

Performers College – Professional Performing Arts Diploma

Course Overview

2024/25

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Trinity Professional Performing Arts Diplomas - Course Specification

Full Title of the Course & Award	Trinity Professional Performing Arts Diploma
Mode of Attendance	Full-Time
Length of course	3 years.
Start date	September 2024.
Awarding Institution	Trinity College London.
Teaching Institution	Performers College Essex.
UCAS Code	n/a
Language of Study	English
Final Award	Level 6 Diploma in Professional Dance Level 6 Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre
Minimum Period of Registration	3 years
Maximum Period of Registration	4 years
Admissions Criteria	Candidates will be required to attend an audition and demonstrate ability in dance, singing and acting.
Date of Course Specification	September 2018

Course Structure – Year One

YEAR ONE		
Class Name	Description	Hours
Jazz	You will learn the fundamental key aspects of the core jazz discipline, gaining awareness of a variety of qualities and styles.	30 guided learning hours. Time is also spent learning independently. The amount of this time is dependent on each individual's level of experience
Contemporary	A variety of contemporary styles will be studied allowing for freedom of expression.	
Ballet	During these classes you will learn the fundamentals of ballet technique, building a strong foundation for your training.	
Singing	These lessons will focus on the fundamentals of singing to develop the accurate, integrated, engaging and secure singing skills required within the musical theatre industry.	
Voice	During voice lessons, the vocal techniques of breathing, centring, and relaxation in relation to pitch, resonance, projection, and articulation will be explored.	
Acting	This class develops your understanding of a range of integrated acting skills to build confidence and deliver effective characterisation.	
Musical Theatre	This class unites the disciplines of dance, singing and acting developing the skills, knowledge and understanding required to effectively engage an audience.	
Tap	You will learn the fundamental techniques of tap, exploring rhythm, tonal quality, and performance.	
Contextual	This class will give you the opportunity to extend and develop awareness of the broader industry. You will be encouraged to explore reflective practice and develop skills in critical analysis.	
Gymnastics	This class explores the basics of gymnastic technique to enable you to develop your overall skill set.	

Course Structure – Year Two

YEAR TWO		
Class	Description	Hours
Jazz	This class will continue to develop skills and will consist of further exploration of techniques found in a variety of Jazz styles. You will learn to show originality and innovation in relation to movement choices.	30 guided learning hours. Time is also spent learning independently. The amount of this time is dependent on each individual's level of experience
Contemporary	You will extend your understanding and application of contemporary technique and continue to strengthen and develop your expressive qualities, learning to reproduce sustained movement sequences and respond sensitively to the music with clarity of timing and phrasing.	
Ballet	You will extend your understanding and application of core ballet techniques and how to demonstrate expressive performance ability in this genre.	
Singing	This class will continue to add to your technical tuition and repertoire-based projects based on a clear understanding of the safe application of the physical and physiological principles underpinning voice production.	
Voice	You will investigate different accents and vocal qualities together with vocal health and safety.	
Acting	These lessons will continue to engage with a wide range of writers and key practitioners, storytelling and improvisation to develop mature, engaging and secure acting.	
Musical Theatre	This class will continue to develop accurate and secure expressive expertise in all three disciplines of dance, acting and singing to enable imagination and authority in your performances.	
Tap	You will further explore the medium of tap showing understanding of accurate timing and correct placement.	
Contextual	Continued and sustained research, reflection and critical analysis remaining focused on increasing awareness of the broader industry.	

Course Structure – Year Three (Dance)

Year 3: Level 6 Professional Dance Diploma		
Class	Description	Hours
Dance Jazz, Contemporary, Tap are choices for Key Dance Skills whilst Ballet can be chosen as a Supporting Dance Skill with prior agreement.	In year 3 you will demonstrate safe, efficient and accurate alignment with effective balance, co-ordination flexibility and control in all dance subjects. You will perform a range of accurate and sustained complex movement sequences, expressing relevant intent and engagement showing understanding of an audience needs and expectations.	30 guided learning hours. Time is also spent learning independently. The amount of this time is dependent on each individual's level of experience.
Singing	You will show awareness of personal singing range and vocal type, demonstrating a mature sound and secure vocal technique.	
Voice	Within these lessons you will adapt vocal techniques to underpin characterisation in various periods and styles, using accent or dialect accurately demonstrating precision and intent.	
Musical Theatre	The lessons will continue to evolve skills in Musical Theatre repertoire, allowing you to show imagination and authority in this genre. You will make positive and sensitive contributions to group work and understand responsibilities in the realisation of a performance.	
Acting	You will continue to engage with and rehearse a range of material and performance styles demonstrating complex, integrated, mature acting skills.	
Performance in Professional Dance	In this unit you will be able to perform a range of dance repertoire with energy and commitment, performing without error with accurate timing and technique. You will show understanding of context through performance and evidence knowledge of technical departments in dance and the performer's relationship to them.	
Research and Reflection on Dance	The classes and projects will enable you to develop and evidence research, critical thinking, communication, and organisational skills, show extended knowledge and understanding of the broader context of your areas of study.	
Employability Skills and Professional Practice in Dance	You will undertake classes that provide the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the skills required to gain and sustain employment as a professional dancer. Projects will cover issues of personal health, safe practice and well-being and the application if these in the professional environment.	

