

Module Specification

Module Title: Current Trends in Performance Research

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|----------------------|--|----------------------------|------|
| Module code: | HMAASH001 | NQF level: | 7 |
| Credit value: | 20 | Trimester of study: | 1 |
| Module type: | Compulsory | Pre-requisites: | None |
| Available to: | MA Musical Theatre Company, MA Musical Theatre Creatives, MA Dramaturgy and MA Musical Directing | | |

Module overview

This module explores the complex concept of creativity and how this can be applied in collaborative settings. Students will partake in two sets of weekly sessions. In the first term, the focus will be on case studies of performers, work or artists to critically analyse how research is used in the development of new work and in telling of personal narratives or stories. Theatre references are across a broad spectrum of influences to apply to all the students' particular fields of study, including practitioners such as Kate Tempest, Lin Manuel—Miranda and Frantic Assembly.

Students will also focus on how researching beyond theatre and performance can bring new concepts, ideas and inspiration to the creative or collaborative process. For example, students may study techniques such as the generative thinking, discontinuity principle, lateral thinking, forced relationships/analogy, attribute listing, applied imagination or morphological analysis which are traditionally found in commercial organisations, sport and educational psychology.

These techniques will be applied to the students own theatre/performance projects. The research methodologies and practices in this module are complicit with M Level study, which apply when developing practical performance work.

In the second term, students will look at how to condense their practice and processes into various applicable documentation to promote explain their work for non-theatre/performance audiences e.g. funding bodies, commercial funders or commissioners of new work. This will take place alongside the development of their own work which will be presented as part of Summative assessment.

Aims

This module has two main objectives, but ultimately aims to provide students with opportunity to explore various methods of creative thinking and problem solving in both the creation and production of new work.

This module aims to develop the students' knowledge and understanding of performance/theatre research and expand their knowledge of trends within the industry with links to societal and contextual issues. This will be done in a collaborative way with other artists. Students will critically analyse how research is used in the development of new work, and find both truth and objectivity in exploring personal narratives.

Secondly, they will consider how to promote or explain complex, creative processes to different audiences, both in the promoting of work (pitch documents, funding documents, workshops etc), but in performance itself as well.

The module aims to:

1. Develop the students' knowledge and understanding of performance/theatre research, its context, application and relevance, in particular widening students' social and political understanding of how/why theatre is created.

2. Develop advanced core research skills, fundamental to the emerging artist which draws from cross-cultural practice and pedagogy, to solidify individual research methodologies.
3. Explore advanced critical and creative thinking techniques and creative problem solving skills in the development of collaborative theatre practice.
4. Develop skills in presenting complex and conceptual ideas to a range of audiences.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- LO1. Interrogate and explore creative thinking skills applicable to their discipline to a sophisticated level.
- LO2. Apply advanced creative problem solving techniques to the development of work as an emerging artist and collaborator.
- LO3. Present complex and conceptual ideas to a range of audiences, in particular investors and funders in emerging theatre work.
- LO4. Apply personal approaches to research methodology in the development of work involving personal and/or complex narratives.

Learning and teaching methods

Students are taught in lecture classes which incorporate the full suite of Performance MA programmes (Musical Theatre Company, Musical Theatre Creatives, Dramaturgy, Musical Directing) . Here students can learn from the practices of a wide range of stimuli, encouraging cross pollination of ideas and challenging the boundaries of the artist, thinking holistically about their practice, rather than defined by genre.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

| Delivery type | Student hours |
|---|---------------|
| Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities | 72 |
| Indicative hours of directed study | 128 |
| Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits) | 200 |

Opportunities for formative feedback

Students will have opportunity throughout the module to receive peer feedback on their ideas for development and will, as part of the module, be put into small working groups who can develop ideas together.

Assessment Method

| Description of assessment | Length/Duration | Weighting | Module LOs addressed |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Essay | 2000 Words | 50% | 1,2,4 |
| Performance and pitch documentation | 20 minutes | 50% | 2,3,4 |

Re-Assessment Method

| Description of assessment | Length/Duration | Weighting | Module LOs addressed |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Essay | 2000 Words | 50% | 1,2,4 |
| Performance and pitch documentation | 20 minutes | 50% | 2,3,4 |

[Module resource lists are available via Key Links](#)