

23 collective

CONTEMPORARY
OTHER

artist
book

Colophon

Contemporary Other: Artist Book

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Artists

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Gianluca Cipollone

Tamar Degani

Benedict Doggwiler

Samuel Grant

Phoebe Grove

Joy Kincaid

Mia Lulham

Avery McNeilly

Dianaimh O'Donnell

Eve Proctor

Juan Salazar

Riviera Taylor

Hannah Thomson

Jarod Waldapfel

Oona Webster Jones

Acknowledgements

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Introduction

This artist book presents a collective of emerging artists, creatives and cultural workers approaching the end of their journey on the Performance Arts degree at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Over the years, we have had the chance to grow as a collective, developing our individual creative and critical practices. We have collaborated on live performances, learnt how to hold each other's work and navigate different aspects of the cultural sector. We have been encouraged to engage critically and question the ways of working that are already established within the industry. The journey doesn't end here, we will all hopefully carry on thinking through the concepts and questions that move us as we move beyond the structures of this undergraduate degree.

We have received invaluable support from staff, visiting artists and mentors who have guided us through different modes of developing performance. They have challenged us to think critically about our work and its contexts. This has allowed us to create an environment in which we cherish each other's work. Simultaneously, our support for each other extends beyond classrooms and studios.

Our passion for theatre, art and culture has led us to the world of experimental art and performance. While everyone's experience of the degree has been vastly different, none of us are emerging from it the same as we were at the beginning of the journey. With strong friendships, broad networks and deeper knowledge of the mysterious art world, we are excited about our future adventures!

Magdaléna Cinková

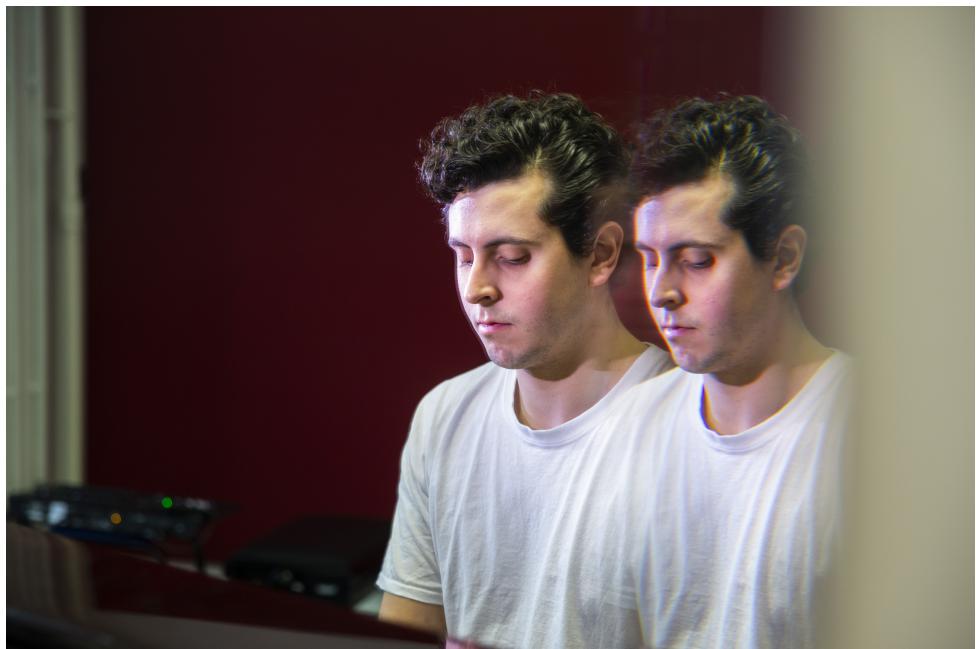
Magda is a writer of prose, poetry, spreadsheets, emails and research. Their practice often exists in collaborative modes and is rooted in care for one another and all that surrounds us. Magda's work could be broadly described as attempts at creating alternative narratives to fascism in all its hidden forms. This manifests in thinking with, through and outside the systems and ideologies that we create art under. Magda is currently working with the lens of water and Queer ecology.





Gianluca Cipollone

Luca is an early career performance art practitioner whose work explores the relation between body, sound and the connection we have with music. Based in London/Surrey, Luca's study began in the practice of physical theatre. He explores the performativity of the moving body through minimalist gesture. He also curates works which engage with the complexity of the human body, highlighting its magnificence. More recently, his work has touched upon the subject of synaesthesia through the lens of music, exploring how the body consumes songs in different forms. Practicing in the medium of live performance, his participatory-based work holds elements of interactivity and attempts to avoid passive consumption amongst audience members.



