

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



DRAMA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER OFFER HOLDER GUIDE





**1st in the UK for Drama
and Cinematics**

*Complete University
Guide, 2026*



**35th best university in
the world**

QS World Rankings, 2026



**22nd most international
university in the world**

*Times Higher Education,
2026*

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COURSE CONTENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Overview of your Degree

We combine theory and practice in the study of Drama as cultural process and artistic discourse.

Explore everything from activist performance to television drama, playwriting to directing and experimental film cultures.

Enjoy a flexible degree where you can tailor the course to your areas of interest.

First year Focus on core units in the theory and practice of drama, focusing on historical, contextual, and theoretical analysis.

Second year Explore drama practitioners in their historical, cultural, and political context from the birth of modernism to the present day.

Third year Specialise in an area of practice, such as playwriting, directing, documentary filmmaking, applied theatre or contemporary theatre-making.

Click [here](#) for more detailed information on your course page, including the syllabus for each module

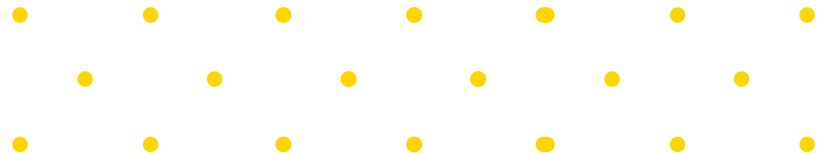
Partnerships & Industry Links

TIPP (Theatre in Prisons and Probation) believes that the arts have the power to transform people's lives. We've partnered with TIPP for the last 30 years to deliver a module in prison theatre practice.

In third year, you can study '**Applied Theatre: Theatre in Prisons**' gaining expert training and support to design, deliver, and evaluate your own theatre project within the criminal justice system.

“ We did a practical course in prisons and probation which meant learning about the penal system and forms of rehabilitation, and then going in with a project for a month and a half to Strangeways, two other category C facilities and a probation centre. For a posh bloke with a silly name, to be in a world like that was extraordinary.”
Benedict Cumberbatch, BA Drama (1999)

Our students also benefit from the university's partnerships with: **the Contact Theatre**, **Manchester Museum** & **Community Arts North West**.



FACILITIES

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama



The Martin Harris Centre is an on-campus cultural hub for creative events and activities. The established performing arts venue hosts over 100 events each year across music, theatre, film and talks from visiting artists, and is home to:

- The John Thaw Studio Theatre
- Workshops, rehearsal and screening rooms
- Sound and video-editing suites
- The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, an acoustically designed auditorium with 350 seats

John Thaw Studio Theatre



Seating up to 150 people, the John Thaw Studio Theatre hosts a wide variety of performances, rehearsals and workshops.

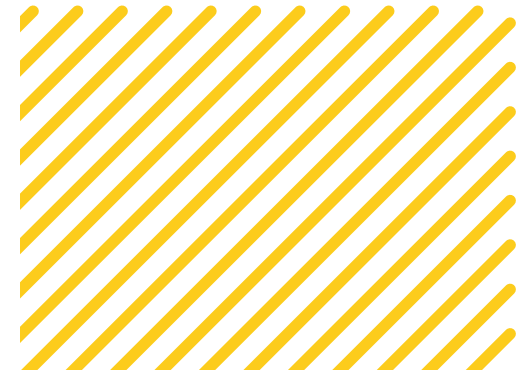
It's a space for students to experiment independently as performers, writers, directors and technicians. Many alumni have spoken about the importance of these performances in their creative development.

It's also where we hold our weekly Studio Group, which offers students a chance to test out new ideas and gather constructive advice before performing the work.

John Rylands Library



John Rylands is home to one of the world's richest and most unique collections of manuscripts and rare books as well as the archives of practitioners like Delia Derbyshire, who arranged the original version of the Doctor Who theme tune.



DRAMA IN THE CITY

Beyond the facilities on campus, Manchester's rich and diverse arts and culture scene offers incredible inspiration and opportunities. Here's some of what the city has to offer:

A vibrant theatre scene

Manchester has the second-highest concentration of theatres in the UK and frequently premieres major productions ahead of London's West End through initiatives like 'Manchester Gets it First'. Its theatres include:

- Contact Theatre
- HOME Manchester (a theatre, cinema, and contemporary art space)
- Palace Theatre
- Manchester Opera House
- The Royal Exchange
- 53two
- Hope Mill Theatre

A thriving T.V. and film industry

MediaCityUK is a major production and broadcasting hub, home to ITV and the BBC. Manchester is also a popular double for London and New York in British dramas and Hollywood films.

