



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

BA (HONS) CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE PRACTICE



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**LIKE
NOWHERE ELSE:
MAKE YOUR
OWN WORK**

The (BA Hons) Contemporary Performance Practice programme at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is for you if you are curious, creative, and want to become a collaborative and socially engaged artist.

This four-year interdisciplinary degree brings together performance-makers, educators, advocates and active citizens who challenge norms, break down barriers and aspire to transform spaces, communities and ideas about the world.

BA (Hons) Contemporary Performance Practice

Four years, full-time
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At the core of this four year programme is a commitment to the sustainability and social function of performance and how it can be 'an act of community'. Students develop their artistry with the care and support of expert mentors in one of the world's top 10 performing arts education institutions.

Students are equipped with multiple skills, not only in performance-making but also in facilitation and working in communities, to create powerful performances everywhere from hospices, prisons and schools to swimming pools, beaches and building sites.

You can expect to encounter a range of concepts throughout your studies including social practice, live art, performance art, postmodern and post-dramatic performance, installation, performance research, site-specific and documentary practices. Approaches to making new work are enquiry-led, exploring how performance can be a platform to examine and find things out about the world.

You will be part of a dynamic, creative community both within the CPP cohort and the wider conservatoire, where collaboration flows through the curriculum, offering opportunities to connect with artists from across the disciplines of music, drama, dance, production, education and film.

Contemporary Performance Practice encourages students to claim their education and develop their unique arts practice to make a difference in the world.

Why choose us?

- | RCS is recognised as one of the world's top three destinations to study the performing arts (QS World University Rankings 2021)
- | Excellent staff-student ratio and small class sizes ensuring every student receives individual feedback
- | Opportunities for artistic collaboration across RCS
- | World-class facilities and performing venues
- | Emphasis on preparing you for diverse careers in professional practice
- | Many opportunities to engage in outdoor art-making practices and off-site work
- | Be part of the sector-leading *Into The New* festival, showcasing work of Scotland's emerging live artists and makers
- | Work opportunities include performance and professional collaborations with cutting-edge practitioners, companies, festivals and arts venues; recent projects include work with Imagineate, National Theatre of Scotland, Glas(s) Performance and Tramway



“The definition of contemporary is existing or happening now and, if we are truly contemporary, our research, practice and pedagogy must respond to this current moment. Our students are leading the way in developing new artworks and artforms which are exciting, relevant and urgent.”

Interim Head of Contemporary
Performance Practice:
Laura Bissell

Year one

Digging from Where You Stand: The focus is on the *ego*-centric artist-you will learn about the methods and strategies of making performance using your own life and experiences as your material. You are encouraged to question your attitudes, values and understandings, and translate these discoveries into original performance work.

Year two

Radical Pedagogy in Action: This stage of the programme focuses on your development as a *socio*-centric artist and how you engage with other people. You will explore how to apply your arts practice in social and participatory contexts. You will take part in a residency within a community which will result in an original piece of performance work and new site-based choreographic work.

Year three

An Ecology of Mind: The emphasis is on the *researching* artist. You will learn how to develop writing for performance, creating a negotiated artwork, supported through individual mentoring by a tutor. You work towards a performance research project and a collaborative performance project exploring ideas relevant to your own performance practice. You also undertake a professional placement.

Year four

Living a Sustainable Practice: In your final year you will work towards developing a sustainable arts practice that will support your development into your chosen professional field. You will make an original performance work for the *Into the New* festival. You will have the opportunity to select additional projects which focus on either directing, arts in prisons, site-specific work or an international professional secondment.



Image: Gaia Silvan, photo by Julia Bauer.



Teaching staff

Our teaching staff are all active in the field of contemporary performance and are equipped with the knowledge and skills to help you find your passion and work in the industry upon graduating.

- | **Dr Laura Bissell** Interim Head of Contemporary Performance Practice
- | **Josh Armstrong** Lecturer (Contemporary Performance Practice)
- | **Laura Bradshaw** Lecturer (Contemporary Performance Practice)
- | **Gary Gardiner** Lecturer (Social Practice)
- | **Dr Sarah Hopfinger** Lecturer (Contemporary Performance Practice)
- | **Rachel O'Neill** Lecturer (Performance Aesthetics)
- | **Jess Thorpe** Lecturer (Arts in Justice)
- | **Thulani Rachia** Lecturer
- | **Ashanti Harris** Lecturer (Contemporary Performance Practice)

Our graduates

Our graduates work as solo artists, artistic directors, directors/performers in community and educational contexts, and as freelance drama workers. A significant number of graduates have set up their own companies or are leading arts institutions within Scotland and beyond. Other graduates have undertaken further study/research at masters and doctoral level.

How to apply

Before you apply, please go to rcs.ac.uk/cpp to read full details on the programme, and the application and admissions processes.

The application deadline is **15 January** for UK/EU applicants and **31 March** for international applicants.

All applications must be made through the UCAS Conservatoires online admissions service: ucas.com/conservatoires

Our institution code is **R58** and the programme code for BA (Hons) Contemporary Performance Practice is **W310**.

Image above: *Before History We Danced*, photo by Julia Bauer.

Entry requirements

Entrance to Royal Conservatoire of Scotland programmes is based on talent, potential and ability. We are looking for students who display outstanding potential, dedication and ambition for the performing and production arts. If you believe this is you, we look forward to receiving your application.

Academic entry requirements

- | Three passes at Scottish Higher level, one of which must be English or Drama.
OR
Two passes at A Level, one of which must be English or Drama.
OR
International Baccalaureate minimum score of 24 with 3 subjects at Higher level.
- | Minimum IELTS Score of 7.5 (if English is not your first language).

For more specific entry requirements, please visit rcs.ac.uk

Auditions

We want you to enjoy the audition process and use the opportunity to find out what life on the programme is really like. The audition is your chance to discover more about RCS and see if it is the right place for you.

Full details on the audition process are available at rcs.ac.uk/cpp

Tuition fees and scholarships

Tuition fees can be found at rcs.ac.uk/fees as well as information on financial support and scholarships

Image above: *When it Rains the Flowers Grow* by Kaiya Bartholomew, Julia Darrouy, Joe Kinnear and Nell O'Hara, photo by Robert McFadzean.

Junior Conservatoire

The Junior Conservatoire of Drama Contemporary Performance Practice course for ages 14–18 introduces young artists to the core skills, techniques and philosophies associated with contemporary performance and devised theatre.

Find out more at rcs.ac.uk/junior

Short Courses

We offer a range of short courses and summer schools for people who wish to improve existing skills or try something completely new.

To see what courses are on offer this year, please visit rcs.ac.uk/shortcourses

Contact us

If you have any questions about your application to the BA (Hons) Contemporary Performance Practice programme, please contact us at admissions@rcs.ac.uk and we'll be happy to help you.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

100 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G2 3DB

Telephone: +44 (0) 141 332 4101

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