

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Production 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Unit code: DG48 35

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to enable the candidate to effectively research, rehearse and perform in two productions. The candidate will have the opportunity to perform in two distinctly contrasting plays. Applying all the skills and knowledge gained from *Acting 1: Developing Skills* and *Production 1: Developing Skills*, this unit should be a process of experimentation and discovery with disciplined application of coherent and creative working methods.

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

1. Independently analyse, research and interpret a role.
2. Rehearse creatively and constructively with the company.
3. Sustain and develop a role in performance.
4. Evaluate individual contribution to the production process.

Credit value: 5 HN Credit(s) at SCQF level 8: (40 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**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.

The candidate must have successfully completed *Production 1: Developing Skills* and *Acting 1: Developing Skills* or equivalent units in a performance-related programme. This unit develops the work explored in HNC Unit *Production 1: Developing Skills*.

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 mandatory section 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 will be assessed by three instruments of assessment which require the candidate to produce evidence of knowledge, understanding and practical application in the development and creation of characters for performance. The unit requires the production of *two* full length contrasting plays. It is recommended that Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 should be assessed through observational checklists that indicate that the candidate has participated appropriately and responded to the requirements of the knowledge and skills lists through independent research, the rehearsal process and during performance. Outcome 1 requires the candidate to undertake research and create a development study in relation to only *one* of the plays under study. Outcome 2 will require assessment, by checklist, for *both* productions. Outcome 3 will require assessment by checklists of development of a role in performance in two productions. Outcome 4 requires the candidate to undertake an extended response question paper in the form of an evaluative report of between 1500 and 2000 words. This paper applies to only *one* of the plays under study. A video of *both* productions is required to provide supporting evidence.

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

Independently analyse, research and interpret a role.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Define super-objective of play
- ◆ Explore themes and issues in text
- ◆ Explore historical and social background
- ◆ Analyse given circumstances
- ◆ Define character's super objective
- ◆ Detail character facts
- ◆ Break scenes into units (where appropriate)
- ◆ Detail unit objectives and actions (where appropriate)
- ◆ Explore use of language in terms of interpreting a role

Evidence requirements

The candidate must develop a thorough understanding of all the components within the headings in the knowledge and skills list, as relevant to *one* of the plays under study in this unit. 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 and approach to building a character. The candidate will explore the given circumstances and facts that relate to his/her character. He/she should note the character's objectives, actions and relationships with other relevant characters. The candidate should include in the development study relevant research data on the historical and social background of the context of the play and consider the themes and issues in the text. Additional evidence of understanding will be provided through practical application of the research during the rehearsal process. 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:

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Production 2: Applying Skills in Performance

- ◆ Collate research on the historical and social context of the play
- ◆ Define the super-objective of the play and consider the themes and issues contained in the text
- ◆ Analyse the text in relation to character's super-objective, objectives, facts, actions and circumstances
- ◆ Assimilate all the relevant research in terms of interpreting a role

Assessment guidelines

The development study should contain satisfactory notes from the all the above knowledge and skills list that will demonstrate a thorough understanding of analysis, research and interpretation of text for the development of a role in a production. This preparatory work should be discussed and developed throughout the rehearsal period. The candidate should be prepared to make amendments to their study according to the rehearsal process and director's notes. Naturally, the academics of a development study cannot work in isolation and has to be married with the practical application of the research in a rehearsal process.

Assessment may be integrated with Outcome 3 from the unit *Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance*, 'Prepare, rehearse and perform a role in a text based project'.

Outcome 2

Rehearse creatively and constructively with the company.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Explore character's through-line of thought and action
- ◆ Explore environmental tempos
- ◆ Explore intentions and objectives in relationships with other characters
- ◆ Develop physical characterisation
- ◆ Develop vocal characterisation
- ◆ Retain facts and adapt to director's concept
- ◆ Use the creative process to develop characters' existence
- ◆ Learn lines timeously
- ◆ Respond appropriately to other actors
- ◆ Respond positively to direction
- ◆ Adhere to professional practice

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Production 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will demonstrate that the candidate has developed a thorough understanding of all the knowledge and skills through practical application in the rehearsal room. This evidence will be required for *both* productions under study in this unit.

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:

- ◆ Develop a fully rounded character in accordance with the demands of the text
- ◆ Establish and develop effective relationships with other characters
- ◆ Respond positively to direction
- ◆ Adhere to professional practice and contribute to the overall process in a disciplined and creative manner.
- ◆ Explore the physical and vocal requirements of the character in accordance with the text.

Assessment guidelines

The candidate will be required to demonstrate effective application of the requirements of observation checklists which should indicate satisfactory participation in the rehearsal of two productions.

Assessment may be integrated with Outcome 3 from the unit *Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance* 'Prepare, rehearse and perform a role in a text based project'.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Production 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Outcome 3

Sustain and develop a role in performance.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Pre-performance preparation
- ◆ Apply rehearsed action in performance
- ◆ Physically communicate character to audience
- ◆ Vocally communicate character to audience
- ◆ Retain spontaneity
- ◆ Sustain and develop role
- ◆ React to circumstances
- ◆ Maintain focus
- ◆ Engage with stage etiquette
- ◆ Respond to director's notes

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will require the candidate to prepare, perform, sustain and develop a role in *two* productions. The synthesis of the candidate's research and rehearsal process must demonstrate his/her ability to apply this knowledge in a controlled and creative performance. A video of *both* productions 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, in *two* productions, the candidate is able to:

- ◆ Apply rehearsed action in performance
- ◆ Sustain character, retain spontaneity and maintain focus
- ◆ Physically and vocally communicate with other characters and audience
- ◆ Fully engage with stage etiquette
- ◆ Respond to director's notes and adapt to circumstances.