Endless creativity

Manchester is full of organisations like Factory International, a creative company and charity which hosts the biennial Manchester International Festival.



Palace Theatre



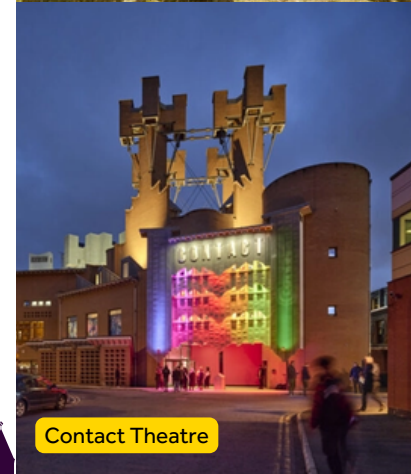
HOME Manchester



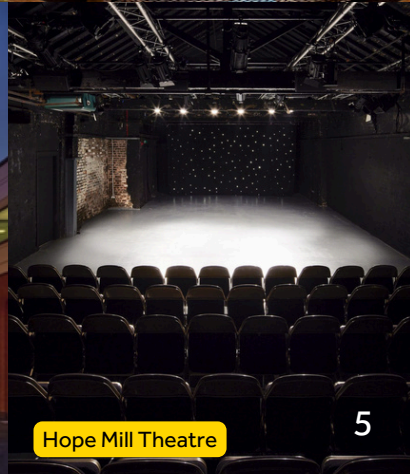
Manchester International Festival



Royal Exchange Theatre



Contact Theatre



Hope Mill Theatre

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS



**How Drama Shaped Us As Filmmakers:
Alice Hughes and Daisy-May Hudson**



Watch a **day in the life of a drama student** at Manchester here!

SOCIETIES

With nearly 700 societies at the university, there's plenty of arts and creative groups to join where you can connect with like-minded people, develop your skills and take part in exciting performances and events.

Explore just a few below:

Drama Society

We bring together actors, writers, directors, producers and creatives to create some of Manchester's most vibrant fringe theatre. We have links with award-winning theatrical venues, including the Contact Theatre and the Royal Exchange Theatre, and showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Filmmaking Society

Whether you are interested in directing, producing, screenwriting, editing, composing, lighting, sound, running or screen acting, joining will improve your on-set skills and gain valuable experience to get your foot in the door in the film industry.

Musical Theatre Society

We're passionate about all aspects of musical theatre and aim to provide a platform for aspiring creatives to put on professional level productions.

Pantomime Society

Panto is fun and silly; we put on some of the weirdest shows you've ever seen, in a low pressure and andram environment.

Manchester Revue (sketch comedy society)

From workshops to shows to fun socials, we aim to give you the full sketch experience, whilst hopefully making you laugh a little along the way.

Global Stage

We're a performing arts society for people of the global majority. We champion and empower diverse stories.

Technical Theatre (MUTTS)

With a shared love for behind the scenes technology, we provide Lighting and Sound production to a variety of student events.

Music Society

We're the largest student-led music society in the country, with a diverse range of ensembles and plenty of socials throughout the year.



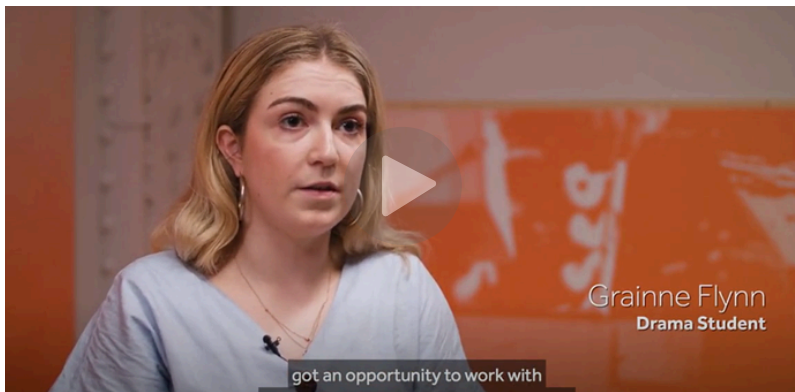
WORK PLACEMENTS & STUDY ABROAD

Work Placements

Gain real-world experience in the industry, build networks and boost your employability through an optional year-long work placement in your third year.

