

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Acting for Dancers

Unit code: F1VA 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide candidates with knowledge and understanding of acting techniques required for developing performance skills in musical and commercial theatre. Candidates will, through practical performance, apply underpinning knowledge of acting theory and technique to a variety of repertoire. This Unit is suitable for dancers who wish to broaden the range of performance skills at their disposal.

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

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of acting techniques.
- 2 Create characters according to given circumstances.
- 3 Prepare, rehearse and perform a role from text.

Credit points and level: 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: While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had some experience of acting. This could be demonstrated by possession of Higher Drama at SCQF level 6 or equivalent.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication and Problem Solving at SCQF level 5 and Working with Others at SCQF level 6 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)

Assessment: This Unit can be assessed through practical and written/oral assessments.

Outcome 1 is assessed through practical performance of exercises and drama games.

Outcome 2 is assessed by a studio based practical assessment and evaluation.

Outcome 3 is assessed by performance in a group scene(s) and evaluation.

Practical assessment should take place in a studio setting and be recorded by appropriate means.

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 knowledge and understanding of acting techniques

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Vocal care
- ◆ Posture
- ◆ Use of breath
- ◆ Diction and projection

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ demonstrate good practice for vocal care. This will be evidenced by warm up and relaxation techniques
- ◆ demonstrate the correct posture required for acting techniques, and apply through a series of drama games and exercises
- ◆ apply the correct use of breath whilst acting and dancing
- ◆ perform drama exercises and games demonstrating clarity of diction and appropriate use of projection

Evidence for the first item will be generated by observation of warm up and relaxation techniques.

Evidence for the remaining items will be generated through practical performance in a studio setting, where candidates will act in different drama exercises and games. This practical assessment should be recorded by appropriate means.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Dancers

Assessment Guidelines

This could take the form of a closed-book assessment of approximately 30 questions, with a suggested time allocation of approximately 1½ hours for completion.

For the practical element of the assessment, in which candidates act in a series of exercises and drama games in a studio based assessment, exercises can be performed and assessed individually or in a group, and may be recorded by means of checklist and/or video.

Outcome 2

Create characters according to given circumstances

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Improvisation
- ◆ Physicality
- ◆ Animal Study
- ◆ Character Evaluation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by creating characters, showing that they can:

- ◆ demonstrate the ability to improvise in different scenarios, maintaining concentration and characterisation throughout a minimum of two improvised performances. (Scenarios for improvisation will be set by the tutor).
- ◆ explore physical characterisation and physical expression through the performance of a set text piece no longer than two minutes
- ◆ explore animal characterisation with specific focus on dynamic and movement through the study of a chosen animal
- ◆ evaluate performance and character development

Evidence for the first three items will be generated through studio based practical activities. Practical assessment will be recorded by appropriate means.

Candidates will maintain an evaluative record throughout, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses in character development.

Assessment Guidelines

For the studio based practical assessment, exercises can be performed and assessed individually or in a group, and may be recorded by means of checklist and/or video.

The evaluative record could be of approximately 500 words or equivalent.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Dancers

Outcome 3

Prepare, rehearse and perform a role from text

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Characterisation
- ◆ Character relationship
- ◆ Rehearsal
- ◆ Presentation
- ◆ Evaluation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by performing in a group scene, showing that they can:

- ◆ create a character based on a chosen text, demonstrating the ability to research the character objectives and intentions in the scene
- ◆ demonstrate relationships with other characters within the scene through rehearsal and performance
- ◆ rehearse the chosen scene maintaining a professional and focused approach
- ◆ present the chosen scene living truthfully in the imagined circumstances and present a fully rounded believable character
- ◆ evaluate personal and group performances

Evidence will be generated through practical performance in a studio/theatre setting. Candidates will perform a group scene(s) lasting approximately 5 minutes and should be able to maintain characterisation throughout. Scenes must be performed and assessed in a group and recorded by appropriate means.

Candidates will complete a self evaluation of their performance identifying areas of strength and weakness.

Assessment Guidelines

This studio based practical assessment may be recorded by means of checklist and/or video.

The evaluation could be approximately 500 words or equivalent.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1VA 34
Unit title: Acting for Dancers
Superclass category: LC
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Acting for Dancers

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 is designed to provide candidates with knowledge and understanding of acting techniques required for performance in musical and commercial theatre. Through practical performance, candidates will apply underpinning knowledge of acting theory and technique to a variety of repertoire. Candidates will reflect upon personal performance through character analysis and evaluation.