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Tamar Degani

Deep down in her head
She thinks about her hand
Why did it come to this world?
Can she use her leg instead?
She thinks we are in a world of wonder, where you can never know what to expect
Like this poem here that is completely different to an 'artist text'
She is a dancer, who trained since the age of two
And went to a High School of Arts where she started performing too
She danced in some famous dance companies in Israel, and then went to the army
And maybe that is why she is worries so much about peace and not money
After moving to London to fulfil her dreams
She realised she is a performer, a live artist and a dancer, as it seems
She wants to create things that make your heart move and your soul dance.
She puts in some joy, some pain, some grace,
And she will always do it with make-up on her face.
Please, feel free to join the wind and find your own direction,
And together we'll create a perfect collaboration.



Benedict Doggwiler

Benedict is an artist, performer and producer based in London and the Southeast. Working across text, theatre, drag and sound he is inspired by queer performance and film, with a deep affection for camp, kitsch, horror, and overindulgence. Their work navigates the boundaries between misery and comedy, exploring ideas of love, loss, rage, and gender. He views this all through a queer lens and with a focus on development and experimentation. In producing and supporting the work of other artists, they view access, care, support and allyship as core areas of focus, and ones that need continuous attention and progression. He is the manager of Weald renowned Kentish born drag performer and Compere Freeda Nip, with whom he has a toxic and unproductive relationship.



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Samuel Grant

Samuel Grant is a multi-disciplinary artist working within the ironic, surreal and stupid. Founder of the art collective Tapped Canon (@tappedcanon on Instagram), his work explores the silliness of life and how we enable ourselves to laugh at the absurd, despite our situations. Grant carries with him an ethos of impulse - by creating off whatever thought pops into his head. He makes the purposeful choice to ignore terms of refinement and making "good and profitable art". He embraces the idea of an anti-capitalist artist by employing a low-effort aesthetic. He rejects the idea of art as a product as he desires art to be for everyone. His versatility, or lack thereof, is shown through different explorations of media, be that music, video, prose, poetry, painting or digital collage.





Phoebe Grove

Phoebe is a London-based artist interested in music, theatre, spectacle and all the spaces in between. Her work is often narrative based with an interest in Camp, Cabaret, Glam Rock and playing things at maximum volume. They enjoy creating work that features or celebrates pre-existing genres and works. Some of her previous work includes an immersive ghost story inspired by theatrical superstition and a music-theatre monologue inspired by the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. They enjoy writing alongside working with voice and music, with a particular interest in composing and arranging. In her practice, Phoebe values collaboration and creating work that inserts herself and others into spaces where there is underrepresentation.





Joy Kincaid

Joy Kincaid is a film maker and multidisciplinary artist whose work is centered on presenting the worldly and political truths of hypocrisy, randomness and beautiful messiness. Channelled with intersectionality in mind, they enact radical acts of embodied contradictions, witnessing and shapeshifting. They view themselves as a mirror when producing art, reflecting multiplicities of gender and culture as well as the absurdity of whiteness. Healing and spirituality is integral to their practice.



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Mia Lulham

Mia is a Live Artist whose practice is centred around exploring alternative methods of therapy and their position in the modern world. Specifically, she is interested in engaging her work in conversations with the new wave public health crisis. Growing up in Kent, her training is rooted in Musical Theatre and Dance from an early age but she discovered a passion for devised contemporary performance when moving to London in 2019. Throughout the course, she has thoroughly enjoyed developing her practice as both a performer and a producer. After graduating from Central, Mia is interested in studying to become a drama and movement therapist as well as exploring animal therapy. She is interested in making multidisciplinary work that centres around facilitating neurodiversity, accessibility, and care.





Avery McNeilly

With a focus on liminality as a material, Avery's practice is dedicated to non binary realities, queer landscapes and the exploration of ghosts as an allegory for trans existence; believing that ghosts living outside of the binary world provide the idea of a safe space for gender-radical bodies. In her current work, Ava captures the phenomenology of absence with a play that features no actors. No bodies in the space allow for the harm of transphobia to fall onto no venerable body. The strange, the macabre, the queer: The trinity of Avery's work.





