

# THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE



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[gold.ac.uk/  
theatre-performance](http://gold.ac.uk/theatre-performance)

Undergraduate

**Goldsmiths**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

# INTRODUCTION

Study in a vibrant interdisciplinary learning environment, supported by distinguished staff and outstanding facilities. Balancing academic study with creative and technical practice, you'll explore hands-on theatre making while developing your knowledge of theatre history and culture.

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## Why choose Theatre and Performance at Goldsmiths?

Our broad curriculum covers theory and practice, offering you choice, and the opportunity to acquire a range of core skills and to experiment. You'll learn about theatre as artistic production and socially engaged process, discovering your intellectual and artistic strength, and becoming articulate in your specialism.

Teaching staff include distinguished international researchers and professional theatre-makers. Together, they'll develop your critical and creative skills, offering tutorial guidance and support to encourage your independent learning.

Close to central London, we have one of the world's largest concentrations of theatres nearby. And closer to home, our excellent facilities include a 160-seat theatre, four performance studios, new scenic workshops, sound studio, and open-access media lab. All supported by an outstanding team of technicians and scenic designers.

# OUR COURSES

- BA (Hons) Drama & English
- BA (Hons) Drama & Theatre Arts
- BA (Hons) Drama: Comedy & Satire
- BA (Hons) Drama:  
Performance, Politics & Society

## BA (Hons) Drama & English

3 years full-time  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-drama](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-drama)

You'll combine the study of literatures in English with the study of theatre and performance, so you'll have insights from a range of perspectives to develop your analytical and imaginative skills.

You'll develop an awareness of literary-historical contexts of and relationships between theatrical texts and other literary genres.

You'll build your understanding of performance studies alongside practical experience in producing theatre.

You'll study a range of literatures in English, including modules focusing on pre-1800 literature. You'll study theatre and other performance media, covering aspects of theatre history, performance theory, dramaturgy and approaches to production.

In your first year, for example, you'll gain practical experience of producing theatre in Drama Production: Summer Projects, directed by professional practitioners.

In your second year you'll take one compulsory module, Elements of Theatre History, then choose from a range of Drama and English module options to suit your interests.

In the third year, you'll have the choice of taking the English Pathway or the Drama Pathway. Both options include your interdisciplinary Dissertation and Dramaturgy, in which you'll analyse texts and live performances, and adapt work from other media for the stage.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### Compulsory modules:

Analytic Vocabularies  
Introduction to Dramaturgy  
Drama Production: Summer Projects  
Explorations in Literature  
Introduction to Literature of the Victorian Period  
Introduction to Poetry

### Year 2

#### Compulsory module:

Questions of Performance

#### Plus one option from:

Modernisms and Postmodernisms  
A and B

Elements of Theatre History

Plus four English options such as  
Shakespeare

Inventing the Nation: American  
Literature in the mid-19th Century

### Year 3

#### Compulsory modules:

Interdisciplinary dissertation

Contemporary Dramaturgy:

Research and Exploration

Contemporary Dramaturgy:

Independent Practice

#### Drama Pathway

Culture and Performance:

Critical Theory

Culture and Performance options

Plus two English options

#### English Pathway

Four English options such as

Caribbean Women Writers

Oedipus: Myths, Tragedies

and Theories

# BA (Hons) Drama & Theatre Arts

3 years full-time  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-drama-theatre-arts](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-drama-theatre-arts)

On this degree you'll engage in a balanced mix of theoretical and practical work that constantly inform each other. You'll be able to tap into our strong links with theatres, companies and professional organisations. Upon graduation you'll be fully trained to work in a wide range of industries.

Your programme leads you through:

- Close analysis of play texts and performances
- The history of theatres across a range of cultures
- Critical vocabularies for reading, writing and analysing texts and performances
- Theatre making
- Production processes and performance
- Physical investigation and reflection of modes of performance
- Acquisition of technical skills
- Understanding of theatre in terms of its social engagement
- An ability to define and critique what falls under the broad term of 'performance'

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### Compulsory modules:

Analytic Vocabularies

Processes of Performance:  
The Ensemble

Processes of Performance:  
Encounters with Space

Questions of Dramaturgy/  
Scenography

Theatre Making 1

### Year 2

#### Compulsory modules:

Theatre Making 2

Modernisms and  
Postmodernisms A

Plus one Modernisms and  
Postmodernisms B option  
such as:

Postcolonial Theatre

Bertolt Brecht and  
Political Theatre

Women, Feminism and  
Playwriting

Plus an Elements of Theatre  
History option

Plus two Questions of  
Performance options

### Year 3

#### Compulsory modules:

Culture and Performance:  
Critical Cultural Theory

Dissertation

Plus option modules in Culture  
and Performance B and  
Theatre Making 3 such as:

Art and Japan

Live Art/Performance Art

Work Placement

In your first year you'll learn practical skills in dramaturgy and scenography, analytical vocabularies and the relationship between space, body and spectator. You'll then apply these skills in your Theatre Making projects.

