

A description of the courses offered in The Master Programme Contemporary Circus Practices starting Autumn 2020

Year 1:

Movement Practices for Circus - with movement practitioners who work extensively with circus as choreographers or pedagogues. The practices shared here are at all times developed and explored through the discipline of the student.

Writing for circus – In the course you will work with memoirs, poetry, hip hop and fiction to translate aspects of circus practice into various literary genres and graphic representations.

Introduction to Research Design in Circus - this is an introduction to the field of artistic research and procedures. It looks at constructing a plan of action for the two year programme complete with methodologies, recording processes, reflection and reading/writing practices

Circus Laboratory #1 and Circus Laboratory #2 - specific technical goals are set out in relation to the student's project working one-to-one with discipline teachers/supervisors in a lab environment.

Making Space #1 – this course deals with how to create opportunities for the research and the production of contemporary circus practices and performances. Proposals for curation, events, platforms, journals, websites etc., are created and partners from the professional field are found. This will form the basis for a major practice-based project in Year 2.

Material and Space - this course looks at the materials of the circus apparatus, the notion of innovation with rigging, material and space design, including the notion of the spectator as a material and as a position. Students are encouraged to design new prototypes.

Theory and Practice #1 - the course deals with how theory emerges from practice and how theory can influence practice. Students will be exposed to the working practices and theories of a range of international circus artists working within the fields of both research and production.

Year 2

Theory and Practice #2 - Analysis of Professional Conditions - this addresses the ethical, socio-political and economic dimensions of the practice. This theoretical and practical course involves a case study and placement with a circus company/production/network/ festival/school etc...

Writing Theory within the Field of Circus - The aim of the course is for the student to develop knowledge within a chosen aspect of theory relevant to their practice, to develop the ability to write with greater depth around their process

Making Space #2 - This is a supervised practice-based project that stakes a claim to a new space for contemporary circus.

Independent Degree Project - The final major project.