

Performers College – Professional Performing Arts Diploma

Course Overview

2025/26

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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 2025
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.	<p>30 guided learning hours.</p> <p>Time is also spent learning independently in self-led study. The amount of this time is dependent on individual application.</p>
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.	
Tap	You will learn the fundamental techniques of tap, exploring rhythm, tonal quality, and performance.	
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.	
Contextual Studies	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.	<p>30 guided learning hours.</p> <p>Time is also spent learning independently in self-led study. The amount of this time is dependent on individual application.</p>
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.	
Tap	You will further explore the medium of tap showing understanding of accurate timing and correct placement.	
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.	
Contextual Studies	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 in self-led study. The amount of this time is dependent on individual application.
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) Contemporary Ballet 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. 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 in self-led study. The amount of this time is dependent on individual application.</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</p>	

	personal health, safe practice and well-being and the application if these in the professional environment.	
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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 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 starts in September and runs until the beginning of July. Courses include additional rehearsal time for performances, the dates of which 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 and ensuring that upon graduation you are industry ready.

The varied performance programme for both Diplomas include participation in creative projects, such as devising a production and performing in showcases created by in-house creatives and invited industry guests.

All Trinity students have the opportunity to participate in Agent Panel days which give direct exposure to agents within the industry. All productions act as a secondary showcase for agents, directors and choreographers.

There is an opportunity to also benefit from work experience which is accessed via the Creative Futures Team and the many staff who still work within the industry. Work opportunities range from Pantomimes, Corporate Work and TV appearances.

Each Diploma has self-directed study hours associated with them. During this time, you are expected to be engaging in appropriate learning activities for your course and to fuel your own individual progression. This could include practicing, conducting research, writing assignments, and preparing for upcoming classes.

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 assessment to support your progress are made throughout the course.

Formative Assessment

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

Designated formative feedback through in-class activities are also used as an opportunity to provide individual feedback to students at appropriate intervals within the term ahead of summative assessment. Continual feedback from tutors and peers during the course provides constructive methods of developing and progressing in technique and performance.

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 accomplishment alongside identification of areas for development and progression.

Staff

For over 30 years, we have prepared students for a future in the performing arts industry. We're proud to have some of the most experienced and talented lecturers from the world of performing arts working with us at Performers College. It is their mission to provide you with outstanding training and guide you on your journey towards a successful career.

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

At times tutors are granted leave to engage in industry activities such as going on tour, conducting research or other professional development activities. This ensures that our tutors have relevant industry currency and knowledge which they can pass on to current students.

Language

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

Costs

Tuition fees

Your course fees are outlined in your offer letter, which forms part of the offer pack.

For further information, including details of support and payment plans, please see the [Fees and Finance](#) section of the Performers College website, and your [terms and conditions](#).

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.

Students can book studios within given working hours to facilitate self-led learning and rehearsal spaces.

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

Accessibility

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 the Student Wellbeing team at your campus, who will be happy to help.

Occasionally we may use external spaces for some lessons or events, which may not be accessible. If you require wheelchair access every effort will be made to arrange teaching spaces that are accessible.

*Fees are subject to review each academic year