



Drama as a New Minor Subject

Details for the Academic Year 2026/27

Why take this New Minor Subject?

Drama exists on and off the stage. Theatre happens in our everyday life. It is the basis for story-telling and other forms of performance within the creative arts. It has its origins in sacred ritual and remains central today as part of our sense making as we negotiate our place in the world. Drama and Theatre Studies encompass all the arts that make up the live experience we call theatre – including costume, lighting, sound, devising, directing, design, dramaturgy and playwriting. We also study the meaning behind theatre, analysing culture and politics, space and place, the presence of audience and performers, and the use of digital technology.

Do you enjoy: working as part of a creative team? Hands on practical experience?

Performing Arts (incl. Drama) at Trinity was ranked in the top 100 subjects worldwide in the QS Rankings 2023, reflecting the quality of our teaching and learning. Drama at Trinity is housed in the purpose-built Samuel Beckett Centre, home to the Samuel Beckett Theatre, the Players Theatre, a dance studio/rehearsal space, seminar rooms and offices. All our full-time staff have theatre-making experience and are published academic writers, active both nationally and internationally. Some modules are taught by visiting specialists, including award-winning designers, directors, performers and playwrights many of whom are alumni from the course.

Our alumni include award-winning writers, designers, actors, directors, producers and professors (including Cathy Belton, Gemma Bodinetz, Annabelle Comyn, Nancy Harris, Wayne Jordan, Sonya Kelly, Paul Keogan, Roisín McBrinn, Sinead McKenna, Justine Mitchell, Erica Murray, Jason O'Mara, Sarah Jane Shiels, Tom Vaughan Lawlor, Dominic West).

What will I learn?

First and second years will provide you with a foundation in the skills and vocabularies of the theatre historian, analyst and practitioner. During these years, the course introduces drama, theatre and performance, and places them in a contemporary and relevant context. Teaching is by lecture, seminar and practical workshop, covering Theatre History (from the Greeks to the present), Performance Analysis, and Contemporary Performance Research (including studies in semiotics, feminism and gender, dramaturgy, postmodernism and more). Single Honours students also take courses in practical areas of theatre (Embodied Practices, Performance and Technology, and Crew Rotation). Training in study, research, and writing skills is provided to support you with the academic elements of the course.

Third and fourth years in Drama Studies offers a range of modules in the history, theory, and practice of theatre. The range of options may include Theatre and Ireland, Embodied Shakespeare, Stage, Costume and Lighting Design, Playwriting, Devising, Directing, Theatre management, Acting, Performance and

Technology, Women and Theatre, Interculturalism and Performance, and Applied Drama. Students exiting through Drama via Major, Joint Honours, or Single Honours pathways also complete a staff-supervised Capstone project. The Drama Capstone project allows students to integrate their interests into an individual research-led submission combining practice, presentation and reflection (such as a long dissertation or blended practice-as-research).

Given the collaborative nature of theatre making, students learn useful soft skills such as collaboration, negotiation, presentation, and take responsibility for each other's learning. In addition, individual soft skills acquired include leadership, resourcefulness, and self-motivation.

What will I do?

You will read and study plays, as well as theatre and non-theatre-based performances. You will learn to set the plays or performances in their wider socio-political and cultural contexts that will inform both written and practical assessments. As part of both the teaching and assessment, drama students work in teams on research and practical projects, presenting their research to the wider class and their practical projects both to the wider class and to the public in the Sophister years. In addition, you will learn research and writing skills, discover a wider range of technology that allows you to make theatre as well as to study it.

How will this be assessed?

Assessment is by a combination of essays, reflections, practical assignments, theatre productions (directing, devising, design, performance), class presentations, oral examinations

Contact Hours and Indicative Workload

Please contact the department for further details.

Contacts

Prof. Nicholas Johnson johnson@tcd.ie

Students interested in taking Drama Studies as a New Minor Subject should download, complete and return the 2026 Drama Questionnaire for NMS no later than 23 February 2026 via email to johnson@tcd.ie. This questionnaire will be evaluated, and successful applicants will be notified as eligible for the minor.