

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

Unit code: DG4F 34

Unit purpose: The unit is designed to enable candidates to understand the working practices of technical theatre staff within the production process. The unit intends to create an awareness of the variety of equipment used within the technical areas of a production. It is primarily intended to give Performing Arts candidates an introduction to Technical Theatre, however this unit is suitable for any candidates studying most "arts" related frameworks. On completion of the unit, candidates should be able to:

1. Describe the duties of key technical personnel and explain their roles throughout the production process.
2. Produce materials relating to set and costume design.
3. Compile a prompt copy.
4. Prepare and operate lighting and sound control systems using a variety of lighting and sound equipment.

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.

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 will be assessed by a written test and a series of practical assignments requiring the candidate to: answer questions, read and create drawings/diagrams/lists, and to undertake a variety of small practical projects. A written test will be used to assess Outcome 1. This should be carried out in controlled conditions and should last one hour.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

Unit code: DG4F 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

Describe the duties of key technical personnel and explain their roles throughout the production process.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Theatre personnel
- ◆ The production process

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge/skills in this outcome should be generated through a written/oral assessment, and presented in response to specific questions. Each candidate will need evidence to demonstrate that they can, with reference to a specific theatre venue, provide a clear and accurate description of the roles of key technical staff. In addition, candidates must be able to show a clear understanding of the production process.

The candidate must be able to:

- ◆ Identify key theatre personnel
- ◆ Give an accurate description of the responsibilities of key theatre personnel
- ◆ Demonstrate an understanding of all stages of the production process.

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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

Assessment guidelines

Evidence should be generated through a written/oral assessment undertaken in controlled conditions. Candidates may not bring textbooks, handouts, class notes or any other material. The assessment should be carried out as a single assessment event lasting no more than one hour, with a series of questions covering all points in the knowledge and/or skills. A mark of 80% will be required to achieve this Outcome.

Outcome 2

Produce materials relating to set and costume.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Reading scale ground plans
- ◆ Reading annotation symbols
- ◆ Marking out of ground plans
- ◆ Understanding costume measurements
- ◆ Understanding costume matrix
- ◆ Create a costume design

Evidence Requirements: Set Design

Evidence for the knowledge/skills in this part of the Outcome will be generated through a practical assignment. Each candidate will produce evidence to show their understanding of drawing scales, ground plans and annotation symbols, and be able to mark out a rehearsal space accurately.

The candidate will:

- ◆ Identify different drawing scales from a ground plan
- ◆ Identify centre line, setting line and a variety of annotation symbols from a scale ground plan
- ◆ Mark out a rehearsal space accurately using a scale ground plan

Assessment guidelines

The instrument of assessment should test the candidate's ability to identify the different scales, annotation symbols used in relation to scale ground plans, and the practical marking out of a rehearsal space. Ideally, this will be linked to a production in which the candidate is involved.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

Evidence Requirements: Costume Design

Evidence for the knowledge/skills in this part of the Outcome will be generated through a practical assignment. Each candidate will produce evidence to demonstrate their understanding of costume measurements, costume matrix and the principles of costume design.

The candidate will:

- ◆ Take costume measurements accurately for one actor within a production
- ◆ Compile an accurate costume matrix for one character within a production
- ◆ Design a complete costume for one character within a production.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment of this part of the Outcome may best be integrated with a candidate's portrayal of a character within a production. The instrument of assessment should test the candidate's ability to record accurate costume measurements and costume matrix. The instrument of assessment for the costume design element should test the candidate's ability to design their costume correctly, in keeping with period, context, style and practical use.

Outcome 3

Identify elements of a prompt copy

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Technical (Prompt) copy of a script
- ◆ Furniture Lists
- ◆ Properties Lists
- ◆ Cast Lists
- ◆ Contact Lists
- ◆ Rehearsal Call Lists
- ◆ Blocking

Evidence requirements

Evidence should be generated through a practical assignment in which the candidate must:

- ◆ Identify furniture and props from the script and compile accurate props and furniture lists
- ◆ Compile a Technical (Prompt) copy of the script
- ◆ Record blocking within a rehearsal situation.

The Prompt copy should consist of a minimum of 5 pages of the script in use. Each candidate will need to show an understanding of all the elements required within the Prompt Copy. Each candidate is required to accurately record a minimum of one page of blocking within a rehearsal situation, and to compile relevant Technical lists for the pages of the script selected.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for this Outcome can be integrated with a candidate's rehearsal period for a production.

Outcome 4

Operate stage lighting and stage sound control systems.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Types of theatre lanterns
- ◆ Stage lighting control systems
- ◆ Stage sound equipment
- ◆ Stage sound control systems

Evidence requirements

Evidence for this Outcome could be generated through a practical assignment. Each candidate is required to operate both stage lighting and stage sound control systems according to the requirements of a part of a script or a production.