Dianaimh O'Donnell

Dianaimh O'Donnell is a London-based artist from the North of Ireland. She is interested in creating immersive and engaging environments through her work. She curates sensory and psychedelic art installations and invites viewers to immerse themselves in a world of positive energy and creativity. She looks to open the minds of others to new experiential realms and invites them to reflect on their own experience and understanding of her work. She plays with different senses that we don't always focus on at once.



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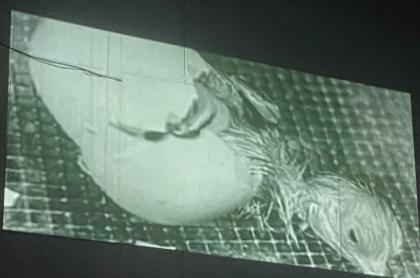
Eve Proctor

Eve is a visual artist, mainly interested in the intersections between video and music. She focuses on finding a balance between the two mediums and questions whether that is even possible. She is currently using the form of music video, and video for live music performance to explore this. Eve's past work has included composing music, filming and editing footage, and projection mapping for live performance. She wrote, filmed, directed, and edited a video for an immersive project. Recently, Eve has worked on compiling and editing archived footage for a music video and running workshops on visual responses to music.



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Riviera Taylor

Riviera Taylor's creative practice explores the relationship between Free / Libre / Open Source Software (FLOSS) and performance. Riviera is an everyday user of the GNU/Linux Debian operating system. She also uses the GNU Emacs text editor in several areas of her practice. Riviera finds the freedom which FLOSS engenders liberating and creative. Her current work partly illustrates how different pieces of FLOSS can function in tandem with one another. It also reflects on the themes of sharing and openness which are characteristic of the FLOSS ecosystem.



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Hannah Thomson

Hannah is a London-based artist with a strong interest in body art, tattoos and contemporary painting. Hannah's practice reflects her belief in art for art's sake. This includes art everywhere for everyone, particularly through the external presentation of the body and skin. Hannah finds expression through the body intriguing and questions its true meaning. Hannah's art reflects her passions, likes and reveals a story. Whatever story you decide that may be. She expresses her energy using paint with expressive patterns and vivid colour. Through experimentation Hannah creates compelling visuals with urban colour palettes, transforming her canvas.



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Jarod Waldapfel

Jarod Waldapfel is a South African born artist, currently based in London. Jarod has a passion for interactive and performance-based art forms. Jarod's previous work has been inspired by contemporary politics and psychology, advocating for freedom and play as a mode of engagement. He creates experimental visuals which allow for change and adaptation. His current art practice comments on corruption within the Catholic church. Jarod illuminates this concept with projection mapping techniques, which are manipulated through audience interactivity. The harmonious sound and visuals are centred around beauty, peace, transformation, and inclusivity. Using colour and video projection, Jarod hopes to reveal mediums of change and adaption through art based in catholic theology.



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Oona Webster Jones

Oona is an early career producer and artist based between London and North Yorkshire. She works largely in the mediums of sound, composition and text. She plays with improvisation, music technology and a variety of different instruments which feature heavily in her practice. Her work explores ideas around how our specific ecological realities shape our body and how it relates to others and the spaces we construct. Indeed, her current research asks questions around the cultivation of urban ecologies through arts festivals. Producing practice, for her, revolves around festival work across sectors, from music to live art. She has a strong belief that producing is an inherently entangled with the creative process, in that it requires the same amount of thought and care when holding other's work.



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The Falcon Foundation

'The Falcon Foundation' was set up by Mia Lulham on the 13th of March 2022 after the passing of her father Gary Lulham. The Foundation's goal is to raise money to help fund the research and treatment of all cancers - especially rare ones! The foundation will also aim to support families and young people when coping with a parent or loved one in end-of-life care. Having experienced the work of palliative care teams first hand, Mia can vouch for how vital these services are, especially for young people dealing with anticipatory grief which can be especially hard to navigate. The work the palliative care teams do either in hospital settings or hospice environments is essential in providing a dignified and symptom-controlled environment that makes it easier for the patient and family to spend their remaining time together. The Falcon Foundation also works closely with charities such as Winstons Wish, Cancer Research UK and Hospice in the Weald which have some great resources and support for young people coping with the loss of a parent. The Falcon Foundation will embody Gary's kind-hearted and loving spirit that will allow his memory and the values he stood for to continue. Together, we can beat cancer!



