

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Devising Theatre

**Unit code:** DG3X 34

**Unit purpose:** This unit is designed to enable candidates to understand and practise the process of devising theatre. It will allow centres to explore how scripts are created for live theatre and will give candidates an opportunity to develop the skills to prepare scripts correctly for production.

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

1. Analyse the elements affecting the preparation of scripts for production.
2. Co-operate with others in preparing a 15 minute original devised theatre piece.
3. Evaluate the process and end-product of developing a script for production.

**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, candidates may find it beneficial to have had experience of creative writing, perhaps through Creative Writing 1 or 2 (EX95 10; D0YF 12).

**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.

**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.

## **General information for centres (cont)**

**Assessment:** This unit may be assessed holistically by observation checklists. Evidence will be generated through performance in workshops, the candidate's participation in the devising process within a group, their final performance and a written evaluation.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Devising Theatre

**Unit code:** DG3X 34

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

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

### **Outcome 1**

Analyse the elements affecting the preparation of scripts for production.

### **Outcome 2**

Co-operate with others in preparing a 15 minute original devised theatre piece.

### **Outcome 3**

Evaluate the process and end product of developing a script for production.

### **Knowledge and/or skills for the Unit**

- ◆ Theme
- ◆ Development
- ◆ Subtext
- ◆ Structure
- ◆ Setting
- ◆ Costume
- ◆ Production style
- ◆ Performance spaces
- ◆ Budgeting
- ◆ Performers
- ◆ Audience
- ◆ Contextual considerations
- ◆ Script development
- ◆ Script preparation

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Devising Theatre

### **Evidence requirements for the Unit**

Candidates will initially develop knowledge and/or skills relating to the process of devising theatre within tutor-led workshops. The workshops will allow the candidates to investigate and explore the knowledge and skills, and develop an understanding of the issues around devising. Evidence will be generated through candidate participation. All candidates must actively participate in the workshops and interact with the tutor and each other.

Candidates will then be expected to work with others to devise a 15 minute original devised theatre piece. This must be performed in front of a live audience, which may be the rest of the class group.

During the workshops and the devising process, candidates must show understanding of the development process in relation to:

- ◆ script
- ◆ theme(s)
- ◆ subtext
- ◆ structure
- ◆ the importance of setting, costume and period
- ◆ production style

The performance piece must demonstrate originality, be of an acceptable performance standard, and must contain evidence of a practical and applied understanding of the knowledge and skills.

For their evaluation, candidates will produce an extended response of approximately 800 words evaluating the devising process as well as the script and the effect that it had upon the audience. Evaluation should also consider whether the aims of the piece were achieved, and whether an alternative approach might have improved the outcome.

The candidate shall be expected to create a response that is fairly complex and comprehensive in its review of the process from initial stimulus to final presentation.

### **Assessment guidelines**

This unit may be assessed holistically through observation checklists. Assessors may find sufficient evidence of competence in some areas of knowledge and skills fairly early in the unit, as candidates develop their understanding of the process of writing plays. This knowledge will solidify as candidates put it into practice in Outcome 2, and in order to achieve the unit, candidates must demonstrate a practical and applied understanding of the required knowledge and skills through their devised piece. Where assessors haven't witnessed evidence of sufficient knowledge and understanding within workshop participation and discussion, they may infer competence through the performance piece or the evaluation.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Devising Theatre

The assessor must be confident that the performance piece is of the appropriate standard, and may offer suggestions for improvement if necessary.

The extended response should be completed outside of class time and handed in after a period has been allowed for reflection and peer group discussion.

## **Administrative Information**

<b>Unit code:</b>	DG3X 34
<b>Unit title:</b>	Devising Theatre
<b>Superclass category:</b>	LC
<b>Date of publication:</b>	August 2004
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## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Devising Theatre

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**

This unit should be taken as part of the creation of an understanding of what constraints and what elements affect the development of an original script for production. The Unit has been designed to allow centres either to use completely original source material, or to amalgamate or create a new theatre piece from pre-existing sources.

It is expected that centres will deliver key skills and knowledge before moving on to Outcome 2 where they will put the theory into practice. Centres are therefore advised to consider the following for Outcomes 1 and 2: -

- ◆ The effect of performance space upon the development of a script in relation to: -
  - Theatre spaces
    - Proscenium arch theatre
    - Arena space
    - Studio theatres
    - Thrust staging
    - Traverse staging
  
- ◆ The effect of budget constraints upon the development of a script
  
- ◆ The effect of performer constraints upon the development of a script in relation to: -
  - Casting
  - Auditioning
  
- ◆ The effect of audience on the development of a script, in relation to: -
  - Audience expectations
  - Targeted audiences

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Devising Theatre

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

Candidates will probably have some understanding of theatre work before beginning this unit. Candidates are expected and encouraged to explore their devising before moving on to creating the drama itself.

Candidates are expected to understand the issues around presentation to an appropriate audience, and there should be some guidance on what is and what is not appropriate given that some material may be more suitable than others within given contexts. This should allow candidates to analyse what constraints we may have placed upon us as devisers and how we may be effective.

Assessment should be mainly practical. Candidates will develop through the process with their original piece.

Although this is a stand alone unit it would benefit from being developed and delivered with other units within the HNC/D Acting and Performance framework and it has been developed for that purpose. It would probably work best as a unit delivered at the end of the HNC year where candidates could then identify where in their HND year they wanted to specialise or find more experience.

### **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)*.

### **Special needs**

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements (SQA, 2001)*.



## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Devising Theatre

The purpose of this unit is to equip you with the means to explore devised theatre. It will allow you to explore how scripts are created for live theatre and give you an opportunity to explain and develop the appropriate skills base to prepare scripts correctly for production.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

1. Analyse the elements affecting the preparation of scripts for production.
2. Co-operate with others in preparing a 15 minute original extract.
3. Evaluate the process and end-product of developing a script for production.

You will be expected to explain how you have understood the elements that affect the development of your script, and in particular: -

- ◆ The theme of the piece
- ◆ Its development
- ◆ The subtext of the piece
- ◆ Its structure
- ◆ How it has been developed
- ◆ How the setting is important to the development of the piece
- ◆ How the costume is important to the development of the piece
- ◆ How the period is important to the development of the piece

You must also demonstrate an understanding of how production style may affect the development of a script.

You will be assessed on your performance in workshops and throughout the devising process. You will also produce a report of 800 words in length that analyses the process in terms of your experience. You will have to reflect and comment on all elements of the project in detail.