We will help you find, apply and interview for placements, with subject-specific support from the Placements Office and Careers' Service. You can also undertake a work placement abroad, with support from our Residence Abroad team.

The university's industry links offers great opportunities for students to get involved with projects and organisations across the city.



Click here to hear about drama students' placement with the Manchester International Festival

Study Abroad

Experience arts and culture in a new country with our study abroad programme.

Drama students can spend a semester of second year in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore or the United States at one of our dedicated partner universities.

Click [here](#) to find out more about study abroad.



Amani (Drama and English Literature) in Australia



Essence (Drama and Film Studies) in Canada



Click on the pictures above to read about Amani's and Essence's semester abroad in our students' study abroad journal



CAREER SUPPORT & GRADUATE DESTINATIONS



We will provide you with opportunities and guidance to develop your employability and start your career.

Hear from Industry Professionals

The department organises events throughout the year with alumni talking to current students about their work and getting started in the industry. Speakers in recent years have included the director Vicky Featherstone, actor Toby Jones, director Euros Lyn and the broadcaster and historian David Olusoga.

Our Careers Service

You'll have access to dedicated, subject-specific support from our [Careers Service](#) throughout your studies and for up to two years after graduation. They can provide guidance on improving your CV and interview skills, as well as help you find jobs, placements and internships.

Postgraduate Study

For students wanting to continue their studies and specialise in a particular area, we offer MA programmes in Film Studies, Playwriting and Screenwriting.

Skills

A drama degree from Manchester provides valuable transferable skills and experiences that will prepare you for a career in or outside of the creative industries. Our drama graduates are skilled at interpersonal communication, group work, leadership and creative problem solving.

Career Pathways

Some of our graduates have gone into...



- **Television, film, radio and broadcast** (production, research, scriptwriting, script editing, acting, directing, presenting and compiling programmes)
- **Theatre** (directing, writing, design, agents)
- **Applied theatre** (education, museums, development, the criminal justice system and community theatre)
- **Journalism**
- **Teaching**
- **Community arts and arts administration** (managing arts centres and theatres, museum design and exhibition administration)
- **Law and business management**



We are the most targeted university by the UK's leading graduate employers

(The Graduate Market 2026 study conducted by High Fliers)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

[Click here for our Drama alumni brochure to hear more from our graduates](#)

Sam Brooks, BA Drama - Junior Production Coordinator at the BBC I chose Manchester because I wanted to go to uni in a place that was truly submerged in performance and provided lots of opportunity both in and out of uni. The TV Drama and Global TV Industries modules helped translate a passion for TV into a real, achievable goal. My course also gave me an appreciation for grassroots theatre and film, and to this day I think that my career is influenced by my passion to champion lesser heard voices.

Giulia Grillo, BA Drama - Theatre Director The course allowed me to explore a wide range of theatre practices to find my own, and to express my creative ideas with clarity and confidence. I got into directing shows for the Drama Society and my third year module Contemporary Theatre Making absolutely influenced my practice, inspiring me to create two shows that I was lucky to bring to the Edinburgh Fringe 2022.

Ranjiv Nathwani, BA Drama and English - Assistant Producer on EastEnders, BBC My degree taught me to be resourceful, how to find funding, audiences and spaces when producing my own work, how to be disciplined in using my time effectively – balancing dissertations and job apps, essays and play openings and so on.

Daisy Harris, BA Drama - Editorial Assistant on Coronation Street, ITV Studios Manchester helped me understand that what was most important to me was telling stories in a way that helps people. Soaps are ground zero for that kind of storytelling! The Filmmaking Society was hugely influential in showing me that I needed to be working with onscreen stories. My course made me understand the fundamentals of good drama and taught me that reading scripts can be every bit as exciting and immersive as watching films.

Frances Paterson, BA Drama - Artistic Director of Tandem Theatre The Theatre in Prisons and Probation and Applied Theatre modules were invaluable for training me to be a drama facilitator and learning the ethos behind the role. My degree developed my critical thinking and analytical skills, which are essential when starting your own business. The skills from writing essays have been really useful for funding application bids, which my work survives on.

Patch Middleton, BA Drama and Film Studies - Sound designer, writer, and theatre maker The fact that I work in sound came off the back of so many smaller dominoes falling: the Score is Born module (and our lecturer's generally effusive love of sound in film/theatre), the need for sound in plays through the drama society, the curiosity to branch out creatively.



Contact: ug-drama@manchester.ac.uk



[Read our Drama blog](#)



[Explore more on our website](#)

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