

Module code: MOD006226	Version: 2 Date Amended: 02/Mar/2022
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1. Module Title
Physical Theatre

2a. Module Leader
David Jackson

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) Acting, BA (Hons) Drama, BA (Hons) Drama and Film, BA (Hons) Drama and English Literature		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module focuses on physical theatre techniques as developed by key practitioners and companies. Indicative key figures and topics include Jacques Lecoq at the International Theatre School in Paris, experiments in dance theatre by Pina Bausch, the plays and performances of Complicité or Steven Berkoff, the techniques taught by Frantic Assembly and the current work of Strictly Arts Theatre Company. The main focus of weekly workshop sessions will be practical engagement with physical methodologies for creating original performative work. These methods may include improvisation exercises, development of mime and gestural languages, experiments with neutral and expressive masks, 'non-human' movements, multi-role playing, clowning, chair duets, 'pedestrian' dance and the analysis of play-texts for their potential transformation into physical theatre performances.

These topics provide only a starting point for your creativity and not a training technique that necessarily produces interesting results. The movement of the body through space, and what this might be made to mean, will be a central concern in this module. This is a deceptively simple proposition, but the development of physical precision, rhythm and disciplined ensemble performance is a labour-intensive task. You will be expected to be self-critical and able to develop your own physical work towards increasing clarity and complexity.

Weekly sessions are collaborative in nature and you must be prepared to play a full part in the exercises undertaken. It is essential to wear suitable clothing to these sessions to enable you to 'play', according to Lecoq's meaning of that term, which includes maintaining discipline in your work.

6b. Outline Content

- Integration of practical and theoretical engagement with ideas and methods for making physical theatre drawn from key practitioners and companies.
- Devising physical theatre scenes from the play-texts designed for that purpose by Complicité or Berkoff or the transformation of traditional texts and sources.
- Engagement with exercises using neutral and expressive masks.
- Exploration of the ideas of clowning and play.
- Improvisation, mime and the development of an increasingly precise gestural language.
- Creative practice in devising an original physical theatre piece, based upon the ideas of key practitioners or contemporary theatre companies.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

N/A

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Combine practical exercises and independent research to gain a detailed understanding of physical theatre methodologies.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Apply this detailed knowledge in devising original live performance.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate a professional attitude to weekly group workshops, including a self-critical attitude to the precision of your physical work.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Operate with autonomy and discipline in a group to develop an assessed performance, using feedback to improve your work.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	Workshop: 2-hr x 12 weeks
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Completing set reading, independent research and preparation of assessed performance
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Group physical theatre live performance: maximum 20 minutes (duration will depend on group size)

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]