

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre

Unit code: DP8T 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to effectively research, rehearse and perform. It allows the candidates to practically experience the process of preparing for roles in a performance and performing to an audience. It prepares them by giving them the underpinning knowledge of the fundamental principles of researching different genres, exploring rehearsal techniques and developing and sustaining character in musical theatre performance. It is primarily intended for candidates who expect to enter the professional world of musical theatre. It would also be relevant to those with appropriate experience of musical theatre performance who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of theatre.

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

- 1 Demonstrate and understand group warm up techniques.
- 2 Prepare and rehearse roles in a performance.
- 3 Perform roles in a performance.
- 4 Evaluate the performance process.

Credit points and level: 3 HN Credits at SCQF level 7: (24 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/HND Musical Theatre, they will have shown sufficient knowledge and skills for access to this Unit. For this Unit, it would be beneficial, although not essential, if candidates had some experience of theatre performance or had participated in an NQ Theatre Arts or equivalent performance related programme.

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: 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)

Unit title: Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre

Assessment: This Unit will be assessed by four instruments of assessment which require the candidate to produce evidence of knowledge, understanding and practical application in the development and creation of character for a performance. Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 should be assessed through observation checklists that indicate that the candidate has participated appropriately and responded to the requirements of the knowledge and skills lists throughout the rehearsal process and during performance. It is recommended that for Outcome 3 the candidate produces a development study that contains the relevant details for the creation of character, interpretation of text, dance and music and day-to-day rehearsal notes. Outcome 4 requires the candidate to undertake an extended response paper in the form of an evaluative report of between 1,000 and 1,500 words. A video of the performance is required to provide supporting evidence.

Assessment may be integrated between Outcomes 2 and 3, 'Prepare and rehearse a role in performance' and 'Perform roles in performance', with Outcome 3 from the Unit Acting 1: Developing Skills (DG3K 34), 'Develop and demonstrate an approach to creating and building a character through observation and text'. Assessment may also be integrated with Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1 (DP8X 34), Tap Dance for Musical Theatre 1 (DP90 34) and Jazz Dance for Musical Theatre 1 DP8N 34.

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.

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

Demonstrate and understand group warm up techniques

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Physical warm-up
- ◆ Vocal warm-up
- ◆ Mental warm-up
- ◆ Relaxation techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ demonstrate and understand group warm up techniques

Evidence for the knowledge/skills in this Outcome will be generated via continual assessment over the Unit's delivery. Each candidate will need evidence that she/he can show development in all four knowledge skills. Evidence should be generated by checklists.

Assessment guidelines

All topics from the knowledge and skills list should be assessed and each candidate should demonstrate a factor of progression during the Unit's delivery. Subject matter within each knowledge/skills is at the discretion of the lecturer and should show a wide variety of relevant techniques. This assessment could be cross-assessed with Voice, Dance and Acting Units within the Group Award.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre

Outcome 2

Prepare and rehearse roles in performance

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Develop physical characterisation
- ◆ Develop vocal characterisation
- ◆ Develop musical characterisation
- ◆ Develop dance characterisation
- ◆ Learn lines, music and choreography
- ◆ Respond positively to direction
- ◆ Work with others in the creative process
- ◆ Adhere to professional practice
- ◆ Adhere to company discipline

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they have:

- ◆ developed a thorough understanding of all the components within the headings in the knowledge and skills list, as relevant to the performance

Evidence will be provided by a development study that contains day-to-day rehearsal notes and a detailed character study based on interpretation of the text, music, dance and approach to building a character.

Within the development study the candidate must be able to:

- ◆ assimilate all the relevant research in terms of building a character
- ◆ develop physical and vocal characterisation in accordance with the creation of character
- ◆ sustain character appropriately in rehearsal
- ◆ respond positively to direction
- ◆ adhere to professional practice

Additional evidence will be provided through practical application during the rehearsal process.

