

Programme Specification

KEY FACTS

Programme:	MA Dance Theatre: The Body in Performance
School:	Graduate School
Department:	Laban
Type of study:	Full Time or Part Time
UK Credits:	180
ECTS:	90

OUTLINE

Summary description

The programme is aimed at the professional development of artists working with body-based practices. There is an emphasis on studio practice as an investigative process, providing opportunities to consolidate this research into theatrical performance sharings, where the sense of 'theatrical' is not circumscribed in advance but is offered as one of the concepts for further interrogation. The taught components concerned with studio practice are concerned with the exploration of strategies and tools for devising performance. The focus is on the students' own practice and they are introduced to various methodologies for articulating, documenting, evaluating and presenting this practice.

Alongside the studio-based practical content, there is a concurrent emphasis on theoretical research and understanding. André Lepecki's argument is that the notion of the ontology of dance as being explicitly linked to the body-in-motion has been opened up by recent performance practice; "*any dance that probes and complicates how it comes into presence, and where it establishes its ground of being, suggests for critical dance studies the need to establish a renewed dialogue with contemporary philosophy*" (Lepecki 2006: 5). It is therefore important that such dialogue takes place within a Masters programme that investigates the location and presentation of dance. This programme provides the opportunity for students to engage in philosophical research which has both theoretical and practical outcomes and indeed stresses the interdependence of these modes of research. Lectures and seminars that introduce philosophical concepts of subjectivity and embodiment do so in the context of artistic movements concerned with rethinking the nature of the body, movement and identity. This provides students with a sense of historical context, and the opportunity to articulate their own practice within wider discourses on the performing body.

In accordance with the national descriptors for Masters level, study undertaken will be at the forefront of performance practice, one in which Laban's profile of performance-based research and publication is internationally recognised. Graduates of the programme will demonstrate creativity in the application of their knowledge, and understand how the boundaries of practice in this area are advanced through research.

The programme aims to:

- provide students with the opportunity to explore key concepts in 20th -21st century art-making, their context and the manner in which they have informed innovations in performance practice.
- enable students to locate and inform their own creative practice within the framework of artistic methods and practices.
- develop students' ability to address complex issues creatively and systematically, as well as the ability to problem-solve in a variety of artistic contexts through the engagement in practice based research, including collaborative projects.
- develop students' competence in meeting the challenges posed by new trends in choreographic and performance practice which raise issues about conventional modes of theatrical presentation and documentation.
- produce graduates who can contribute to the continuing development of the art form and possess qualities needed in employment to meet the changing realities of the

industry.

- produce graduates who have the capacity to make sound judgements, to take personal responsibility and initiative in complex and unpredictable professional environments, and to nurture the professional development of others in the field.

The programme is made up of a series of 'modules' which are designed to fit together so that at the end of the programme you will have demonstrated through the assessments that you can meet the 'Learning Outcomes' of the programme and at what level. A 'Learning Outcome' is a statement that summarises what you should be able to do at a minimal ('threshold') level by the end of the component/module/programme.

What will I be expected to achieve?

Knowledge and understanding

- A1 Demonstrate critical awareness of techniques and methodologies for creating performance work in order to support originality in scholarly practice including practice-based research.
- A2 Critically evaluate key concepts in 20th -21st century art-making, their philosophical context and the manner in which they have informed innovations in performance.
- A3 Engage critically and practically with methods for creative practice, documentation and presentation

Skills

- B1 Locate and inform your creative practice through an engagement with wider frameworks for artistic methods and practices.
- B2 Propose, formulate and apply an individual method of practice.
- B3 Articulate and debate creative practice within the public domain.

Values and attitudes

- C1 Engage in practical research as a means to synthesise knowledge from complex, incomplete or contradictory perspectives embedded in arts practice.
- C2 Demonstrate a professional and responsible attitude to your practice which includes an understanding of the mutually influential relationship between personal endeavour and collaborative enterprise.
- C3 Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the role that art plays in shaping the socio-political context.

How will I learn?