Scan to donate

Epilogue

Contemporary Other marks a significant point in the journey of artists and culture workers studying on the BA Hons Performance Arts (newly Experimental Arts and Performance); not only because it marks the end of a six month process of making and assembling work, but also gathers the practices that have come to take shape during this time. It takes a lot of trial and failure, leaps of faith and risk, to grow something that can hold on- it is a joy to see how much of what is held within this publication and work will hold and unfold in beautiful ways across so many places.

This journey has moved us through a global pandemic, a climate emergency, turning points in social justice struggles, a higher education sector under strain, and a precarious cultural ecology. Over this time, we gathered to make, explore, experiment, think and share artistic processes, finding ways to navigate an ever-shifting ecology of change, moving around the politics and poetics of 'experimental'. For the artists and culture workers gathered here, and many of us who have had the privilege to grow with their work, experimental often stands for opening up processes for doing things differently. This is an attempt to deploy imagination towards other futures, but also to finding new ways to be and work together in sometimes fragile moments and institutions. We often talk about our work as residing in queer time – that is, not working in linear ways, but being constantly attuned to what has come before, to the many entanglements we hold together, and to what might be. We have also learnt from many artists and thinkers to stretch what might be possible to vision and find solutions to ever-changing problems – they too, are present throughout this work.

Dear Luca, Mia, Ava, Eve, Dianaimh, Jarod, Hannah, Oona, Magda, Benedict, Tamar, Joy, Juan, Sam, Phoebe and Riviera – thank you so much for your brevity, for sticking with the work, for moving through learning together, and for building something together.

Diana

Dr Diana Damian Martin, Course Leader
BA Experimental Arts and Performance

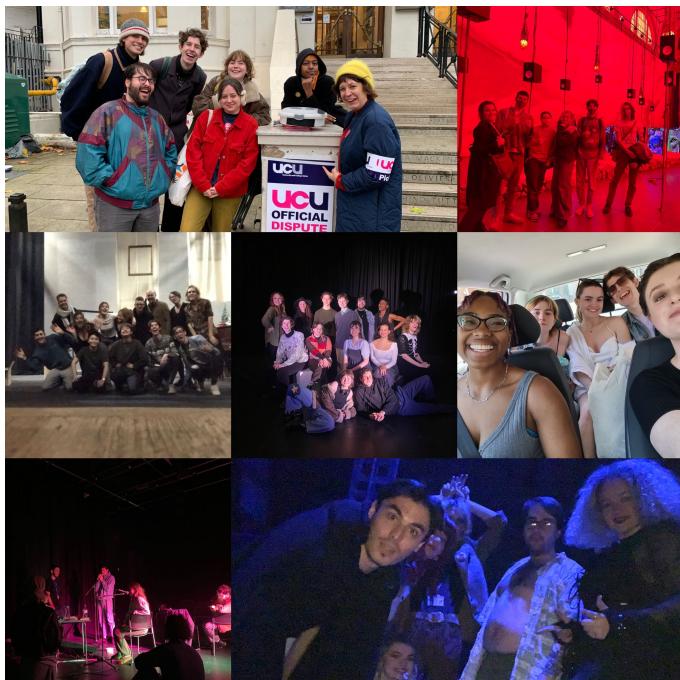
BA Hons Experimental Arts and Performance

Experimental Arts and Performance is a course for exploring and creating new forms of performance and spaces for culture. As a student on the Experimental Arts and Performance course, you will:

- Explore a wide range of experimental performance from across art forms and cultures
- Develop performance-making and critical skills to investigate, theorise and create new theatre and performance
- Use performance to critically reflect on the world
- Gain knowledge and skills to change how culture is made, and who gets access to culture
- Acquire producing and cultural leadership skills that foster social change and sustainability
- Undertake projects with national and international arts organisations and leading artists
- Become part of an international community of artists, producers, cultural leaders, facilitators and activists, through workshops with guest artists, talks, professional collaborations and our growing alumnae network

Experimental Arts and Performance is for everyone who wants to shape the future of performance. The course is tailored towards the development of your artistic identity through practical experimentation and critical analysis. You will develop critical, creative and producing skills to challenge what performance can be and how it might connect ideas, practices and

communities. As part of your growth and development, you will engage with curating, programming and producing performance, as ways of holding, supporting and connecting different practices, audiences, resources and communities. You will explore how to centre equality, inclusion and sustainability through your work.



Scan for more information about the course





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