



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD006098	Version: 3 Date Amended: 06/Sep/2022
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1. Module Title
Performing New Writing

2a. Module Leader
Susan Wilson

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:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module provides an opportunity for you to explore the processes involved in staging short plays and scenes that combine together into a substantial production. This work may include new writing, complete short plays or play extracts. All pieces will demand intensive work in understanding their variety of forms and often experimental nature; the technical aspects of such works can also be exacting. There is therefore an array of roles to be filled on this module, including performers, directors, technicians and stage managers, with each team working to facilitate efficient turn arounds between separate scenes.

In new writing, the module may include collaborative work with emergent writers from the Writing and Performance discipline group or industry professionals, such as Menagerie Theatre Company and the Cambridge Junction. At the start of the module, you will study how new plays are commissioned and developed, the relationships between writer, designer, director, cast and audience, and how the written text develops towards staging and publication. Indicative content for this section of the module may include study of or visits to the Royal Court Theatre, the Bush Theatre and Cambridge Junction to see new works staged for the first time or existing works re-staged for a contemporary audience.

In the second half of the module, you will form a company to stage a selection of new writing scenes or existing shorts plays. Where this includes scripts supplied by ARU Writing students, there will be opportunities to workshop scripts with the playwrights, with one member of the group acting as director.

This module allows you to work intensively and independently in small groups in rehearsal before coming together to produce one show featuring all of the work. Small-group rehearsals will be self-managed, requiring professional discipline and full participation to drive work forward. Management of the whole show will be a substantial responsibility if you choose to take a production role.

6b. Outline Content

- Study of industry context around new writing.
- Workshopping selected short plays or scenes from Writing for the Stage module for inclusion in production and performance.
- Intensive rehearsal in small self-managed student groups.
- Student-led production and stage management to organise a unified final assessed performance.
- Practical challenges in both performance and production to consolidate the sense of professionalism expected at this level.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

The assessed live performance will require studio space and a period of support by professional technical staff.

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	Demonstrate an understanding of the professional demands relevant to staging new writing, short plays or excerpts;
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate an understanding of the contexts in which new writing is produced and staged;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Effectively manage a unified production in the performance space, collaborating with other students and professional staff;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop disciplined strategies for self-managed rehearsals to culminate in efficient and effective performance work.

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	12 x 2 hour rehearsal sessions
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Rehearsals and intensive pre-production period
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	3-4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Practical (15 minutes max per small group), individually assessed

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-2	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Essay (1500 words)

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]