



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007467	Version: 4 Date Amended: 23/Mar/2023
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1. Module Title
Theatre Theory and Specialist Skills

2a. Module Leader
Pippa O'Brien

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
45

4b. Study Hours
450

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 module combines theory and practice by introducing you to a range of concepts, genres and performance practitioners, which then help your development of more specialist skills in musical theatre performance. You will study notable composers, lyricists, book writers and choreographers, gaining a working knowledge and understanding of the contexts and precedents within musical theatre performance. You will be encouraged to think critically, discussing and presenting arguments in class.

You will then put this theory into practice, working on specialised skills in performance, as derived from your study in the first part of the module. You will show advances in your technique and skills acquisition suitable to level 5 work in a showcase format.

6b. Outline Content

- Development of an understanding of the historical, social, political and cultural concepts of musical theatre performances.
- Development of academic reading, writing, referencing and research skills.
- Finding an academic voice by constructing arguments, using supporting materials, developing ideas and analysing musical, movement and written texts.
- Contextualisation of key practitioners and their works.
- Performance of specialist skills, which may include tap dance, accent work, advanced ensemble singing, stage combat, elementary circus skills.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

- Dictaphone or recording device
- Studio/rehearsal space
- Piano
- Libretto, Scripts and Scores
- Appropriate dancewear (blacks)
- Tap Shoes

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	Show the ability to identify and evaluate traditional and contemporary perspectives on performance, including seminal theories and debates.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Plan and write an essay that is well-structured, detailed and provides evidence of critical research on a topic or subject of your choosing.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate a rigorous acquisition of rehearsal and performance techniques and apply them effectively.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Show the ability to apply techniques in practice as derived from cultural forms, contexts and/or practitioners related to your discipline.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Work with professional discipline as an individual and part of an ensemble in both rehearsal periods and performance.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers

Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	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	24	1-2	Trimester 1: 2-hr x 12-weeks
Other teacher managed learning	8	3-5	Trimester 2: 4 x 2 hrs (teaching weeks 1-12)
Student managed learning	418	1-5	Independent rehearsal, study and preparations for assessment.
TOTAL:	450		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-2	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay - 2000 words					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	3-5	70 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Practical skills showcase					

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]