



**Definitive Programme Document**

**MA DIRECTING CIRCUS**

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Circomedia
School	College of Liberal Arts
Department	Bath School of Music and Performance
Main campus	Circomedia
Other sites of delivery	Newton Park
Other Schools involved in delivery	NA
Name of award(s)	Directing Circus
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PgCert, PgDip
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	1 year full time / 2 years part time
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	NA
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	NA
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	NA
UCAS code	NA
Route code (SITS)	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	There is no relevant Masters benchmark statement, but the BA honours Subject Benchmark Statement for <a href="#">Dance, Drama and Performance (2015)</a> has provided some context.
Date of most recent approval	
Date specification last updated	

## **Programme Overview**

This course responds to the need for a new generation of circus directors who are aware of the possibilities and limitations of using circus techniques in an artistic context. As well as studying a range of research methodologies the course covers the roles, strategies and practical skills of circus directing in two areas – the director as author and the director as facilitator. Over the duration of the course, you explore the direction of circus performance for a wide variety of audiences in varying contexts. This might include sharing your work with specialist educators, student peers, studying other subject areas, and working with youth circus groups.

The course also gives you the support and freedom to build upon your practice and research profile by completing a dissertation or developing a circus production from start to finish. These experiences are valuable for developing actors, directors, educators, scholars and circus enthusiasts. The course equips you with the knowledge, skills and experience to pursue a professional career in the study and/or practice of directing circus.

In addition to working with undergraduate students you also have the opportunity for placements with leading UK contemporary circus companies. Companies worked with to date include: Ockham's Razor, No Fit State, Stumble and the Gandini Juggling Project as well as the youth circuses at Circomedia and No Fit State. You may also be offered Assistant Director roles in Circomedia-supported emerging artist programmes such as Circus Shorts and VOLT.

As with all of the Music and Performance Masters, this programme places you within a creative and vibrant artistic community dedicated to all aspects of music and the performing arts. Your programme therefore sits within a dynamic environment where we actively encourage you to work with other practitioners and scholars from other disciplines. You will also work with professional practitioners from a similar range of backgrounds who will bring differing perspectives to your work.

As well as teaching, you how to direct circus, the programme also prepares you for a range of career opportunities in the arts. Including, but not limited community work, workshop leading, teaching, arts work and doctoral study.

## **Programme Aims**

Throughout the course, the curriculum aims to:

1. Foster creative practices for directing circus-based performance work
2. Promote autonomous and collaborative learning and directing skills
3. Explore circus direction in-depth through a variety of research methods
4. Engage with current debates and discourses of the discipline
5. Understand career development and professional working practices through practical experience in the circus industry

## **Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)**

These ILOs reflect the level 7 descriptors of the FHEQ

### A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

- A1 Understand current circus performance practice through critical, analytical, historical and collaborative contexts
- A2 Relate circus performance to the current cultural environment
- A3 Demonstrate practical understanding of contemporary performance practice relating to circus
- A4 Utilise experiential and self-evaluative processes when directing awareness of contemporary industry practice
- A5 Analyse methodologies and practices within an interdisciplinary circus context.
- A6 Apply relevant critical theory to the practice of directing circus.

### B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

- B1 Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources with a view to applying that information in a range of critical, practical and evaluative contexts.
- B2 Apply an in-depth knowledge and understanding of circus directing informed by current scholarship and research, including a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject
- B3 Articulate a clearly structured and cohesive original argument.
- B4 Critically evaluate own development and setting of constructive aims and goals for further improvement.
- B5 Reflectively critique personal practice and that of others to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline

### C Skills for Life and Work

- C1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
- C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically
- C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively

## Intermediate awards

### PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A4, A5, B1, B2, B4, C1, C3

### PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, B1, B2, B4, C1, C2, C3

## Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

### Key:

Core = C

Compulsory = R (ie 'required')

Optional = O

<b>MA DIRECTING CIRCUS</b>				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	30	C	
7	PM7006	Directing Circus 1: Performer as Source	30	C	
7	PM7031	Professional Collaboration	30	C	
7	PM7033	Directing Circus 2: Director as Author	30	C	
7	PM7070	Major Project	60	C	

<b>PGCert DIRECTING CIRCUS</b>				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	30	C	
7	PM7006	Directing Circus 1: Performer as Source	30	C	

<b>PGDip DIRECTING CIRCUS</b>				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	30	C	
7	PM7006	Directing Circus 1: Performer as Source	30	C	
7	PM7031	Professional Collaboration	30	C	
7	PM7033	Directing Circus 2: Director as Author	30	C	

**Assessment methods**

A range of summative assessment tasks test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

You are supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here to pass that module.

**Work experience and placement opportunities**

This programme provides a simulating work environment, you engage with productions, ranging from fringe events to large-scale work. Working in this hothouse environment provides you with a real-time work experience of the process and detail required to direct live performance. However, no assessment activity draws on a formal work placement or work experience.

## Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Directing Circus, this means...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	You will be employable to direct different forms of circus in a variety of contexts
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	You will be able to adapt to many different situations, taking on many kinds of roles and managing expectations within given resources
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	You will have at your disposal a 'toolbox' of creative processes to select from which will facilitate exploration of different combinations of circus techniques, their artistic functions and collaborations.
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	You will be able to maximise the opportunities provided by video-recording, both existing and self-generated in a rehearsal process.
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	You will be working with students from other countries and engage with tutors, artists and companies from Europe and beyond.
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	You will have a sophisticated understanding of theories that are relevant to the practice of directing circus and use them to generate ideas to feed into your practice as a director
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	You will have an advanced capability to articulate your ideas and analysis of practice, both in written and oral form.
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	You will be aware of how the cultural processes and products you create have an effect on wider society/societies.

## **Modifications**

### Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

### Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
Re-approval of the programme to enable integration with sibling programmes		

**TRIMESTER 1**

**PM7001 - RESEARCH  
METHODOLOGIES AND  
CONTEXT**

CORE 30 CREDITS

**PM7006 - DIRECTING 1:  
PERFORMER AS SOURCE**

CORE 30 CREDITS

**TRIMESTER 2**

**PM7033 - DIRECTING 2:  
DIRECTOR AS AUTHOR**

CORE 30 CREDITS

**PM7031 – PROFESSIONAL  
COLLABORATION**

CORE 30 CREDITS

**TRIMESTER 3**

**PM7070 - MAJOR PROJECT**

CORE 60 CREDITS

**FULL-TIME PROGRAMME MAP – MA DIRECTING CIRCUS**

**Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules**

**MA DIRECTING CIRCUS**



Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)	Intended Learning Outcomes													
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies & Context	C	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
7	PM7006	Directing Circus 1: Performer as Source	C	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
7	PM7031	Professional Collaboration	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	PM7033	Directing Circus 2: Director as Author	C	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	PM7070	Major Project	C	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

**Map of summative assessment tasks by module**

**MA DIRECTING CIRCUS**



**Most word counts below are indicative, they often combine practical and written elements. There are no examinations in any Music and Performance MAs**

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)	Assessment method										
				Coursework						Practical				
				Composition Portfolio	Research Project	Journal / Blog	Portfolio	Evaluation commentary	Essay	Performance Recital	Practical Project	Presentation	Skills Projects	
7	PM7001	Research Methodologies and Context	C		7,500 words									
7	PM7006	Directing Circus 1: Performer as Source	C			2,000 words						2 units		
7	PM7031	Professional Collaboration	C									7,500 words		
7	PM7033	Directing Circus 2: Director as Author	C					1,500 words & 3,000 words			3,000 words			
7	PM7070	Major Project	C		15,000 words.									