



PART 1 – MA THEATRE DIRECTING PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION		
1	Awarding institution	St Mary's University, Twickenham
2	Partner institution and location of teaching (if applicable)	The Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond
3	Type of collaborative arrangement (if applicable)	Flying Faculty/Part-franchise
4	Award title	MA Theatre Directing
5	Final award	MA
6	Interim award(s) with award titles (if specific titles have been designated)	Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)
7	School with responsibility for the programme	Arts & Humanities
8	Language of study	English
9	Joint Honours combinations	N/A
10	UCAS code	N/A
11	JACS code	W420
12	Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation / recognition	N/A
13	QAA subject benchmark or other relevant external reference point	There is not an appropriate Master's degree QAA subject benchmarking statement published for the MA Theatre Directing to be mapped against. Therefore the programme specification has been developed in accordance with the Level 7 descriptors identified in The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008) and the QAA Characteristics Statement for Master's Degrees (2015).
14	Normal completion time	Normal completion time: Full-time study – one year



	and maximum duration of study	Part-time study – two years The overall duration of study for a full-time Masters Programme from initial registration to completion of programme requirements shall be one calendar year or three semesters. A part-time Masters programme shall normally be followed over four or six consecutive semesters.
15	Mode of study	Full time or part time. The programme runs over three terms the first two of which are broadly in parallel to the University's semester system. It is broadly modular in structure consisting of 2 x 3 hour workshops / classes and 1 x 1 hour tutorial taught over two days a week in terms one and two. This is supplemented by placement opportunities focused on on-going rehearsals, production and planning meetings within The Orange Tree itself. The final term is devoted to the final production. All modules are core and to achieve the full degree students must pass all of them.
16	Mode of delivery	Face to face.
17	Date approved and name of authorised body	A&H STLQE, June n2017
18	Applies to students commencing study in (month/year)	September 2017
PART 2 – CURRICULUM SPECIFIC DETAILS		
19	Summary of the programme	<p>Our Master's degree in Theatre Directing - run in collaboration with the multi-award winning Orange Tree Theatre - is designed to explore the art and techniques of theatre directing within the context of contemporary theatre making.</p> <p>The programme is predominantly housed at The Orange Tree in Richmond, enabling students to embed their practice in the working life of this award-winning theatre. Modules are taught by both academics and theatre directors with the assistance of professional actors in the practical classes.</p> <p>The programme is both academic and vocational. It aims to provide an advanced understanding of theatre production processes within a context of both contemporary theatre making and the dramatic tradition. It further aims to develop students' craft skills and technical abilities in order to prepare them for a career in theatre directing.</p> <p>The programme is aimed both at graduates who wish to advance their understanding of theatre practice in order to develop their work to a professional standard and at theatre professionals who wish to formalise their experience with a course of study and a qualification.</p>



		<p>Directing workshops explore rehearsal techniques, script analysis, performance, design and technical aspects of production. A key module focuses on directing as a career. There is a particular emphasis on the study of the working relationship between the director and the performer.</p> <p>At the end of the course students present a showcase production at the Orange Tree, or another London fringe theatre. Study is over one year full-time or two years part-time.</p> <p>Previous graduates have found assistant and associate directing work with all of the major companies, including the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, Out of Joint and the Royal Court.</p> <p>The Drama department has three fully equipped studios and a large theatre for rehearsal purposes. Technical and administrative staff support the programme throughout the year and students are provided with a production budget for their end-of-year production.</p>
20	Aims of the programme	<p>Educational Aims of the Programme</p> <p>The programme is both academic and vocational. It aims to provide an advanced understanding of theatre production processes within a context of both contemporary theatre-making and the dramatic tradition. It further aims to develop students' craft skills and technical abilities in order to prepare them for a career in theatre directing.</p> <p>The programme is aimed, then, at graduates who wish both to advance their understanding of theatre practice and to develop their work to a professional standard. It is further aimed at theatre professionals who wish to formalise their experience with a course of study and a qualification, as well as giving some the possibility of a career change to directing.</p> <p>The aims of the programme are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To further students' creative development to an advanced level in order to qualify them to become professional theatre directors.2. To develop an advanced systematic understanding of the art and craft of theatre directing, to help students to acquire an advanced personal methodology in response to the problems posed by theatre production, and to provide an environment for artistic and intellectual experiment.3. To help students to locate specialised creative knowledge and professional skills within a wider critical enquiry into contemporary theatre-making and culture.4. To ensure, through exposure to good practice and personal tutoring, that all graduates possess the requisite qualities needed for continuing professional development.



