Theatre Studies
School of Performing Arts
Your Creative Opportunities

The University of Malta’s newly revamped and streamlined Theatre Studies course offers an exciting and innovative programme of studies that is up to date with twenty-first-century developments in education, culture, and employability. Combining the study of traditional theatre and theoretical perspectives with contemporary performance and cultural practices, we give you the skills and the creative vision for careers in education, the theatre profession, and arts and culture.

Range of Teaching

You benefit from a diverse range of teachers in terms of both research interests and professional backgrounds. Our lecturers range from traditional academics, who have years of experience in university teaching and research, to arts and culture professionals who have worked in the industry doing anything from acting to directing, community work, festival organisation, or arts funding.

We use a variety of teaching methods including practical workshops, tutorials, seminars, lectures, screenings, and one-to-one tuition. Our assessment methods are designed to be an integral part of the learning process, to reflect your achievements, and to match the content of our study-units. Study-units are continuously assessed, and are based on performances, practical projects, fieldwork, presentations, and portfolios, in addition to essays, tests, examinations, and dissertations.

Choice of Programmes

Our flagship programme is the B.A. (Hons) in Theatre Studies. This is where you benefit from the full range of our study-units on offer. Other main programmes include the Theatre Studies option in a B.A. (General) and a B.Comms (Hons) degree. Additional programmes include Theatre Studies as a Subsidiary Area in a B.A. (Hons), as well as the Theatre Studies option in the following degrees: B.Comms, European Studies (Hons), Library, Information and Archive Studies.

Our study-units are frequently chosen as optional by students following other degrees, and they regularly attract visiting and exchange students making the learning experience more eclectic. All Theatre Studies students, irrespective of their programme of study, are taught together and benefit equally from our professional ethos.

Vision to Succeed

We think and focus beyond our class and studio spaces and have our eyes firmly set on the theatre in its various forms, from traditional theatre and scholarship to cutting-edge performance practice (including the use of digital media), from arts management to applied performance and community theatre. In a balanced mix of seminar room-based and studio-based study-units, we examine the histories, concepts, and contexts of theatre forms from classical Greek theatre to experimental contemporary performance, while also relating to current theatre production around the world and in Malta.

Many study-units include theatre visits and watching live performances. Theatre practitioners and international scholars regularly contribute to lectures and workshops. We want our students to develop the competence to succeed in a future career in the creative and educational industries, and beyond.
In the first year, alongside the study of histories of theatre, you are introduced to basic performance skills, and learn how to work creatively and present performances within a festival context. The choice of performance style in the festival is up to you: from conventional acting to physical theatre, comedy to devised performance. In the second year, you develop your practical and creative techniques to apply them in a showcase production. In the third year, you have the opportunity to work on more specialised and research-based practical projects, which range from performances to demonstrations and other forms of presentations.

Having trained at a local school of performing arts, I found the University of Malta Theatre Studies course highly beneficial and stimulating. I was also fortunate enough to visit the University of Kent for three months through an Erasmus Exchange where I studied and watched contemporary theatre and performance practices. Theatre Studies offers a combination of detailed theoretical and physical sessions, and in addition to the wealth of experience and commitment of the lecturers, students also have the opportunity to attend lectures by visiting professors and practitioners who specialise in particular fields of theatre studies.

Maria Cristina Caruana
Third Year Honours student
Past students of Theatre Studies have found jobs at universities (in Malta and abroad), in various schools and sixth forms, in the media, as well as in the cultural industries, including government agencies in education and culture, the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts, the Manoel Theatre, St James Cavalier, Drama Centre, Drama Unit, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, V18 Foundation, and the Malta Arts Festival.

Other graduates have used skills and knowledge learnt during their course to develop careers in diplomacy, management, and private enterprise. A good number of our students have continued with their studies at postgraduate level, including Ph.D.s, in Malta and abroad.

