

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Acting for Camera

Unit code: DG3M 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to provide candidates with practical knowledge and an understanding of acting techniques for the camera. It will identify and develop these skills by giving the candidates the underpinning knowledge required and will be developed through a series of practical exercises.

It is primarily intended for candidates who wish to work as performers/ practitioners in the entertainment industry. It would also be relevant to those with appropriate experience in media or theatre and those who may use video at work in presentation situations.

On completion of the Unit the candidates should be able to:

1. Explain and describe the major principles of acting for the camera
2. Demonstrate the development of the candidate's individual on-screen performance skills
3. Perform a short scene utilising appropriate acting for camera techniques effectively

Credit value: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access will be at the discretion of the centre and the following recommendations are for guidance only.

Where a candidate has achieved the course entry criteria for HNC/D Acting and Performance, they will have shown sufficient knowledge and skills for access to this unit. For this unit, it would be beneficial if the candidate has some experience as a performer, or at least have some appreciation of the role of performer. This may be demonstrated by the achievement of Higher Drama (C037 12) or the NQ Units Acting: Text-Based Production (D12P 12) or Small Scale Production: Acting (EA6N 04)

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

General information for centres (cont)

Context for delivery: This unit is included in the optional framework of HNC/D Acting and Performance. If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

Assessment: This unit could be assessed by three instruments of assessments which require candidates to produce evidence of acting for camera, knowledge and development.

For Outcome 1, a written assessment is required in which the candidate demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the major principles and elements of screen acting.

For Outcome 2, a practical exercise is the instrument of assessment. The candidate will demonstrate a range of acting skills incorporating both physical and vocal techniques from a range of negotiated texts. This assessment should be videoed as supporting evidence.

For Outcome 3, a performance, on camera, of a short scripted dramatic scene, is required in order to demonstrate technical and interpretative awareness. Candidates are also required to complete an evaluative report.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Outcome 1

Explain and describe the major principles of acting for the camera

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Awareness of shot type and size and its influence upon the performance
- ◆ Understanding of appropriate physicality/movement
- ◆ Understanding of microphone technique
- ◆ Understanding of actors' continuity and eye line

Evidence requirements

Candidates will generate evidence by answering written questions. Each candidate will need evidence to show that they have an accurate understanding of the process required to act for the camera. Candidates will provide a satisfactory response to all four areas.

The evidence should be consistent and should accurately identify the processes involved in acting for the camera in terms of:

- ◆ The shot type and size and its effective corresponding use of movement and physicality
- ◆ The voice and application of microphone technique
- ◆ The continuity of actors' movement/performance
- ◆ The concept and use of eye line

Assessment guidelines

Evidence should be generated through an assessment event undertaken in controlled conditions. Candidates may not bring in text books, hand- outs or other material to the assessment event. The assessment could be either oral or written. The assessment should allow about 10 minutes for each area, giving a total assessment time of 40 minutes.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate the development of the candidate's individual on-screen performance skills

◆ Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Practise of onscreen acting exercises
- ◆ Microphone technique
- ◆ Practise of movement/physicality exercises in relation to shots
- ◆ Practise of actors' continuity exercises

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Camera

- ◆ Exploration of a variety of texts

Evidence requirements

Candidates will generate evidence by participating in a range of practical exercises. Each candidate will practise exercises to improve and develop their acting skills and will work on a variety of texts. At least two audio-visual recordings of performances must be made.

Candidates must:

- ◆ Demonstrate practice of acting exercises on camera utilising a variety of texts
- ◆ Identify and demonstrate appropriate use of movement/ physicality in a variety of shot sizes
- ◆ Practise correct use of voice and microphone technique
- ◆ Practise actors' continuity in the context of the acting exercises
- ◆ Demonstrate and maintain correct use of eye line on camera

Assessment guidelines

Candidates' progress will be supported and assessed by tutor observational checklists.

Candidates must provide a satisfactory response to all items within the evidence requirements. Evidence must be supported by a minimum of two audio visual recordings.

Outcome 3

Perform a short scene utilising appropriate acting for camera techniques effectively

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Presentation of short scene on camera
- ◆ Effective interpretation of style, mood and character
- ◆ Employment of appropriate vocal and physical acting techniques for camera
- ◆ Application of rehearsal process from initial rehearsal to performance
- ◆ Evaluation of process and performance

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Camera

Evidence requirements

Candidates will be required to perform a short scene on camera lasting approximately two to four minutes. The scene should include a variety of shot sizes and/or movement. Candidates will select pieces to demonstrate the range of experiences and application of knowledge and skills developed through Outcomes 1 and 2. Candidates will present the scenes to the appropriate performance standard.