Outcome 1 emphasises the basis of good acting and vocal techniques, and good vocal care through the use of warm up and relaxation techniques. It would be beneficial for candidates to be made aware of good ongoing practice in terms of vocal care; increasing awareness of vocal and acting techniques and career longevity. It may also be beneficial for tutors to provide candidates with some background relating good vocal care including warm up, etc. to personal achievement.

Outcome 2 encourages candidates to explore 'self' and develop a range of characters through the use of different stimuli including an animal study.

Using knowledge and skills developed in Outcomes 1 and 2, Outcome 3 presents an opportunity for candidates to develop a character within a group performance. The tutor should choose an appropriate scene for performance and distribute parts to the group. Through tutor direction and guidance, candidates must demonstrate the ability to sustain character and develop relationships within the scene.

It is suggested that texts used are from the musical theatre genre, as this is a specific area in which dancers may be required to have a level of competence in acting.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Tutors may wish to consider developing exercises based on the similar and contrasting theories and practices of, for example, Stanislavski, Uta Hagen, Grotowski, Meyerhold, Brook, and Brecht. Candidates should experience as broad a variety of means of developing character, as is practical.

The assessment for Outcome 1 will be generated through practical performance in a studio setting, involving observation of warm up and relaxation techniques, candidates' participation in different drama exercises and games.

In Outcomes 2 and 3, candidates will demonstrate their acting skills through a series of exercises, drama games and performances, in studio based assessments. Exercises can be performed and assessed individually or in groups, and assessment will be recorded. Candidates will evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and performances.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Dancers

Recommended activities for the Unit include improvisation, role play, drama games, relaxation exercises, observation exercises, creation of a variety of atmospheres and environments using light, sound and visual stimuli, exploration of animals in their environments, and observation of people at work. Where possible, candidates should experience working in groups, pairs and alone, and be encouraged to give feedback on their own work and the work of others.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication and Problem Solving at SCQF level 5, and Working with Others at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Outcome 1 may provide opportunities to develop the component 'Oral Communication' of the Core Skill of Communication. It is envisaged that throughout the Unit's duration, candidates will engage in regular informal and ongoing discussion with their tutor and peers where appropriate, concerning various aspects of their performance, which may foster development in this area.

In Outcome 2 and 3 candidates may develop the Core Skill of Working with Others to SCQF level 6 through group work and performance. Researching characters/animals and devising suitable approaches to performance may also afford opportunities for candidates to develop the components 'Critical Thinking' and 'Planning and Organising' of the Core Skill of Problem Solving at SCQF level 5.

Candidates are asked to review and evaluate their own personal development following performance, allowing for the development of the component 'Reviewing and Evaluating' of the Core Skill of Problem Solving, at SCQF level 5.

Open learning

This Unit is not suitable for delivery by distance learning because it requires candidates to take part in regular studio based practical sessions which are required to be led and observed by a qualified practitioner to meet Health and Safety requirements and Outcomes of the Unit.

For further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment for Open and Distance Learning* which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

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

Unit title: Acting for Dancers

This Unit is designed to provide you with knowledge and understanding of acting techniques required by dancers performing in musical and commercial theatre. Through practical performance, you will apply underpinning knowledge of acting theory and technique to a variety of repertoire and broaden the range of performance skills at your disposal.

Outcome 1

You will study acting techniques, including relaxation and warm up. You will look at:

- ◆ Vocal care
- ◆ Posture
- ◆ Use of breath
- ◆ Diction and projection

Outcome 1 may be assessed through a short written or oral exam on vocal anatomy and vocal health, and through performance of exercises and drama games, in which you will demonstrate your vocal skills in diction and use of dialect.

Outcome 2

In Outcome 2 you will be required to create characters according to given circumstances set by your tutor. You will look at:

- ◆ Improvisation
- ◆ Physicality
- ◆ Animal Study
- ◆ Character Evaluation

You will demonstrate different character building skills and techniques through exercises, role play, observation, improvisation and use of text. Exercises can be performed individually or in a group, and you will maintain an evaluative record, highlighting strengths and weaknesses in your character development.

Outcome 3

In Outcome 3, you will be required to prepare, rehearse and perform a role from text. Your tutor will observe your development in the following areas:

- ◆ Characterisation
- ◆ Character relationship
- ◆ Rehearsal
- ◆ Presentation
- ◆ Evaluation

General information for candidates (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Dancers

You will perform a group scene (or scenes) lasting approximately 5 minutes. Scenes must be performed and assessed within a group, and you will complete a self evaluation of your performance identifying areas of strength and weakness.

During the Unit there may be opportunities for you to develop important Core Skills in the following areas: Communication, Problem Solving and Working with Others.