In your second year you'll explore Elements of Theatre History, Modernisms and Postmodernisms, and Questions of Performance by choosing from a large range of modules. In Theatre Making projects, you'll choose from roles such as performer, director, stage manager, dramaturge, or lighting, set, costume and sound designer.

You'll develop a specialist focus in your third year. You will study a compulsory module in Culture and Performance that will expose you to performance forms and styles from other cultures, and debates surrounding cultural contact and exchange. You'll continue your practical skills study and develop your final show Theatre Making projects. You'll also conceive, research and write your dissertation under the supervision of a specialist tutor.



# TYPICAL MODULES

## BA (Hons) Drama: Comedy & Satire

**3 years full-time**  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-drama-comedy](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-drama-comedy)

On this degree you'll develop both the intellectual and the creative skills you need to pursue a career in comedy, for example as a comic writer or comedy performer.

We excel in the fusion of theory and practice in the Department of Theatre and Performance, where many of our academic staff are also practising industry professionals. The theoretical knowledge you gain throughout the degree will infuse and inform your creative performance.

You'll explore comedy and satire across time and cultures, developing your historical, social, political and cultural knowledge. Option modules allow you to specialise in the subjects that particularly interest you, with choices ranging from playwriting to stand-up, and monologue to experimental performance.

You'll also benefit from industry links with professional comics and writers who will lend their expertise to help you hone your craft, culminating in a final show in your third year.

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### Year 1

#### Compulsory modules:

Processes of Performance:  
The Ensemble  
Introduction to Dramaturgy  
Scenography  
Theatre Making  
Radical Theatre Histories  
Comedy 1: Improvisation  
Professional Production Skills 1

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### Year 2

#### Compulsory modules:

Comedy 2  
Stand-Up  
**Plus five option modules from a range such as:**  
Character 1  
Bertolt Brecht and  
Political Theatre  
Emotion  
American Theatre in the  
Mid-20th Century

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### Year 3

#### Compulsory modules:

Culture and Performance:  
Critical Cultural Theory  
Dissertation  
Final Show  
**Plus one option module exploring a particular theatrical movement, such as:**  
Art and Japan  
Theatre as a Learning Medium  
Modern Black British and  
American Drama

## BA (Hons) Drama: Performance Politics & Society

**3 years full-time**  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-drama-performance-politics-society](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-drama-performance-politics-society)

This degree reflects the radical, interdisciplinary, creative and critical spirits of Goldsmiths. It explores the relationship between arts and activism and the power of theatre and performance to effect social, political and personal change.

You'll have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the vibrant London theatre scene and benefit from our excellent links with some of the most exciting and influential performance practices in the world. These producing theatres, participatory organisations, and arts centres, to touring theatre companies will enable you to put your skills and knowledge into practice, working with diverse groups of people in different settings such as social care and community centres.

Throughout your studies the theoretical knowledge you develop will inform your practical skills, supported by our academics own teaching, which is informed by their own creative projects and academic work. Option modules in your second and third years allow you to pursue the themes that particularly interest you across fields as diverse as politics, international relations and sociology.

# TYPICAL MODULES

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### Year 1

#### Compulsory modules:

Radical Theatre Histories  
Processes of Performance:  
The Ensemble  
The Politics of Play, Plays  
and Playing  
Introduction to Dramaturgy  
Scenography  
Theatre Making 1

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### Year 2

#### Compulsory modules:

Elements of Theatre History  
Questions of Performance  
**Plus one module such as:**  
Creative and Critical Contexts  
Process and Performance

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### Year 3

#### Compulsory modules:

Culture and Performance  
Social & Political  
Theatre Practice  
Dissertation/Research Project  
**Plus a Culture and Performance option module from:**  
Performances of Protest  
Theatre as a Learning Medium  
Community Intersections  
Theatre for Development  
Theatre and Therapy  
Theatre and Prisons

## Processes and Performance (Year 1)

This module addresses various approaches to imaginative, physical and vocal training of the actor, drawing on a wide range of key practitioners from the 20th century. You'll be introduced to a selection of approaches that will develop the core skills you'll need for ensemble work. Alongside this you'll explore research strategies and experiment in your own work.