Assessment guidelines

The knowledge and skills should be effectively demonstrated in rehearsal. The candidate is required to combine all the skills to develop and create a fully rounded character. Assessment will be on-going throughout the rehearsal process as the candidate develops the character in relationships.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre

Outcome 3

Perform roles in a performance

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Synthesis of rehearsal process
- ◆ Listen and react
- ◆ Retain spontaneity
- ◆ Sustain character
- ◆ Maintain focus
- ◆ Adapt to circumstances
- ◆ Develop character
- ◆ Retain rehearsal shape and structure
- ◆ Theatre etiquette
- ◆ Engage with stage etiquette
- ◆ Communicate with audience
- ◆ Respond to director's notes

Evidence Requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will require the candidate to perform and sustain a role that demonstrates the synthesis of all the research and rehearsal skills. A video of the performance will provide supporting evidence. A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided is sufficient to meet the requirements of an observation checklist that indicates that the candidate is able to:

- ◆ demonstrate a synthesis of the rehearsal process in performance
- ◆ demonstrate appropriate relationships with other characters and audience
- ◆ sustain character, retain spontaneity and maintain focus
- ◆ retain rehearsal shape and structure
- ◆ extend development of character
- ◆ respond to director's notes and adapt to circumstances

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome relates to performing in front of an audience.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre

Outcome 4

Evaluate the performance process

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Analysis of individual development in performance
- ◆ Identification of personal strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ Strategies for personal and group development

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills through an evaluative report of between 1,000 and 1,500 words which should be submitted approximately one week after the final performance. The candidate will consider all the areas listed above in the knowledge and skills list and report on his/her progress and process throughout rehearsal and performance. In addition the candidate will comment on the effectiveness of the group in performance.

Assessment guidelines

A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided shows that they have thoroughly examined all the areas listed in the knowledge and skills list. The evaluative report should be handed in to the tutor on the designated date, which should be approximately one week after the final performance.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DP8T 34
Unit title:	Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre
Superclass category:	LC
Original date of publication:	August 2005
Version:	02 (August 2007)

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Outcome 2 — Knowledge and/or skills — ‘Annotate script and score’ deleted. Outcome 2 — Evidence Requirements — ‘Annotate script and score’ deleted. Outcome 4 — Knowledge and/or skills — first four bullet points deleted.	31/08/07

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical 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 120 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This is a mandatory Unit within the framework of the HNC/HND Musical Theatre Group Award. It is intended as part of a core study covering acting, voice singing dance and movement, allowing integration of skills to take place.

Outcome 1 allows the candidate to learn and undertake the practical skills associated with warming up prior to a rehearsal and performance. This should be exercised on a regular basis to increase stamina and discipline throughout the rehearsal process. Outcomes 2 and 3 allow the performer to develop skills in rehearsal and production. The director should choose a suitable piece for performance which could be from any theatrical genres, ie dance based, plays, or musicals. All the knowledge skills must be demonstrated throughout the Unit's delivery. In some cases two or more genres could be chosen to cover the development of the candidates skills.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Wherever possible the director of the performance should offer feedback to the candidate on his/her progress throughout the performance process and propose tasks for the candidate to explore in order to develop his/her skills and understanding of the development of character and building of relationships. The candidate should appreciate that, although perhaps not required to attend every rehearsal, there is much to explore in preparation outwith the rehearsal room.

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 for Open and/or Distance Learning (SQA 2000)*.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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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

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This Unit is designed to enable you to effectively research, rehearse and perform in a production. It prepares you by giving you the underpinning knowledge of the fundamental principles of researching text, music and dance whilst exploring rehearsal techniques and developing and sustaining character in performance.

It is expected that you will bring all the skills gained from the Acting, Voice and Dance Units and develop them in this Unit.

In this Unit you will:

- ◆ learn warm-up techniques
- ◆ enable the creation of character through a rehearsal process
- ◆ enable the development of relationships with other characters through a rehearsal process
- ◆ create opportunities for performances
- ◆ provide a means for evaluation and analysis of the performance and rehearsal process

There are four main assessments:

- 1 Demonstrate and understand group warm-up techniques.
- 2 Prepare and rehearse roles in a performance.
- 3 Perform roles in a performance.
- 4 Evaluate the performance process.