Assessment guidelines

The candidate will be required to demonstrate effective application of the requirements of observation checklists which should indicate satisfactory participation in the performance of two productions, which would be demonstrated by the creation of convincing and believable characters.

Assessment may be integrated with Outcome 3 from the unit *Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance*, 'Prepare, rehearse and perform a role in a text based project'.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Production 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Outcome 4

Evaluate individual contribution to the production process.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Analysis of the effectiveness of research materials
- ◆ Analysis of character development in rehearsals
- ◆ Analysis of character development in performance
- ◆ Analysis of vocal development in rehearsals
- ◆ Analysis of vocal development in performance
- ◆ Analysis of intellectual and emotional understanding of text
- ◆ Analysis of contribution to the production process
- ◆ Identification of strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ Identification of strategies for development

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be provided through an extended response question paper that will take the form of an evaluative report of between 1500 and 2000 words. This evidence will be required for *one* of the productions under study in this unit. The candidate will consider all the areas listed above in the knowledge and skills list and evaluate his/her progress throughout rehearsal and performance. The candidate will consider his/her contribution to the production process, identify strengths and weaknesses in research, rehearsal and performance and propose strategies for future development. A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided demonstrates a satisfactory awareness and appropriate analysis of the candidate's progress throughout rehearsal and performance.

Assessment guidelines

The evaluative report should be handed in to the tutor on the designated date, which should be approximately one week after the final performance of the production.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DG48 35
Unit title:	Production 2: Apply Skills in Performance
Superclass category:	LC
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Page 2, change to Outcome 2. Page 5, change to Evidence Requirements and Assessment Guidelines. Page 11, point 3 deleted. Page 3, Outcome 1, last bullet point deleted.	July 2007

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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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 200 hours.

The expansion of the HND Production unit to 5 credits is recognised as an unusual solution to a challenge which is particular to HND Acting and Performance. The manner in which evidence for the unit is generated reflects industry practice as closely as possible. The integration of all knowledge and skills in large-scale, high-pressure projects is an essential professional skill in itself, and any attempt to divide the unit may have resulted in a diminution of standards. Furthermore, any attempt to divide the unit would have resulted in duplication of assessment. At least 200 hours of production time are essential to begin the process of integrating all of the candidates' knowledge and skills in two major production projects. Additional time will always need to be found for this by integrating other units with Production. Although the size of the unit does present a significant challenge to the candidate, it is in no way seen as an unnecessary barrier to achievement.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This unit is designed as part of a core of study within the HND Acting and Performance, covering acting, voice and movement, and allowing integration to take place. This unit places emphasis on the development and application of the skills gained from the HND mandatory units and requires the fundamental knowledge and/or skills gained from the successful completion of the HNC Acting & Performance core units in acting, voice and movement. It is strongly recommended that the HND core units in acting, voice and movement are at an advanced stage prior to undertaking this unit.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Although it is not compulsory, it is recommended that the candidate shares their research findings from Outcome 1 in terms of their exploration into the themes and issues contained in the text and the historical and social background of the play. There may be some value in inviting the candidate to work as part of a small team to create a presentation to the rest of the cohort group, to show, through practical means, the combined findings of their research.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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If a candidate has been given the challenge of working on two roles in one or both of the productions, he/she should focus on providing evidence on *one* of the characters within the development study for *one* production. Assessment should be based on this work alone. However, the candidate should also undergo similar analysis on the second character, although this would not be required as evidence for assessment purposes. Similarly, the candidate should choose to consider analysis for the second play under study although no evidence is required for assessment purposes. Decisions as to which character should be explored should be at the discretion of the director. The director and/or centre will determine which of the two plays the candidate should produce which piece of evidence for.

Wherever possible the director of each production should offer feedback to the candidate on his/her progress throughout the production 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. Expectations are that for this unit the candidate is actively familiar with the text in advance of the first read-through and that he/she is physically, vocally and mentally prepared for all rehearsals.

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

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This unit is designed to enable the candidate to effectively research, rehearse and perform in two productions. The candidate will have the opportunity to perform in two distinctly contrasting plays. Applying all the skills and knowledge gained from *Acting 1: Developing Skills* and *Production 1: Developing Skills*, this unit should be a process of experimentation and discovery with disciplined application of coherent and creative working methods.

It is expected that the candidate will bring all the skills gained from the mandatory units; Acting, Voice and Movement and develop these skills throughout this unit.

This unit will enable candidates to:

- ◆ independently research the context and content of **one** play.
- ◆ analyse text and character through the creation of a character study for **one** production.
- ◆ assimilate research in terms of interpreting a role.
- ◆ explore the physical and vocal requirements of characters through rehearsal.
- ◆ develop fully rounded characters in accordance with the demands of **two** contrasting texts.
- ◆ develop relationships with other characters through a rehearsal process.
- ◆ perform at least two productions in front of an audience.
- ◆ evaluate and analyse the production process in **one** production.

There are three main assessments:

1. Candidates will be required to undertake independent research and analysis and create a character study in relation to **one** of the plays under study.
2. Practical assessment will be on-going throughout the rehearsal and performance through checklists.
3. Candidates will be required to undertake an extended response paper in the form of an evaluative report, based on **one** of the plays under study, of between 1500 and 2000 words.