice and research, the course aims to develop your creativity. You will be encouraged to analyse the processes which drive and define your practice and to question how your work relates to the broader context of performance practice.

MA Performance: Design and Practice at CSM focuses on those sectors of performance culture where ideas and orthodoxies are in flux; innovative and experimental practices, but also those places where mainstream cultural traditions for instance Opera, and traditional theatre are being influenced by new approaches to Performance.

We are committed to developing ethical performance practices. To achieve this, we are working to embed UAL's Principles for Climate, Social and Racial Justice into the course.



## Course Units

### Unit 1: Collaborative Practices

The first part of the course the primary focus is on those collaborative processes Where artists work together to realise a shared creative vision. During this unit, you will be asked to engage in a number of collaborative projects, normally 3, each of which culminates in a public presentation. The secondary focus of the unit is on exploring the resources available to you as you move towards individual practice, among these are your teachers, the programme technical team and particularly your fellow students.

Each project comes with a brief which suggests a theoretical lens. These theoretical perspectives, unpacked through seminars and workshops will normally be expected to impact on the development of the practical work.

Overall, this unit gives you the opportunity to develop your experience of collaborative working, and importantly it fosters creative relationships that will support you through units 2 and 3.

### Unit 2: Performance as Dialogue

The second part of the course places more emphasis on developing your individual practice and expands its focus to include processes where artists work alone or together to support and realise an individual artist's creative vision.

Alongside the development of your practice the key question that underpins this unit is; What is the socio-political context for contemporary performance? What is its purpose? Who is it for? What might it be?

This unit focusses on how the work you make together and the performance language you use can be understood and further developed. To do this the unit looks into how the work you are making is likely be encountered interpreted and understood by an audience, viewer or participants. Throughout the unit you are asked to present proposals for performance-based projects; these may be presentations of performance fragments or short form experimental works. Your critical position, as a practitioner, and your developing concerns are expanded on through a deeper engagement with research or practice enquiry. The proposals that you conceive and develop through this unit will be further explored or realised in the final unit.

Through a programme of studio critiques, you will be supported in an interrogation of how you and your peers, as well as more established artists, communicate ideas and elicit emotional responses.

### **Unit 3: Independent Project**

This final part of the course will ask you to define your specific area of practice performer/director/designer for example. Bringing your ideas and skills to a conclusion; you will be required to contribute to a body of independent collaborative practice for presentation, alongside a written research document.

### **Critical skills and methodologies**

You will focus on practice-based research, including the theoretical context surrounding practice. The course also aims to facilitate greater insight into debates around contemporary art and performance.

### **Independence and professional preparation**

MA Performance: Design and Practice encourages independent practice within collaborative frameworks supported by seminars and discussions. In developing your individual practice will be able to draw on the wide professional and academic experience of the course team and others within the university.

**Important note concerning academic progression through your course:** If you are required to retake a unit you will need to cease further study on the course until you have passed the unit concerned. Once you have successfully passed this unit, you will be able to proceed onto the next unit. Retaking a unit might require you to take time out of study, which could affect other things such as student loans or the visa status for international students.

**CSM Academic Support** is delivered by a team of academics and practitioners working alongside your course to help you progress and achieve your maximum potential as a student. Academic Support can help you to develop your skills in different areas, including critical thinking, research and writing, time management, presentations and working independently and collaboratively. These may be offered as part of your timetabled classes or as bookable tutorials and workshops.

## **Mode of study**

MA Performance: Design and Practice is offered in extended full-time mode which runs for 60 weeks over two academic years. You will be expected to commit 30 hours to study and your developing practice per week, which includes teaching time and independent study.

The course is designed in such a way as to enable you to pursue studies, while also undertaking part-time employment, internships or care responsibilities.

## **Credit and award requirements**

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits.

On successfully completing the course, you will gain a Master of Arts (MA degree).

Under the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, an MA is Level 7. All units must be passed in order to achieve the MA but the classification of the award is derived from the mark for the final unit only.

If you are unable to continue on the course, a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) will normally be offered following the successful completion of 60 credits, or a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) following the successful completion of 120 credits.

## **Learning and Teaching Methods**

The learning and teaching methods devised for this course include:

- Peer group meetings
- Inductions and workshops
- Short collaborative workshops and group projects
- Seminars and guest speakers
- Independent learning
- Personal and peer group tutorials
- Critiques and presentations
- Recommended resources, viewing and visits
- Peer and self-critical evaluation
- Formative assessment and tutor feedback

## Assessment Methods

- Participation in workshops
- Research and preparatory work
- Documentation of performance-based practice
- Formative assessment
- Presentations of performance-based practice
- Independent project draft proposals
- Independent project written submission
- Peer and self-critical evaluations
- Participation in debates and discussions
- Realisation and communication of an individual programme of practice

## Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- QAA Descriptors for Education Qualification, Level 7 Master's Degree:

*“Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.”*

*“Holders of the qualification will be able to demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.”*

- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
- College policies and initiatives
- Art and Design Benchmark Statement
- Contemporary performance design and practice culture
- External professional organisations

## Course Diagram

**MA Performance: Design and Practice** – PLEASE NOTE DUE TO VACATION DATES, SPECIFIC DELIVERY WEEKS MAY CHANGE.

S=summative assessment

LEVEL 7 - Year 1																														
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	
Unit 1: Collaborative Practices (60 credits)																				S	Unit 2: Performance as Dialogue (60 credits)									
LEVEL 7 - Year 2																														
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	
Unit 2 continued										S	Unit 3: Independent Project (60 credits)																		S	S

*The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable*