

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Acting for Dancers: Advanced

Unit code: F1VB 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide dancers with knowledge and understanding of acting techniques required for performance and audition. Candidates will, through practical performance, gain and apply underpinning knowledge of dialect work, sight reading techniques, and monologue preparation and performance. Through character analysis and personal evaluation, candidates will be able to build part of an acting portfolio suitable for commercial and musical theatre auditions. This Unit is suitable for dancers who wish to further advance the repertoire of performance skills at their disposal.

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

- 1 Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of dialect work.
- 2 Demonstrate sight reading skills
- 3 Prepare, rehearse and perform monologue in a chosen dialect.
- 4 Evaluate personal performance

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 8: (8 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: While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had completed the HN Unit Acting for Dancers (xxxx xx) or equivalent.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication, Problem Solving 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: Outcome 1 is a practical assessment in which candidates perform different dialects.

Outcome 2 is performance based, where candidates apply sight reading knowledge and skills to a given text. This is accompanied by a script analysis which is assessed by a written/oral presentation.

Outcome 3 is a practical assessment in which candidates prepare, rehearse and perform a monologue of their choice using an appropriate dialect.

Outcome 4 is assessed by an evaluative report and may be based on the personal record maintained during Outcomes 1–3.

All 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 a knowledge and understanding of dialect work

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Posture
- ◆ Breathing
- ◆ Dialects
- ◆ Diction and projection

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ demonstrate the correct posture and use of breathing required by dancers for acting
- ◆ apply correct posture and breathing through a series of two dialect exercises. One exercise will be performed in a standard American accent, and the other in a dialect of the candidate's choice.
- ◆ demonstrate clarity of diction and appropriate use of projection

Evidence will be generated through practical performance. Exercises must be performed and assessed individually, and evidence recorded by appropriate means.

Assessment Guidelines

The practical assessment for this Outcome should take place in a studio setting. Evidence may be recorded by checklist and/or video.

It is recommended that candidates are encouraged to maintain a personal record or logbook throughout Outcomes 1, 2, and 3 recording personal progress and critical evaluation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Dancers: Advanced

Outcome 2

Demonstrate sight reading skills

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Script reading at sight.
- ◆ Characterisation
- ◆ Script analysis

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by applying sight reading skills to a piece of poetry and/or prose, showing that they can:

- ◆ demonstrate the technique of reading at sight without appearing to be visually tied to the text
- ◆ demonstrate characterisation. At advanced level, this must show changes of thought and emotion as suggested by the text
- ◆ analyse vocabulary, sentence structure and punctuation and show how these can contribute to a further understanding of character

Evidence for the first two items should be generated through practical performance. Exercises must be performed and assessed individually, and be recorded by appropriate means.

Evidence of the script analysis may be presented in oral/written format.

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates will apply sight reading knowledge and skills to a piece of poetry and/or prose chosen by the lecturer on the day of the assessment. Practical evidence may be recorded by checklist and/or video and should take place in a studio setting.

Candidates may be assessed on script analysis via an essay of approximately 800 words or alternatively an oral presentation of no longer than 5 minutes.

It is recommended that candidates are encouraged to maintain a personal record or logbook throughout Outcomes 1, 2, and 3 recording personal progress and critical evaluation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Dancers: Advanced

Outcome 3

Prepare, rehearse and perform a monologue in a chosen dialect

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Recreation of a chosen text.
- ◆ Dialect
- ◆ Characterisation
- ◆ Projection
- ◆ Professionalism

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ learn and accurately reproduce a chosen monologue of between two-three minutes in length
- ◆ maintain a realistic and effective use of chosen dialect
- ◆ demonstrate characterisation appropriate to the set text through the use of the body and voice including vocal projection
- ◆ maintain discipline, concentration, projection and focus throughout the performance

Evidence will be generated through practical performance. Exercises must be performed and assessed individually, and be recorded by appropriate means.

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates will prepare and rehearse a monologue of their choice using an appropriate dialect.

Practical evidence may be recorded by checklist and/or video and should take place in a studio setting.

It is recommended that candidates are encouraged to maintain a personal record or logbook throughout Outcomes 1, 2, and 3 recording personal progress and critical evaluation.

Outcome 4

Evaluate personal performance

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Personal performance review
- ◆ Character analysis
- ◆ Opportunities and constraints

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Dancers: Advanced

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ evaluate personal performance in terms of strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ analyse a character's chief personality traits, status, changes of thought and emotion, and objective(s) as evident in a specific monologue or scene
- ◆ identify and evaluate the opportunities and constraints engendered by the chosen text

Assessment Guidelines

The personal record maintained throughout Outcomes 1–3 may form the basis of assessment for Outcome 4. Candidates may use this in order to detail personal progress and critical evaluation in an essay, report or presentation of no longer than 1,500 words or equivalent.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1VB 35

Unit title: Acting for Dancers: Advanced

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: Advanced

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 dancers with knowledge and understanding of acting techniques required for performance and audition. Through practical performance, candidates will apply underpinning knowledge of dialect work, sight reading techniques, and monologue preparation and performance. Through character analysis and personal evaluation, candidates will continue to build an acting portfolio suitable for commercial and musical theatre auditions. For some candidates, the process of portfolio building will have commenced in the earlier Acting for Dancers Unit at SCQF level 7, and will progress to the Acting for Dancers: Advanced Unit at SCQF level 8.

Outcome 1 allows candidates to demonstrate acting techniques developed in Acting for Dancers and incorporate new dialect skills and techniques. Candidates will demonstrate the ability to perform a range of different dialects through a series of exercises. Candidates could study any of the dialects listed below:

- ◆ Standard British
- ◆ British North Country
- ◆ Cockney
- ◆ Irish
- ◆ Scottish
- ◆ Australian
- ◆ Spanish
- ◆ New York City
- ◆ American Southern
- ◆ Texas
- ◆ Boston
- ◆ Chicago
- ◆ Other recognised dialects

For assessment, candidates should perform one exercise in a standard American accent, plus one in a dialect of their choice.

In Outcome 2, candidates will improve their ability to read from a script or piece of text at sight. Candidates should be encouraged to watch and learn from their peers, and be able to contribute positive feedback and constructive criticism where appropriate or encouraged by tutor.

In Outcome 3, candidates will draw upon skills studied in Outcomes 1 and 2 and incorporate these into a monologue performance.

It is recommended that candidates are encouraged to maintain a personal record or logbook throughout Outcomes 1, 2, and 3 recording personal progress. This record or log may form the basis of candidates' self-evaluation in Outcome 4 which will be an essay, report or presentation of no longer than 1,500 words or equivalent.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Acting for Dancers: Advanced

It would be highly beneficial for candidates to be given the opportunity to view external performances/professional shows where practicable. Observing performers at work in a professional environment may serve to put the techniques studied into context as well as indicating required professional standards. This would be particularly valuable prior to the self evaluation in Outcome 4.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award designed to provide candidates with knowledge and skills in acting techniques required for performance and audition.

This Unit requires candidates to further develop awareness of 'self', to interact with others, and to build a character through observation, improvisation and text. Each centre/tutor will need to determine each candidate's own awareness of themselves and the world around them. Candidates will be expected to develop their awareness by sharing knowledge and experience and observing and appreciating the lives of other members in the group. Candidates should be encouraged to observe the behaviour of all those around them. Exercises should reflect upon their own condition and where possible explore new possibilities. For example, tutors may consider developing exercises based on the similar and contrasting theories and practices of Stanislavski, Uta Hagen, Grotowski, Meyerhold, Brook and Brecht. The candidate should experience various methods, as broad as is practical, of developing character.

It is recommended that the Unit is delivered in conjunction with various exercises, such as observation exercises, creation of a variety of atmospheres and observation eg of people at work. Candidates should be encouraged to give feedback on their own work and the work of others.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication, Problem Solving 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 4 may provide opportunities to develop the Core Skills components of 'Oral Communication' and/or 'Written Communication' depending on the format used to evaluate personal performance in Outcome 4 (which may comprise an essay, report or presentation containing extensive self-evaluation).

Working with Others may be developed throughout the Unit, via candidates participation in group exercises, and during ongoing discussion and with the tutor, and the sharing of feedback between peers during class time, on personal and group performance.

The Core Skill of Problem Solving may be developed over the course of the Unit, ranging from the initial 'Critical Thinking' involved in the script analysis in Outcome 2 (analysis of sentence structure, vocabulary, etc.), the planning and organising necessary to deliver a monologue for Outcome 3, and the final, extensive self-evaluation required by Outcome 4.

Candidates may also develop the components of 'Critical Thinking' and 'Planning and Organising' of the Core Skill of Problem Solving, through the practice, rehearsal, presentation and any associated research completed as preparation for their monologue in Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Acting for Dancers: Advanced

Open learning

This Unit is not suited to 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 the 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

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This Unit is designed to provide you with knowledge and understanding of acting techniques required by dancers for performance and audition. Through practical performance, you will learn to apply underpinning knowledge of dialect work, sight reading techniques, and monologue preparation and performance.

In Outcome 1 you will learn about breathing, posture, acting technique and dialects. You will then demonstrate your skills in a practical assessment.

The practical assessment for Outcome 1 should take place in a studio setting. You will demonstrate the ability to perform a range of different dialects through a series of exercises.

In Outcome 2 you will learn about script analysis, script reading at sight, characterisation and vocabulary. This Outcome is mainly performance based and you will demonstrate the sight reading skills you have gained by applying these to a piece of text chosen by your tutor on the day of the assessment. You will also be assessed on script analysis, which could be through the submission of a written essay of approximately 800 words or oral presentation of no longer than 5 minutes.

In Outcome 3 you will further study dialect and characterisation, as well as projection, discipline and professionalism, aimed towards you learning how to accurately recreate a chosen text. You will demonstrate your ability when you perform a monologue in a chosen dialect.

In Outcome 4 you will critically evaluate your personal performance, looking specifically at character analysis, and performance opportunities and constraints. You will be encouraged to keep a personal record or log throughout the course of Outcomes 1–3, which can then be used to aid your critical evaluation. This record or personal log could be completed after all practical assessments have taken place, and used to aid your critical evaluation which may be in the form of a report, essay or presentation of approximately 1,500 words or equivalent.

You will have opportunities to develop Core Skills in the areas of Communication, Working with Others and Problem Solving.