Teaching takes the form of workshops led by staff and visiting artists, together with seminars and lectures which introduce students to key issues related to the subject matter. Alongside the taught aspect of the programme, there are hours allocated for self-directed study – these may be tasks related to the workshops, set readings for the lectures or individually devised research. The programme nurtures and fosters collaborative experience as a means of exploring the devising process within a situation where exchange, discussion and critical reflection are central. A system of presentation, observation and feedback, through a variety of mechanisms, is used to enable you to develop reflective skills and to encourage a culture of shared research and the exchange of ideas. The programme structure supports the development of your research with opportunities for the application of formative feedback and the testing of transferable skills as you progress through the programme

The four taught modules are comprised of approximately 60 contact hours each and the final Project comprises approximately five hours of contact time. There is an additional 1800 notional learning hours. Delivery is over two consecutive days with occasional periods of more intensive learning. Full time students complete all five modules within one year. Part time

students study three modules in their first year and two in the second. The Programme is structured to elicit progressive development in, and application of, the material studied and assessments undertaken, leading to increased autonomy for learning.

How will I be assessed?

Overview

Assessment is through a variety of mechanisms which evaluate knowledge, skills and values related to practice-based research in order to prepare you to engage in the various contexts in which creative and scholarly practice is disseminated, tested and contested. You are encouraged to examine your ideas and experiment with diverse ways of transforming knowledge into creative and scholarly outcomes. Documentation is investigated as a means for critical reflection on creative processes and a tool for developing evaluation of research outcomes. Lecture/demonstrations, presentations and performance projects assess your ability to consolidate and transform skills, and test your application in contexts similar to those encountered in the public domain.

What do I have to do to pass?

To pass you need to satisfactorily PASS (50%) each of the modules that constitute the Programme, which effectively means you must achieve a grade of C- or above, as defined by the M-level Generic Grade Descriptors. The proposed grade will reflect, in the view of the assessment panel, the extent to which the project has meets both the general and module-specific assessment criteria. There are provisions to apply compensation for a 'missed' pass under certain defined circumstances, and similarly there are provisions to retrieve a failure: please see further details about these in your handbook and on-line

What award can I get?

This Programme of study can lead to one of two awards:

- the Postgraduate Diploma Dance Theatre; this award requires you to pass 4 modules and which must include M502, M531, M532, M533: (120 credits)
- or the Master of Arts Dance Theatre, which requires you to pass 5 modules, including M-502, M531, M532, M533 and M-505 (180 credits).

The minimum percentage in the overall aggregate for recommendation for the award shall normally be:

- With Distinction minimum 70%
- With Merit minimum 60%
- Without classification minimum 50%

The Postgraduate Diploma award shall be decided on the overall aggregate of four modules, all of which have equal weighting.

The Master of Arts award shall be decided on the aggregate of five modules, with M-505 weighted at 40%, and the remainder weighted equally at 60%.

Where a student fails up to 35 credits for either award at a first valid attempt, the Assessment Board may consider the application of compensation.

CONTENT

Structure of the Year

Passing the year

To pass the year you must attain a C- or better for each module. Please see above and the generic grade descriptors for further information on where compensation may be available for an unsatisfactory mark, and for grade thresholds that allow re-submission of assessment tasks for a pass mark.

Core Modules

Total weighting of Taught Programme: 60%:

M-502	30 credits
M-531	30 credits
M-532	30 credits
M-533	30 credits

Project Module weighted at 40%:

M-505	60 credits
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Elective Modules

There are no electives

Structure

The programme commences in September each academic year, and continues until September of the following year (12 months, less August when no teaching/tutoring take place) for full time students.

For part time students, the programme commences with registration in September and in Year 1 continues until the end of the second term (Spring term). Study commences in the following September for 12 consecutive months until completion of the Project at the beginning of September the following year (less August when no teaching/tutoring take place).

CAREERS

Graduate from this programme have gone on to dance, to direct, to choreograph, to write, to undertake further research, amongst other arts activities.

Careers website link <http://www.laban.org/alumni.phtml> (Under review)

STUDY ABROAD / WORK PLACEMENTS

Study Abroad options

This activity is not available

Placement options

This activity is not available

ACCREDITATION

The programme is not accredited by any external body.

<i>Version Date</i>	<i>Version Path/Filename</i>	<i>Last updated by</i>
01/07/2010 11:04:00	F:\Review 2009\Modules current\MADT\MA Dance Theatre Programme Specification.doc	RossC