



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD010686	Version: 1 Date Amended: 19/Feb/2025
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1. Module Title
Festive Theatre

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
Theory and practice (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) Drama, BA (Hons) Musical Theatre, BA (Hons) Drama and English Literature, BA (Hons) Drama and Film		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module will explore, through lectures and rehearsals, the traditions, history, and variety of performances in Festive Theatre. Tutor-led lectures will focus on the history and sociopolitical importance of Festive Theatre, and these will then give way to directed rehearsal room sessions where the student cast will rehearse and mount a full scale production for a public audience using a variety of performance techniques to create an exciting show, which for many families is this first or only time they visit the theatre.

6b. Outline Content

Lectures will explore the development of festive performance from Medieval Pageantry to Pantomime to contemporary festive theatre, covering topics such as history of Festive Theatre, Writing for Festive Theatre

Performing for Children, and The Importance of Music in Festive Theatre.

Rehearsals will introduce the students to performing for varied family audiences and will include work on comedy scripts, Stand Up, Clowning, and basic stagecraft as appropriate for the medium. Students will collaborate with their directors to create a full-scale festive performance, such as a pantomime or seasonal piece, in the Mumford Theatre or a similar venue for a public mixed audience. Depending on the process the students may also be asked to workshop their own scripts, to adapt texts or to work with published play texts.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Rehearsal Space, performance space, and technical support

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 knowledge of the history of popular festive theatre and it's importance in modern day commercial theatre.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Learn the basic stage craft associated with festive theatre, with particular focus on comedy timing and audience address as performance tools.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Work as part of a team to create and shape a unique piece of performance designed for a family audience.
4	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand how the history of theatre informs our modern day concept of pantomime and festive theatre – with specific reference to Commedia Dell'arte, Shakespeare, Greek tragedy and Medieval pageantry .
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Employ a range of performance styles and skills to embody 'complete' theatre performance, which may include Singing, Dancing, Stand Up Comedy, Improvisation, Clowning and Puppetry.
6	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify the various theatrical traditions associated with Festive Theatre and Pantomime and understand their roots in world theatre history.

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	6	1-6	1 hr lecture first 6 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	48	1-6	2 hr workshop twice weekly Rehearse and produce an ensemble show, learning various performance skills during the process
Student managed learning	246	1-6	Including rehearsal attendance, preparation and research Reading as appropriate to lectures, learning lines and practicing songs, skills and routines individually or as a group
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-6	70 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Final performance and contribution to it.					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-6	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Assessed live Audition for the final performance.					

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]