Course Structure – Year Three (Musical Theatre)

Year 3: Level 6 Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre		
Class	Description	Hours
<p>Dance</p> <p>Jazz (Key Skill)</p> <p>Contemporary</p> <p>Ballet</p> <p>Tap</p> <p>Contemporary and Tap are choices for Supporting Dance Skills. Ballet can be chosen as a Supporting Dance Skill with prior agreement.</p>	<p>In year 3 you will demonstrate safe, efficient and accurate alignment with effective balance, co-ordination flexibility and control in all dance subjects.</p> <p>You will perform a range of accurate and sustained complex movement sequences, expressing relevant intent and engagement showing understanding of an audience needs and expectations.</p>	<p>30 guided learning hours.</p> <p>Time is also spent learning independently. The amount of this time is dependent on each individual's level of experience.</p>
<p>Singing (Key Skill)</p>	<p>Within these lessons and projects, you will select and present suitable vocal audition material to reflect your personal abilities. You will demonstrate a well-placed consistent sound across your vocal range and be able to adapt vocal techniques to a range of genres and styles.</p>	
<p>Voice</p>	<p>Within these lessons you will adapt vocal techniques to underpin characterisation in various periods and styles, using accent or dialect accurately demonstrating precision and intent</p>	
<p>Musical Theatre</p>	<p>These lessons will develop effective preparation skills increasing understanding of subject matter and context to allow you to confidently demonstrate creativity and ownership in performance</p>	
<p>Acting (Supporting Skill)</p>	<p>This year you will deliver sustained, coherent contrasting characterisations using a range of integrated acting skills to deliver effective characterisation to suit varying styles of productions.</p>	
<p>Performance in Professional Musical Theatre</p>	<p>You will perform musical theatre repertoire with sustained energy and personal commitment, performing confidently with smooth integrated singing, acting and dance skills, demonstrating understanding of the context of the lesson or performance.</p>	
<p>Research and Reflection on Dance</p>	<p>The classes and projects will enable you to develop and evidence research, critical thinking, communication and organisational skills show extended knowledge and understanding of the broader context of your areas of study.</p>	
<p>Employability Skills and Professional Practice in Dance</p>	<p>You will undertake classes that provide the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the skills required to gain and sustain employment as a professional dancer. Projects will cover issues of personal health, safe practice and well-being and the application if these in the professional environment.</p>	

Timetables

Timetables are made available during induction week. Classes could be timetabled at any time between 8am-7.30pm Monday-Friday.

On average, full-time students will have around 30 class contact hours per week.

Year Structure

The academic year is divided into three terms dedicated to core skill teaching and assessments. The core timetable usually starts in September and runs until the beginning of July. Courses include additional rehearsal time for performances, and this will be advised to you well in advance by the School. The full academic calendar can be found on our website.

Level 6 Diploma in Professional Dance

Unit	Title	RQF Level	Required or Optional	Guided Learning hours	Independent Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time
1	Key Technical Skills in Professional Dance	6	Required	1300	200	1500
2	Option A: Supporting Technical Skills in Professional Dance Option B: Supporting Technical Skills in Choreography for Professional Dance Option C: Supporting Technical Skills in Vocal Skills for Professional Dance	6	Students must select option A, B or C	300	100	400
3	Performance in Professional Dance (Classical Ballet or Contemporary Dance)	6	Required	900	400	1300
4	Employability Skills and Professional Practice in Dance	6	Required	400	200	600
5	Research and Reflection on Dance	6	Required	100	300	400
Total				3000	1200	4200