Candidates must:

- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to act effectively on camera using appropriate characterisation, mood and atmosphere
- ◆ Demonstrate appropriate use of physicality - face, body, eye line and actor continuity in relation to the requirements of each shot
- ◆ Demonstrate appropriate use of voice and microphone technique
- ◆ Rehearse the scene to an appropriate standard and take direction
- ◆ Evaluate the process of preparation and performance

The performance scene should be video recorded.

On completion of the performance, candidates should submit notes on tutorial help given and an evaluation of approximately 500 words on the learning process throughout the Unit to include an analysis of the audio-visual evidence of the performance. This should be presented as a folio.

Assessment guidelines

Performance will be assessed by tutor observational checklists.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DG3M 34
Unit title:	Acting for Camera
Superclass category:	LC
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Page 2, last sentence Outcome 2 deleted. Page 2, sentence added to Outcome 3. Page 4 deletions to Outcome 2 Knowledge/Skills, Evidence Requirements and Assessment Guidelines. Page 5 additions to last paragraph Evidence Requirements. Page 7 last sentence of second paragraph deleted. Page 9 point 2 deleted from combined, point 3 sentence added to end.	July 2007

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Acting for Camera

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

As Acting for Camera is a performance skill, this unit is part of the framework for HNC/D Acting and Performance and is taught along with other relevant units. However, it is possible to be delivered as a freestanding unit.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit is best delivered as a series of practical workshops with tutor led exposition and group discussion in conjunction with other performance units. It can however be delivered as a stand-alone unit.

A series of short lectures, demonstrations, class hand outs, and group discussions relating to learning Outcome 1 should be utilised in order for the group to understand the underpinning knowledge behind the major theoretic principles of acting for camera. It would also useful for the class to view and analyse selected pre-recorded videotaped examples of acting for the camera.

Small group and individual tutorials would be beneficial for Outcomes 2 and 3 in order for the candidate to correctly identify their individual on-screen performance. This would also require a camera and monitor in order to view the work as it is recorded and for play back purposes.

A series of practical exercises for Outcome 2, which focus on the individual elements of movement, microphone technique, and continuity, should be practised individually and then combined in short extracts from a range of texts, which enable the student to demonstrate the development of their individual practical skills.

Texts should be chosen by or in collaboration with the tutor, ensuring that they are varied and of an appropriate level. These may include extracts from television drama and film scripts. In some circumstances other texts may be used that demonstrate vocal techniques required for preparation for employment in the entertainment industry.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Camera

The tutor may wish to work on a range of texts (e.g. comedy, drama, soap opera, etc) which require the student to be aware of the mood, conventions and stylistic requirements of the genre. This could be supported by studying pre-recorded video taped examples and rehearsing scripted excerpts in small groups.

The Tutor may also introduce the students to the rudiments of working with direction by rehearsing short scenes, which are shot out of sequence.

For the development of confidence preparation times should vary for the complexity and requirements of the role and the technical requirements of the shot.

Open learning

The Outcomes in this unit rely on developing skills through interaction with a lecturer and/or fellow candidates, and so the opportunities for distance learning are very limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions, provided all unit and moderation requirements are met in full. Technological advances may make the possibility of such creative solutions more widespread in the future.

Because of the intensive nature of the training and the rehearsal requirements for this unit when taken as part of a course, part-time provision would be most unusual and difficult to achieve.

For information on normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance and Distance Learning (SQA 2000)*.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Acting for Camera

Acting for Camera is designed to equip the candidate with the knowledge to act successfully for the camera to the best of their ability.

It will:

- Give some basic background theory to the discipline and techniques of the medium
- Introduce essential practical exercises to help students improve their on-camera skills
- Enable strengths and areas for improvements to be identified
- Give opportunities for guidance and tuition in the presentation of a scene, which is similar to industry practice
- Give confidence and variety of approach in different genre styles of camera performance.

Assessment will be ongoing, and will be based around three assessments:

1. A short written/ oral assessment.
2. Practice of a range of exercises and at least two audiovisual recordings.
3. A performance of a short scripted scene on camera lasting between two and four minutes which is evidence of self development in the demonstration of acting for camera skills and techniques. To aid evaluation you will view the scene and produce your findings in the form of rehearsal/ tutorial notes presented as a folio. This will include an analysis of the learning process throughout the unit.

The emphasis is on the individual's confidence and competence in acting for Camera.