		<p>5. To enable students to experience a year-long trainee placement in a professional producing house where they will broaden their knowledge of the directing process.</p>									
	<p>Criteria for admission</p>	<p>Criteria for Admission Applicants must satisfy the General Entrance Regulations of St Mary's University available from the Registry. The normal minimum entry requirement for the programme is either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good honours degree (2:1 or First) in a relevant subject from a UK university or equivalent; combined with some experience of theatre directing at college or semi-professional theatre level. <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional acting, directing or theatre design experience combined with evidence of capacity to study at MA level. <p>Students whose first language is not English are required to satisfy the English Language Requirements of the UKVI and the University. Students are required to achieve an IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in any section. Further detail on other accepted English language qualifications are available on the St Mary's website here: https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/international/english-language/overview.aspx</p> <p>All applicants for this degree are interviewed, preferably face to face, but alternatively by Skype or telephone. In preparation for the interview candidates will have been asked to prepare a scene study of a chosen text from a directorial point of view. In the interview they'll be asked to discuss the challenges of working on the scene and given the opportunity to propose a structure for an initial rehearsal.</p> <p>Credit Accumulation and Transfer and Accreditation of Prior Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant credits, i.e. credits at an appropriate level and in an appropriate subject, earned in another institution or in other institutions, in the European Union or elsewhere, may merit exemption from a proportion of the University Programme. The maximum number of credits for which exemption may be given are as follows: <p>Postgraduate Certificate up to 30 credits Postgraduate Diploma up to 60 credits Master's Degree up to 90 credits</p>									
<p>22</p>	<p>Scheduled learning time (the number of guided learning hours (GLH) is 10 hours per 1 credit http://www.qaa.ac</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of learning time</th> <th>Number of hours</th> <th>Expressed as %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Contact time</td> <td>303</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Placement/work-based learning hours</td> <td>300</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of learning time	Number of hours	Expressed as %	Contact time	303	17%	Placement/work-based learning hours	300	16%
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<p>23</p>	<p>Programme learning outcomes</p>	<p>Knowledge and Understanding On completion of the programme students should have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A thorough understanding of production processes. 2. A deep systematic understanding of contemporary theatre-making and cultural processes. 3. A thorough understanding of the work of contemporary directors – their body of work and working methods. 4. A working knowledge of various methods and processes of rehearsal. 5. An enhanced ability to think conceptually about text and space. <p>Cognitive Skills. On completion of the programme students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Critically evaluate text, performance and creative ideas. 7. Use creative strategies to solve problems. 8. Use research skills to support production work. 9. Cost ideas in terms of available resources – finance, time and people. <p>Performance and Practice On completion of the programme students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw upon the requisite techniques to stage a production effectively. Create original work as director/auteur. Recognise authors' intentions and be able to translate these into performance. Manage, organise and produce impacting work in collaboration with other artists. <p>Personal and Enabling Skills On completion of the programme students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate and collaborate effectively with other theatre practitioners. Have the charismatic personal qualities needed to lead a company. Work to meeting own deadlines in respect of production decisions and realisation. 										
<p>24</p>	<p>Programme structure and module requirements</p>	<p>In order to qualify for the degree of Master of Arts, students will be required to pass each of the modules and accumulate all 180 FHEQ Level 7 credits. The accumulation of 60 FHEQ Level 7 credits will qualify students for a postgraduate certificate and the accumulation of 120 FHEQ Level 7 credits will qualify</p>										



