



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Scenic Art and Construction

**Unit code:** FA01 35

**Superclass:** LE

**Publication date:** August 2010

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**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to work as technical practitioners within the theatre. It is designed to develop the candidate's understanding and skills in the selection and use of tools and materials in response to a set model and technical drawings, to lead a team through the production process, to develop their technique and to produce an item of scenery for a theatrical production. It will provide candidates with the opportunity to work in real time environment and to produce an item working to a deadline and defined budget.

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

- 1 Plan and select materials and techniques for the construction and painting of a set to a given budget.
- 2 Lead a team through the construction and painting of a set.
- 3 Construct and paint an item of scenery.

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre; however it would be beneficial if candidates had completed Unit F38D 34 *Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting* before undertaking this Unit.

### Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 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.*

## **General information (cont)**

### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving*, *ICT*, *Communication*, *Working with Others* and *Numeracy* at SCQF level 5 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.

### **Assessment**

Outcomes 1 and 3 of this Unit could be assessed through the use of an observation checklist to record the candidate's ability to carry out the practical tasks, supported by a portfolio of other evidence. The assessment for Outcomes 1 and 3 could be combined. Outcome 2 could be assessed by a portfolio of evidence containing the relevant paperwork, observation of practical tasks and oral questioning of the candidate.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Scenic Art and Construction

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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

Plan and select materials and techniques for the construction and painting of a set to a given budget.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Reading and interpreting technical drawings, plans and models
- ◆ Timber types and uses
- ◆ Scenic fabric types and uses
- ◆ Paint, varnish and glaze types and uses
- ◆ Other appropriate scenic materials
- ◆ Choosing appropriate materials and calculating correct amounts
- ◆ Sourcing and costing
- ◆ Tools and techniques used in construction and scenic art
- ◆ Health and safety

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ interpret a model and working drawings
- ◆ select appropriate materials in correct quantities and within budget
- ◆ select appropriate techniques
- ◆ identify any relevant health and safety issues

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a portfolio of evidence including materials lists and technical sketches and drawings. The assessment for this Outcome could be combined with Outcome 3.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Scenic Art and Construction

### Outcome 2

Lead a team through the construction and painting of a set.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Planning and scheduling work for self and others
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Identifying useful information
- ◆ Briefing team members
- ◆ Recognising and using team strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ Monitoring team progress
- ◆ Controlling budgets
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Working within Health and Safety guidelines

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ lead a team through the construction and painting of a set
- ◆ participate effectively at design and production meetings
- ◆ work effectively within the production team
- ◆ control the set budget
- ◆ plan and schedule the work
- ◆ brief team members
- ◆ monitor progress
- ◆ complete work safely, on time and to budget
- ◆ lead the set team through a set get-in and get-out

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed through a combination of production paperwork, such as notes for meetings, to do lists and team schedules, observation of practical work using checklists, and oral questioning.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Scenic Art and Construction

### Outcome 3

Construct and paint an item of scenery.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Model and technical drawing interpretation
- ◆ Construction techniques
- ◆ Paint techniques
- ◆ Textural finishes
- ◆ Health and safety

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ produce an item of scenery with reference to a model and working drawings
- ◆ demonstrate a range of construction techniques, by producing an item of scenery such as a series of shaped flats containing doors and windows, a set of rostra and steps which may be multi-levelled or include curves, a scaffolding structure which includes platforms, or similar as appropriate
- ◆ demonstrate a range of rendering and painting techniques such as a Victorian interior wall including cornicing and painted patterning, a stone flagged floor, a brick wall or similar
- ◆ comply with all relevant health and safety requirements

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by an observation checklist recording the candidate's ability to undertake the practical activities. It could be supported by a portfolio of evidence including annotated photographs of the item of scenery throughout construction to completion. The assessment for this Outcome could be combined with Outcome 1.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Scenic Art and Construction

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 80 hours.

### Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is intended to build on and develop the skills and knowledge gained by the candidate at level 7, both in terms of manual skills and of team membership. The Unit is specifically designed to allow the student to lead a team through the production process. Both elements of the Unit are targeted to increase the employability of the student on successful completion although it is important that the student recognises that s/he will not enter the industry at leadership level.