The candidate must:

- ◆ Identify a variety of theatre lanterns
- ◆ Operate a theatre lighting control system
- ◆ Identify theatre sound components
- ◆ Operate a theatre sound system.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment of this Outcome can be integrated within a candidate's performance period of a production. The instrument of assessment should test the candidate's knowledge/skills with regard to the five major types of theatre lanterns: Profile, Fresnel, PC, Beamlight and floodlight. Candidates must operate computer lighting control system cues or operate manual lighting control system individual channel levels. The instrument of assessment should test the candidate's knowledge/skills in the four major elements of a sound system: amplifier, speaker, control system, sources eg compact-disc, mini-disc, microphone. Candidates must operate either compact-disc, mini-disc or microphone using a sound control system.

Administrative Information

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Unit code: | DG4F 34 |
| Unit title: | Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction |
| Superclass category: | LE |
| Date of publication: | 1 July 2004 |
| Version: | 01 |
| Source: | SQA |

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The cost for each Unit specification is £2.50. (A handling charge of £1.95 will apply to all orders for priced items.)

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

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

The Unit is intended primarily for any performing arts candidate to give them a practical insight into the working practices of Technical Theatre and its key personnel.

Although the Unit is expressed in generic terms, it should where possible be related to a context that is familiar to candidates ie acting, dancing music theatre etc.

The unit can be approached from the standpoint of a Theatre Company's rehearsal of a production. The Unit will inform the candidate of the relevant Theatre processes and personnel involved in the staging of a production, as well as giving a brief practical opportunity to learn about elements of Technical Theatre.

For Outcome 1, it is recommended that touring theatre companies are avoided and that it is based around a producing theatre i.e. Citizen's Theatre, Glasgow, Royal Lyceum-Edinburgh, Dundee Rep. etc. For the production process, the candidate must be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key theatre personnel in relation to pre-production, rehearsals, run of show and post-production requirements.

Candidates with learning difficulties i.e. dyslexia will be offered an oral assessment.

In Outcome 2, the ability to use a mark out for the set design component should be linked, wherever possible, to a production the candidate is involved in. However, the understanding of scale drawing ground plans and their annotation symbols should be general so that the knowledge acquired can be applied to a range of productions/performances.

For the costume element of Outcome 2, it would be preferable to link the Outcome to a production in which the candidate is involved. The costume matrix could be aimed at the character the candidate will be performing, although it is preferable that the costume measurements taken are of another candidate involved in performing within the production instead of personal costume measurements, as this would be inaccurate.

In Outcome 3, it would be preferable for the candidate to link the Outcome to a production they are involved in. The blocking part of the Outcome should be linked to the rehearsal process of a production. Candidates should be made aware of all the elements required to make up the prompt copy for a production/performance.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

For Outcome 4, candidates should be made aware of the different theatre lanterns, and their uses within a production/performance. This should include Floodlights, Fresnels, Beamlights and Profiles. Candidates should also familiarise themselves with simple operating tasks such as controlling individual lanterns and operating changes in lighting states.

Candidates studying the sound part of this Outcome should be made aware of the different components required within a sound system. This should include Amplifiers, Speakers, Control Desks and Source machines e.g. mini disc, CD and Dat players. Candidates should also familiarise themselves with the basic operating of source machines and the control of their volumes.

Wherever possible, this Outcome should be linked to a production/performance. This should help the candidates to become aware of the lighting/sound requirements for a production/performance.

For both the lighting and sound components of the Unit, rigging should be excluded due to Health and Safety issues.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit is an optional unit which can be used within a variety of frameworks i.e. acting, music technology, dance etc. The candidate who successfully completes this Unit should have an understanding of the technical theatre processes required to stage a production/performance.

This Unit is intended to highlight to the candidates the importance of the relationship between the technical and performing aspects of a production/performance.

Assessment for this Unit will be by a variety of instruments of assessment. For Outcome 1, it should be within a controlled environment, candidates may not bring text-books, handouts or other relevant materials for this Outcome. For Outcomes 2, 3 and 4, candidates will generate their own material. Assessment of Outcome 4 could be linked with specialist technical students. If this is not possible, then the candidates should be encouraged to work in small groups.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

Open learning

The Outcomes in this unit require candidates to use specialist lighting and sound equipment under supervised conditions, and to work within a realistic production/performance situation. The opportunities for distance learning, therefore, 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 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: Technical Theatre: A Performer's Introduction

Candidates will learn the roles and responsibilities of the technical department throughout the production process. They will also gain an insight into the work required in designing both set and costumes, as well as a practical introduction in the use/operation of stage lighting and sound for a theatrical production.

Candidates will be expected to produce all the elements of a prompt book as well as basic groundplans, a costume matrix and a costume design.