		<p>students for a postgraduate diploma.</p> <p>A 60 credit postgraduate certificate can be made up from any combination of modules, with the exception of the 60 credit DIR7015 Final Production, which can only be taken once the student has successfully completed the other five modules.</p> <p>A 120 credit postgraduate diploma will be awarded to students who are successful in modules DIR7010 – DIR7014, but who either decide not to attempt or are unsuccessful in completing to pass standard the DIR7015 Final Production module.</p> <p>FHEQ Level 7 Modules</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="451 797 1445 1249"> <thead> <tr> <th>Code</th> <th>Title</th> <th>No. of credits</th> <th>Sem of delivery</th> <th>Module status (core, option)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>DIR7010</td> <td>Directing Actors</td> <td>30</td> <td>1/2</td> <td>Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIR7011</td> <td>Contemporary Theatre</td> <td>15</td> <td>1</td> <td>Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIR7012</td> <td>Artistic Collaboration</td> <td>30</td> <td>1/2</td> <td>Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIR7013</td> <td>Business of Directing</td> <td>15</td> <td>2</td> <td>Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIR7014</td> <td>Directing in the Community</td> <td>30</td> <td>1/2</td> <td>Core</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIR7015</td> <td>Final production</td> <td>60</td> <td>2</td> <td>Core</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Code	Title	No. of credits	Sem of delivery	Module status (core, option)	DIR7010	Directing Actors	30	1/2	Core	DIR7011	Contemporary Theatre	15	1	Core	DIR7012	Artistic Collaboration	30	1/2	Core	DIR7013	Business of Directing	15	2	Core	DIR7014	Directing in the Community	30	1/2	Core	DIR7015	Final production	60	2	Core
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25	Work placements or study abroad	<p>At the core of this programme is the partnership with a producing theatre, The Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond, who act as a host for all the practical components of the degree. They will provide industry standard rehearsal, workshop and production space and a final venue for the showcase productions, which serve as an annual public culmination to the degree. In addition they will support the taught components of the programme by providing staff from their team of professional directors to deliver and part deliver some of the modules. The partnership will also offer our students a unique opportunity to embed themselves in a professional theatre for a year. Although other Master of Arts/Masters of Fine Arts Directing courses on the market offer placement opportunities none of them currently run this kind of collaborative relationship with a producing house. Students will be able to observe at first hand the day to day challenges of running a small scale producing house and through this process will be afforded an opportunity to see the practical application of many of the business skills that they will have been taught on the programme.</p>																																			
26	Links to industry and employability	<p>All Drama St Mary's courses have an explicit focus on employability and the MA Theatre Directing gives the most tangible example of the way our curriculum design supports student's future careers.</p> <p>The degree is cited at a professional producing house and students will be learning alongside and in collaboration with established theatre practitioners. As</p>																																			



		<p>much as is possible we've sought to create real situations where the student's decision making has a genuine impact on the work of the theatre. In the process they will come in to contact with potential employers and have ample opportunity to develop their contacts alongside the discipline specific technical and interpersonal skills needed to have a successful career as a theatre director.</p> <p>The Directing in the Community module recognises that the career of a freelance practitioner needs to be flexible and that many theatre making employment opportunities are beyond the production of professional text based plays.</p> <p>The Artistic Collaboration module gives students an opportunity to impress their value on professional colleagues in a collaborative situation. Students who earn the trust of the creative team will, inevitably take an enhanced level of responsibility.</p> <p>The final production will showcase the students' talents to a public audience. We will publicise these shows broadly and hope that high calibre theatre programmers, agents and producers will attend the work</p>
27	Programme awards	<p>This programme conforms to the University Academic Regulations.</p> <p>In order to qualify for the degree of Master of Arts, students will be required to pass each of the modules and accumulate all 180 FHEQ Level 7 credits. The accumulation of 60 FHEQ Level 7 credits will qualify students for a postgraduate certificate and the accumulation of 120 FHEQ Level 7 credits will qualify students for a postgraduate diploma.</p>
PART 3 – TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT		
28	Programme teaching and learning strategies	<p>Research Enriched Teaching and Learning.</p> <p>All three module convenors have active theatre making careers. The ongoing work of the team will enable them to discuss openly the day to day problems of scheduling work, casting and running rehearsals with the students, sharing the challenges that they, as professional theatre makers, encounter on a daily basis. This in turn will help lecturers and students work in tandem to explore and propose solutions to problems that arise during the students own directing process.</p> <p>This is a programme that is essentially practitioner led and although all three members of the core team have, at different stages of their careers, been involved in academic teaching and research at MA Level and above, it is clear that their knowledge and understanding of the craft of theatre directing and their utility as educators derives as much from their own extensive contemporary practice as their research profiles. Much of their ongoing work is, of course, supported by both scholarship and research, but theatre directing requires a rigorous commitment to a repetitive physical practice as much as it does to the exercise of the intellect.</p> <p>As is the case with all lecturers employed on the Drama programmes the team are encouraged to maintain and engage with Continuing Professional Practice.</p>



Teaching Patterns and Methods

Teaching methods vary. Module 2 Contemporary Theatre and Module 5 Business of Directing are lecture/seminar classes which may include video screenings, visits to the theatre and guest lectures. The first looks at the theatre landscape focussing on key / seminal companies and directors. The second considers employment opportunities, funding structures and career progression in the cultural and creative industries. The modules are assessed by a 4500 word essay / written presentation.

Module 1 Directing Actors is taught by professional theatre directors with experience of teaching at MA level. These classes are mostly practical workshops, taught in studio conditions at The Orange Tree, with the assistance of invited professional actors. Occasional masterclasses and lecture/seminars are also a feature of this module. There are two assessment points. Each student will run an audition process involving professional actors in order to cast for a one-day rehearsal exercise monitored by a professional director/tutor. Both the audition process and the rehearsal exercise will be assessed by a professional director/ tutor.