In Outcome 1 the student will be expected to play a major role in the sourcing, costing and ordering of materials that will be used to produce the set for a particular production. S/he will need to read and interpret the model and technical drawings and suggest appropriate techniques in order to realise the set safely, to time and on budget.

In Outcome 2 the student will need to lead and communicate with the rest of the set construction and scenic art team in order to build, paint, get in and strike the set safely.

In Outcome 3 s/he has the opportunity to show individual manual skills in construction and scenic art techniques. The item of scenery produced for this Outcome should be a substantial undertaking for the candidate, appropriate to the level of the Unit (SCQF level 8), for example a series of shaped flats containing doors and windows, a set of multi-levelled or curved rostra and steps or a scaffolding structure which includes platforms. The item of scenery produced must allow the candidate to demonstrate the knowledge and skills detailed in the Outcome at the appropriate level. Centres should provide guidance to candidates on what is acceptable in this context.

### Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit, which is likely to form part of a Group Award, is primarily intended to provide candidates with the necessary skills to construct and paint theatre sets. The Unit should be delivered in an appropriate theatre/stage environment. The Unit should be incorporated within public performance productions which will allow candidates to experience 'real' situations.

The Learning and Teaching strategies are designed to facilitate independent progress within a collaborative and supported structure which could include production work, individual and group research, lectures, practical workshops, group creative projects and tutorials. It is recommended that all Outcomes are assessed using a similar approach, requiring evidence of the practical work candidates have undertaken throughout a theatrical production process. Assessment should be at relevant times throughout the delivery of the Unit. On-going assessment of practical activity should be recorded using observation checklists. Candidates will also be required to submit relevant paperwork in a production portfolio. Key Transferable Skills: Management, effective communication, leadership, logistical planning, Health and Safety, problem solving, interdisciplinary collaboration.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Scenic Art and Construction

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Working with Others*, *Numeracy*, *Problem Solving*, *Communication* and *ICT* in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may offer opportunities to develop the components Critical Thinking, Planning and Organising and Reviewing and Evaluating of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5. The general skills required are managing resources and staff, and leading a team to realisation of completed set which may include significant problem solving. Specific skills required at SCQF level 5 include identifying the factors involved in the situation, assessing their relevance, and developing and justifying an approach to deal with the situation.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component Oral Communication of the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 5, particularly in production meetings and verbal instructions to team members. Sourcing materials will facilitate development of the component's reading element, as candidates will need to examine a variety of information. The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component Working with Numbers of the Core Skill of *Numeracy* at SCQF level 5, particularly in dealing with budgeting and financial management.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may offer opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology* at SCQF level 5, by the creation of lists, production paperwork, contact by e-mail and use of spreadsheets.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6. The candidate will be working with others to analyse, plan and complete all the phases involved in the production including pre-production, rehearsal, technical/dress rehearsal, run and post-production phase.

### Open learning

The Outcomes in this Unit rely on developing leadership, construction and scenic art skills through participation in a production process. It requires communication with production director and related production personnel on an active and on-going basis. Therefore opportunities for distance learning are extremely limited. Centres may, however find it possible to develop solutions, provided all Unit and Evidence Requirements are met in full. Technological advances may make the possibility of such creative solutions more widespread in the future.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Scenic Art and Construction

This Unit is intended for those who wish to work as technical practitioners within the theatre. It is designed to develop your skills in the selection and use of tools and materials in response to a set model and technical drawings. It will allow you to take on a leadership role within a theatrical production process, as well as advancing your techniques and allowing you to produce an item of scenery for a theatrical production. It will provide you with the opportunity to work in real time environment and to produce an item working to a deadline.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ plan and select materials and techniques for the construction and painting of a set to a given budget
- ◆ lead a team through the construction and painting of a set
- ◆ construct and paint an item of scenery

You will be assessed through a combination of observation checklists, oral questioning and a production portfolio.

There will be opportunities for you to develop your Core Skills in *Working with Others*, *Numeracy*, *Problem Solving*, *Communication* and *ICT*.