



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Performance 2: Applying Skills for Musical Theatre

Unit code: DP8V 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 musicals. Applying all the skills and knowledge gained from Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre (DP8T 34), this Unit should be a process of experimentation and discovery with disciplined application of coherent and creative working methods. It is intended for candidates who wish to work in the musical theatre industry.

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

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

Credit points and level: 5 HN Credits 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. However, it is recommended that the candidate has successfully completed the HN Unit Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre (DP8T 34) or equivalent Units in a performance-related programme. This Unit develops the work explored in Performance 1: Developing Skills for Musical Theatre (DP8T 34).

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)

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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 production.

The Unit requires the production of **two** full length contrasting musicals. It is recommended that Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 should be assessed using 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 production.

Outcome 1 requires the candidate to undertake research and create a development study in relation to only **one** of the musicals under study. Outcome 2 will require assessment, by checklist, of an annotated script/score for **both** productions. Outcome 3 will require assessment using checklists of development of a role in performance in two productions. Outcome 4 requires the candidate to undertake an evaluation report of between 1,500 and 2,000 words. This paper applies to only **one** of the musicals under study. A recording of **both** productions is required to provide supporting evidence.

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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 within musical theatre

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Explore themes and issues in the musical
- ◆ Explore historical and social background of the musical
- ◆ Analyse given circumstances
- ◆ Define character's objectives
- ◆ Explore character's actions and relationships

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 musicals 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 their character and 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 musical and consider the themes and issues in the musical. 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:

- ◆ collate research on the historical and social context of the musical
- ◆ consider the themes and issues contained in the musical
- ◆ analyse the text in relation to the character's objectives, facts, actions and circumstances
- ◆ assimilate all the relevant research in terms of interpreting a role

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Assessment guidelines

The development study should contain satisfactory notes, from the above knowledge and skills list, that will demonstrate a thorough understanding of analysis, research and interpretation of text, dance and music 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.

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
- ◆ Develop musical characterisation
- ◆ Retain facts and adapt to director's concept
- ◆ Use the creative process to develop characters' existence
- ◆ Learn lines and music timeously
- ◆ Respond appropriately to other performers
- ◆ Respond positively to direction
- ◆ Adhere to professional practice
- ◆ Annotate a script/score

Evidence Requirements

Evidence for 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. Additional evidence will be provided by the candidate through the development of annotated scripts/scores.

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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:

- ◆ appropriately annotate script/score
- ◆ develop a fully rounded character in accordance with the demands of the text, music and dance
- ◆ 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, music and dance

Assessment guidelines

The candidate will be required to demonstrate effective application of the requirements, which should indicate satisfactory participation in the rehearsal of two productions. A fully annotated scrip/score should demonstrate a satisfactory response to the requirements of the text, music, dance and rehearsal process.

Outcome 3

Sustain and develop a role in production

Knowledge and/or skills

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

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Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can prepare, perform, sustain and develop a role in **two** productions. The synthesis of the candidate's research and rehearsal process must demonstrate their ability to apply this knowledge in a controlled and creative performance. A recording 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 participation in the performance of two productions, which would be demonstrated by the creation of convincing and believable characters.

Outcome 4

Evaluate individual contribution to the production process

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ 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 evaluation report of between 1,500 and 2,000 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 their progress throughout rehearsal and production. The candidate will consider their contribution to the production process, identify strengths and weaknesses in research, rehearsal and production and propose strategies for future development. A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence demonstrates a satisfactory awareness and appropriate analysis of their 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:	DP8V 35
Unit title:	Performance 2: Applying Skills for Musical Theatre
Superclass category:	LC
Original date of publication:	August 2005
Version:	03 (April 2012)

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Throughout document 'script and score' becomes 'script/score'. Outcome 1 — Knowledge and/or skills — changes Outcome 1 — Evidence Requirements — delete 'text dance and music and replace with 'musical'. Outcome 2 — Knowledge and/or skills — additional bullet point Outcome 4 — Knowledge and/or skills — first eight bullet points deleted.	31/08/07
03	Outcome 4 - 'extended response question paper' becomes evaluation report and 'video' changed to 'recording'. Outcome 1 - Assessment Guidelines. Advice about integration with Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance is deleted. Support notes - Some historical text deleted from paragraph 1.	16/04/12

Source: SQA

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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 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. 200 hours of Unit delivery/production time is essential for the process of integrating all of the candidates' knowledge and skills in two major production projects. Additional time can be made available through integrating other Units with Production.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This is a mandatory Unit within the framework of the HND Musical Theatre Group Award, covering Acting, Voice, Dance and Singing, 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 Musical Theatre mandatory Units in Acting, Voice, Dance and Singing. It is strongly recommended that the HND mandatory Units in Acting, Voice, Dance and Singing 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, dance and music and the historical and social background of the musical. 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.

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 production 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 productions the candidate should produce which piece of evidence for.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Wherever possible the director of each production should offer feedback to the candidate on their progress throughout the production process and propose tasks for them to explore in order to develop 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 and music in advance of the first read-through and that they are physically, vocally and mentally prepared for all rehearsals.

Open learning

For information on normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (A1030).

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website

www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

General information for candidates

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This Unit is designed to enable you to effectively research, rehearse and perform in two productions. You will have the opportunity to perform in two distinctly contrasting musicals. This Unit should be a process of experimentation and discovery with disciplined application of coherent and creative working methods.

It is expected that you will bring all the skills gained from the mandatory Units; Acting, Voice, Dance and Singing and develop these skills throughout this Unit.

This Unit will enable you to:

- ◆ independently research the context and content of **one** musical
- ◆ 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 and scores
- ◆ 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 four main assessments:

- 1 You will be required to undertake independent research and analysis and create a character study in relation to **one** of the musicals under study.
- 2 Practical assessment will be on-going throughout the rehearsal and performance through checklists.
- 3 You will be required to annotate scripts/scores in both productions.
- 4 You will be required to undertake an evaluation report, based on **one** of the musicals under study, of between 1,500 and 2,000 words.