



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD000331	Version: 7 Date Amended: 20/Feb/2025
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1. Module Title
Writing for the Stage

2a. Module Leader
Colette Paul

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This intensive reading and writing module is compulsory for students studying Writing and English, and optional for students studying Writing and Film, Drama, Acting or Musical Theatre.

It introduces the techniques and conventions of dramatic writing, with an emphasis on writing for stage performance. The skills and knowledge required to create effective performance texts are studied through a combination of reading, critical analysis of diverse examples from the genre, practical writing exercises and readings of your own work in progress. Elements of dramatic writing such as monologue, dialogue, narrative, character and physical and vocal connection are explored, and you will learn the conventions of presentation for dramatic texts.

Through reading and discussion, you are introduced to a range of dramatic styles and structures and to different modes of theatre. Dramatic form and ensemble work are explored through practical writing and performance exercises. The dynamics between writing and performance are studied as you draft and re-draft your own short dramatic texts. Later sessions focus on workshop treatment of sustained pieces of dramatic writing that you are preparing to submit for your assessment at the end of the module. Extracts are read and partially staged, confronting the challenges of audience and staging.

6b. Outline Content

- an introduction to the different modes of theatre
- analysis of dramatic styles and structures
- techniques of effective dramatic writing
- conventions for the presentation of dramatic texts
- rehearsal, staging, constructive criticism and re-drafting of work in progress
- the relations between rehearsal, staging and the processes of writing

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate a range of techniques used in writing drama
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the processes of transferring writing to performance
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Effectively deploy the techniques of dramatic writing and performance in producing their own texts
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Discuss and evaluate practical questions of staging

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	2 hour seminar workshops each week
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Weekly reading and writing, and frequent attendance at local performances
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
A dramatic script of 2000 words (70% of overall mark) and a critical commentary of 1000 words (30% of overall mark)					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]