Life Beyond University

We expect great things of our students and we hope that our graduates will shape the creative arts and educational sectors of the future. We work hard to maintain strong links with professionals throughout the industry, in Malta and abroad. Our study-units are designed and taught to international standards of excellence, as evidenced by the teaching staff’s qualifications and experience, as well as by the input and academic auditing of international professionals. We believe that the range and quality of the study-units we offer give our students an advantage in a competitive world.

I have been teaching drama within State schools for sixteen years. I did my undergraduate course in Theatre Studies at the University of Malta and twenty years down the line I decided to pursue a Master’s degree with the same department. I have been involved in theatre as a performer as well as a director for the past thirty years and I wanted to stay current with the practices and theories of theatre making. Both degrees have provided me with an excellent opportunity to enhance and develop my own practice as a teacher and as a theatre practitioner. I am pleased to have done this postgraduate degree because it gave me the necessary skills to conduct theoretical research as well as to strengthen critical tools that have deepened my insight into theatre practice.

Marcelle Teuma
Theatre practitioner and drama teacher

Massimo Farrugia graduated with a B.A. (Hons) in Theatre Studies and also has an M.A. in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security. Presently, he is the General Manager at Malta Charters Co. Ltd., after having served for some years as a Press Officer at the European Parliament in Malta and Washington, D.C.
Your Very Own Theatre Studies Course

We offer an exceptional breadth of study-units. Building on the foundations laid in your first year, you are encouraged to select study-units and specialise following your own passions, or discovering new interests, in the process building and enhancing your CV in the pursuit of a career.

Your Year 1 Studies

The study-units available in Year 1 of your degree programme lay the foundations for more in-depth study later in the course. The following study-units cover historical, theoretical, and practical approaches:

- Histories of Theatre
- Performance Skills Training and Festival
- Studying Performance

Your Year 2 Studies

Building on the essential skills and knowledge acquired in the first year, in Year 2 you discover and explore further some historical foundations and creative fundamentals of theatre and culture. Year 2 aims to reinforce your knowledge of the history, theory, and practice of theatre, as well as to broaden the remit of studying theatre at university to include cultural, applied, and interdisciplinary skills and practices:

- Development of Theatre Texts
- Theories of Performance
- Performance Laboratory and Production
- Applied Performance: Skills
- Arts and Cultural Management: Theories and Perspectives
- Popular Performance
- Theatre and Performance in Malta
- Modern and Contemporary Theatre and Performance
- Interdisciplinary Practices
- Performance and Scientific Perspectives

Second year students also have the opportunity to study abroad at one of our ERASMUS partner institutions.

Your Year 3 Studies

In Year 3, your final year, you are encouraged to specialise in areas you are passionate about in preparation for a career or postgraduate study. Specialist knowledge in the research and methodology of theatre, culture, and the arts is complemented with pre-professional level hands-on experience:

- Practice as Research
- Applied Performance: Community Project
- Arts and Cultural Management: Placement
- Musicality in Theatre and Performance
- World and Intercultural Performance
- Shakespeare in Performance
- Tradition and Transmission in Performance

Students reading for a B.A. (Hons) degree will also have the opportunity of tailoring their dissertation study-unit to suit their topic preference and/or to cater for their career needs.
Entry Requirements

Students choosing Theatre Studies as one of their areas need to satisfy the University of Malta’s General Entry Requirements, which are meant to ensure that candidates have an adequate general educational background appropriate for tertiary studies. These consist of the following:

- the Matriculation Certificate (which includes six subjects, two of which taken at Advanced Level and four subjects taken at Intermediate Level including Systems of Knowledge); and
- passes in the Secondary Education Certificate at Grade 5 or better in Maltese, English Language and Mathematics.*

*Overseas Applicants: Normally qualifications that give access to education in the country of origin are favourably considered as long as it is ascertained that they are of comparable standard to the General Entry Requirements of the University of Malta. In some instances, applicants may be advised to follow a one year Foundation Studies Course. Maltese is not a requisite for overseas applicants.