## Theatre Making 2 (Year 2)

You'll develop practical and conceptual abilities and specialist skills in a chosen area of theatre making and work in companies to create and develop collaborative, research-led, fully fledged and fully technical responses to set source material.



## Modernism and Postmodernity A (Year 2)

This lecture/seminar series introduces you to key aspects of modern and postmodern thought, culture and theatre. It aims to examine historical and cultural contexts, and explore and analyse the theoretical and cultural concerns and practices that have been understood as modernist and postmodern. It is interdisciplinary, exploring not only practices in theatre but in other areas of cultural production.



Credit: Katerina Kotti

## Final Shows (Year 3)

For your Final Shows (Theatre Making 3) you'll choose to specialise in Text and Performance, a Devised Performance, Live Art/Performance Art, or a Devised Community Project. These will give you the opportunity to study a theatrical form in depth, and to apply your acquired knowledge and skills in a group-based project.

You'll graduate with a degree that will take you wherever you want to go with the confidence to 'make it happen' as an independent self-starter.

YOUR FUTURE

Choose a Theatre and Performance degree from Goldsmiths and you'll gather experience across the discipline, so you can work in any aspect of the industry - from creating to administration - and gain the research and making skills to critique and transform the cultural landscape. In short, we cultivate articulate practitioners. You'll have a range of options upon graduation, which could include:

- Independent work in the industry as an actor, writer, director or technician
- Arts management - such as working for venues
- Community arts worker/ education officer
- Events management, marketing or public relations
- Teaching and research

Whichever path you take when you graduate, you'll have the skills to ensure your success across any role, in any sector. These skills include analytical thinking, public speaking and presenting.



**Career journey**  
**Roanna**  
(BA Drama & Theatre Arts, 2008), writer, researcher and movement director

"I graduated in 2008. I now work as a writer, researcher and movement director, and teach movement and performance at the University of Kent, Goldsmiths, and the Central School of Speech and Drama. My work centres on experiences of the body from a number of perspectives, including the creative, political, and commercialised.

My time at Goldsmiths was a fantastic foundation for this work, which I am currently deepening through PhD research on 'The Body Politics of Acting'. I disseminate and explore this work through lectures and workshops in various institutions, including the Young Vic, and through collaborations with fellow artists, including projects

convened by Platform7 - which itself is founded by a Goldsmiths alumnus.

In 2011 I began working as Movement Director for Richard Schechner, taking his performance installation 'Imagining O' to the International Theatre Festival in Kerala, India in 2012. I continue to collaborate with Schechner, as well as his associate director Benjamin Mosse, with some exciting international projects in the pipeline.

I also work with writer and activist Susie Orbach as artistic director for the local-global initiative Endangered Bodies, which actively challenges the culture of profit-making from body-dissatisfaction. It is a real pleasure to be back at Goldsmiths and accompany new student cohorts on the course that helped me do the fulfilling work I engage with today."



**Rebecca Frecknall**  
(BA Drama & Theatre Arts, 2009), Royal Shakespeare Company

"After graduating from Goldsmiths I was fortunate enough to secure one of four places to study on the Directors Course at LAMDA. Since completing my training I have produced work regionally and in London, and have assisted directors such as Rupert Goold, Max Stafford-Clark and Natalie Abrahami. In 2011 I was awarded one of the Jerwood Assistant Director bursaries at The Young Vic, and then went on to be awarded the National Theatre Studio's Bursary to become Resident Director there for six months. I have just completed a period of time working as a Staff Director at the National Theatre where I assisted Sir Richard Eyre and Melly Still, and I am now beginning work with the Royal Shakespeare Company."

FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the  
department and degrees at:  
[gold.ac.uk/theatre-performance](http://gold.ac.uk/theatre-performance)

Watch our departmental film at:  
[vimeo.com/goldsmiths/theatre](http://vimeo.com/goldsmiths/theatre)

Get in touch with our  
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The information in this booklet reflects the 2017-18 programme specifications and was correct at the time of print in June 2017. It is intended as a guide only and the information here is not intended to be binding. You can download the most up-to-date programme specifications from our degree pages by visiting [www.gold.ac.uk/course-finder](http://www.gold.ac.uk/course-finder)

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