Module 5 Directing in the Community is a practical workshop class taught by professional theatre directors and Drama Programme staff. Students will take part in a series of practical sessions which introduce them to a range of devising techniques, offering them a tool box of ideas and springboards. In pairs they will go on to direct a short devised performance either with one of the Orange Tree Theatre's Youth Theatre groups or with an alternative community group, in which they apply the techniques they have explored in their practical seminars. There are two assessment points. The students will be visited in rehearsal and then evaluated as the creative force behind the final devised performance.

Module 3 Artistic Collaboration is a placement module which employs a participant observer methodology to allow students privileged access to the rehearsals of a professionally staged production. Students will be assigned a production at the Orange Tree Theatre for observation. They will attend pre-production meetings, design, casting, etc; during the rehearsal period students will spend time in the rehearsal room as an observer. There will be formal tutorials once a week to orientate the student and to discuss any issues that arise from their observations/ involvement in the work. The module is assessed through an 8,000 word evaluative essay which records the creative process for their assigned production from early design meetings and castings through to press night and initial public reaction.

Module 6 Final Production - at the end of the course each student has to produce and direct a production of approximately 1 hour's length at The Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond using professional actors. Students will be introduced to this module during the initial induction process and be asked to make a final choice on text by December 31st of the year preceding the performance. The tutorial process will help guide them towards suitable texts. The production is tutored by academic staff throughout the rehearsal process and supported by technical staff. Students will be expected to take part in production and design



		<p>meetings, although these will be scheduled by The Orange Tree team, replicating the practice that supports the theatre's own in-house productions. The production process and performances are assessed and students take part in a forty five minute post-production viva voce examination with two of their course tutors, which gives them the chance to reflect critically on their practice.</p> <p>At the start of each year there will be an extended induction programme for new students. This will introduce them to the structures and procedures of the programme and the protocols of working at The Orange Tree as well as offering a tool-kit of exercises and approaches useful in leading the early stages of a rehearsal process. The workshops will introduce them to a repertoire of potential approaches as well as covering issues relating to safe guarding, child protection and working with adult learners.</p> <p>Pastoral support continues throughout the student's time on the programme. With weekly tutorials organised at St Mary's University. In the main these will be group sessions enabling peer support and shared experience to develop across the year. In addition to this students will be able to book individual tutorial sessions and appointments with the programme director of the course should they wish to raise concerns or talk through issues not covered by the group tutorial.</p> <p>All students will also be invited to The Orange Tree's weekly Monday briefing sessions where they will be able to raise any issues concerning the smooth operation of the theatre's activities. For the time in which they are engaged on Theatre in the Community and Artistic Collaboration modules students will meet weekly with The Orange Tree Artistic Director and this will offer a further opportunity to discuss progress and explore creative ideas.</p>
29	<p>Programme assessment strategy</p>	<p>Assessment Strategy</p> <p>Students are assessed mostly through their practice but also through written work – essays, planning documents and reflective reports. The assessment is weighted around the final production which is both an intense learning experience and an indicator as to whether the student has the aptitude and application to become a professional theatre director.</p> <p>As is usual in theatre training, students are given constant formative feedback in practical classes as well as more formal written feedback on their written assignments and practical projects in their weekly tutorials where time is also provided to discuss academic progress.</p> <p>All written work is blind double-marked. Productions are assessed by two examiners who are also present at the viva voce examination. Sample scripts are sent to the external examiner who also samples the production work. Practical exercises and performances are video-recorded.</p> <p>The programme adheres to the University policy of operating a 3 week turnaround expectation for feedback to students.</p>



PART 4 – UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

30	Student support and guidance	We have a dedicated Student Centre in the heart of the University. Our aim is to assist, guide and support students throughout their period of study. The Student Wellbeing Service provides personal 1-1 Counselling in addition to group workshops such as mindfulness. The Disability Service includes both physical disabilities and learning support such as Dyslexia. Mental Health Advisors and Mentors together with an on-site Health Centre. Our Student Life and Guidance Team includes; the Accommodation Services, Student Funding, Pastoral Care & Advice & Guidance. Each student is allocated a Personal Tutor who can assist with any academic advice and support with any personal issues.
31	Quality management arrangements	This programme aligns with the quality assurance requirements of St Mary's University through the following processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five yearly cycle of revalidation• Interim review for collaborative provision• System of Moderators for collaborative provision• Ongoing monitoring through the Programme Review process• Programme Boards• Consideration of marks and graduate profiles at Exam Boards• Engagement with programme student representatives• Engagement with approved external examiners