Level 6 Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre

Unit	Title	RQF Level	Required or Optional	Guided Learning Hours	Independent Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time
1	Key Technical Skills in Professional Musical Theatre – Singing	6	Required	600	100	700
2	Option A - Key Technical Skills in Professional Musical Theatre - Dance Option B – Key Technical Skills in Professional Musical Theatre – Acting	6	Students must select option A or B	700	100	800
3	Option A - Supporting Technical Skills in Professional Musical Theatre – Dance Option B – Supporting Technical Skills in Professional Musical Theatre - Acting	5	Students must select option A B (a different skill to Unit 2)	300	100	400
4	Performance in Professional Musical Theatre	6	Required	900	400	1300
5	Employability Skills and Professional Practice in Musical Theatre	6	Required	400	200	600
6	Research and Reflection on Professional Musical Theatre	6	Required	100	300	400
Total				3000	1200	4200

All details above are provided for guidance only.

Assessments

Assessment and Marking

Trinity assesses students in the performance unit of the diplomas throughout the final year of their training. All other units are assessed by the course provider and moderated by Trinity.

Attainment bands for the diplomas are Pass and Fail. Students must pass all the units of a diploma to achieve an overall Pass.

Students are expected to complete the full duration of the course.

A main feature of the third year is performance experience.

The varied performance programme for both Diplomas include creating your own show and performing in showcases created by the staff.

All productions act as a showcase for agents, directors and choreographers.

There is an opportunity to also benefit from work experience which is accessed via the Performers' Management Agency (PMA) and the many staff who still work within the industry. Work opportunities range from Pantomimes, Corporate Work and TV appearances.

The Diplomas have self-directed study hours associated with them. During this time, you are expected to be engaging in appropriate learning activities for your course. This could include practicing, conducting research, writing assignments, and preparing for upcoming classes.

The contextual course work can take several forms.

- Research essays – in these assignments you will be expected to conduct research into the chosen topic. You will then be required to write an essay based on this research, putting forward clear and concise arguments.
- Reflective Classwork reviews – in these assignments you are required to reflect on your professional practice or development activities and identify areas for improvement.
- Show reviews - in these assessments you are required to watch a professional production and write a review of the production values and your reaction to these.
- Lectures in areas such as tax, accountancy and professional bodies are followed by written tests.
- A final Viva Voce examination takes place at the end of year three.
- Continual assessments to support your progress are made throughout the course.

Formative Assessment

Performers College has a number of mechanisms for formative assessment which allow you to gain feedback before the final assessment or coursework deadline.

In-class activities are also used as an opportunity to provide feedback to students. During lessons, there are often opportunities to receive feedback from peers as well as the tutors and some lessons are heavily focused toward providing students who perform or present their work with feedback to help them improve.

Summative Assessment

Performers College has an established and robust summative assessment structure. Each discipline is assessed separately giving students the opportunity to receive regular formal personal feedback.

A range of assessment methods are used to identify key technical and performance skills. Detailed written feedback is given to all students following the summative assessments. Feedback clearly identifies both strengths and areas for improvement.

Staff

Performers College is proud of its long history of employing industry professionals to teach at all our colleges. We believe that through this practice we provide the best opportunities to our students to learn from tutors who understand their goals and have the knowledge and experience necessary to help make them a reality.

More information can be found regarding our tutors on our [tutors page](#).

Sometimes tutors are granted leave to engage in industry activities such as going on tour, conducting research or other professional development activities. This is vital to ensure that our tutors can give students the most current information, and share recent experiences, regarding an industry that is constantly evolving and expanding into new areas.

Language

All qualifications at Performers College are taught and assessed in English.

Costs

Tuition fees

Annual tuition fees are £15,000. Further details can be found [here](#).

Additional Costs

Students who are thinking of applying to Performers College should read the [Uniform and Equipment list](#) which outlines what is required to successfully study for this diploma programme. This will be issued to you by the Performers College team.

Where possible, Performers College provides a limited number of rehearsal rooms, and free access to rehearsal facilities on campus. These can become fully booked at peak times and may not be available outside our opening hours.

Accommodation and Living Costs

Information regarding accommodation and living costs can be obtained by emailing the relevant department below:

Performers College Essex: accommodationpc@performerscollege.co.uk or 01375 672053

Disabled Access

Performers College Essex is fully accessible for wheelchair users. The building contains a lift, disabled toilet facilities and a hearing loop. For more information, please contact Student Services at your campus, who will be happy to help.