For full details visit www.um.edu.mt/registrar/prospective/admissions or email admissions@um.edu.mt

Mature Students

The University of Malta also welcomes applications from mature students, that is, persons over the age of 23 years. Theatre Studies is often a popular choice for such students who want to learn new skills to broaden their career options or simply to engage with a stimulating subject in a stimulating manner.

Postgraduate Options

A Bachelor’s degree in Theatre Studies enables you to further your studies at postgraduate level, providing you with the appropriate knowledge and necessary skills to specialise and conduct research-based work. You can read for M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Theatre Studies at the University of Malta. The range of staff expertise offers you a wide choice of research topics, and their publication record provides you with international standard supervision.
25 Years of Theatre Studies at the University of Malta

Our Story

The study of theatre at the University of Malta has a rich history of over a quarter of a century. Originally established in 1989 as a Programme of Study within the Mediterranean Institute, Theatre Studies became a Division in 2008. In 2012 it was elevated to the status of Department as one of the founding disciplines (along with Dance Studies and Music Studies) within the newly set up School of Performing Arts at the University of Malta.

'Theatre Studies' new home within the School is both a confirmation of past achievements and a signal for exciting times ahead. The department is now better positioned to maximise its resources through collaboration with the kindred subjects of dance and music. Forming part of a university-based School of Performing Arts will enable the department to continue developing and further improve its teaching offer and research, especially the commitment to combine theory with practice and the employability of our graduates.

The following pages are a snapshot of events, collaborations, and achievements from over 25 years of activity by Theatre Studies:

Festivals: Performances and Workshops

- Biennial Festival of Contemporary Group Theatre (1990, 1992)
- Eugenio Barba and Odin Teatret (2007)
- Phillip Zarrilli and the LLanarth Group (2012)
- Open Sessions in Physical Actor Training (2014)

Conferences, Symposia, and Public Events

- Politika Kulturali għat-Teatru (2000)
- Theatre Traffic (2003–4)
- Performing Beckett (2012)
Collaborations and Networks

Research Associations

Centre for Psychophysical Performance Research (University of Huddersfield)

The Grotowski Institute (Poland)

European Theatre Research Network (University of Kent)

International Federation for Theatre Research

Routledge/Icarus Publishing

Theatre and Performance Research Association (UK)

Practitioners

Dû Theatre (Malta)

Centro Indipendente Ricerca Teatrale (Italy)

Icarus Performance Project (Malta and Canterbury)

Institutet för Scenkonst (Sweden)

Laboratorio Permanente di Ricerca sull’Arte dell’Attore (Italy)

The Llanarth Group (Wales)

Odin Teatret (Denmark)

Opening Doors (Malta)

rubberbodies collective (Malta)

Theatre anon. (Malta)

Schools and Institutions

Drama Centre (Malta)

Drama Unit (Malta)

Helen O’Grady Drama Academy (Malta)

MADC (Malta)

Malta Council for Culture and the Arts (Malta)

Manoel Theatre (Malta)

Masquerade (Malta)

Stagecoach (Malta)

St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity (Malta)

Histories of Theatre

Theories of Performance

Actor and Performer Training

Practice as Research

Devised Performance

Maltese Theatre

Carnival and Popular Performance

Musicality and Performance

Early Soviet Theatre

Postcolonial Theatre

Physical Theatre

Critical and Cultural Theory

In the 1990s: Franco Ruffini, Nando Taviani, Fabrizio Cruciani, Clelia Falletti, Loredana Perissinotto, Brian Singleton, Piergiorgio Giacché, Wolfram Mehring, Nicholas Arnold

In the 2000s: Eugenio Barba, Luk Van den Dries, Nicola Savarese, Paul Allain, Grzegorz Ziolkowski, Richard Gough, Jonathan Pitches, Phillip Zarrilli

More recently: Franc Chamberlain, Hans-Thies Lehmann, Nicholas Till

1989-90: Inna Soloviova, Rachel Finnigan, Jeremy Boissevain, Toni Cots, Isabel Soto

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Rubberbodies

collective

(Malta)

Theatre anon. (Malta)
enhance your opportunities with a degree in Theatre Studies

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