

Writing & Directing

TRIMESTER 1

Bachelor & Diploma units

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE STUDIES

Shared Studio

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit is the first of two that introduce students to a synchronic world view of theatre studies. It offers an overview of theatre and drama in many world cultures and periods together with case studies that demonstrate the various methods, historiographical theories and interpretive approaches used by contemporary theatre historians. Students will consider the range of theatre's origins in ritual performance and theatre through religious and civic drama, to early theatre in court, temple, marketplace, oral and writing cultures before 1700, to theatre and performance in print cultures up to 1900. This is a shared unit between all students across the Performing Arts Diploma and Bachelor.

ACTING FOUNDATIONS

Studio Practice

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit introduces students to the foundations of acting - an essential skill for any actor or those working with actors. The unit is delivered in a studio environment, where students will be introduced to the idea of the body being the actor's instrument as they explore fundamental relaxation, movement, and vocal techniques. Students encounter different approaches to acting practice, and have the opportunity to discover what works for them and develop awareness of spontaneity and cooperation. Students are also introduced to scene analysis, culminating in scenework. This is a shared unit between all students across the Performing Arts Diploma and Bachelor.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE MAKING

Production Studio

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit introduces students to the basics of theatre making. Divided into three modules, the unit gives students an overview of writing for performance, technical theatre, and directing. In the writing module, students learn fundamental principles of plot, characterisation, structure, and dialogue. In the technical theatre module, students are introduced to the basics of lighting, sound, and stage management. Students learn practical skills of rigging, plotting, and desk operation. In addition, students are introduced to conceptual and aesthetic principles of technical theatre. In the directing module, students are given an overview of the basics of directing, including how to approach the text, conceptualise a production, and work with actors. This is a shared unit between all students across the Performing Arts Diploma and Bachelor.

CREATIVE FOUNDATIONS

Industry Production

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Creativity is more than just inspiration; it is a skill, a discipline, and an essential tool for navigating the complexities of the modern world. In this unit, you will explore creativity's role across diverse disciplines and communities, gaining valuable insight into the ethical and cultural values that shape creative practice. You will develop critical skills to evaluate information, articulate ideas, and confidently reflect on creative work. By engaging with a dynamic community of students from across Collarts, you will have the opportunity to explore your creative potential and establish a strong foundation for your studies and future career in the creative industries.

Writing & Directing

TRIMESTER 2

Bachelor & Diploma units

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE STUDIES 2

Shared Studio

This unit offers an overview of theatre and drama in many world cultures and periods together with case studies that demonstrate the various methods, historiographical theories and interpretive approaches used by contemporary theatre historians. The unit applies a breadth of geographical coverage for exploring the inter-relation of theatre with social and cultural history using historical methodology. Students will examine the more recent range of influences on contemporary theatre. This is a shared unit between all students across the Performing Arts Diploma and Bachelor.

ENSEMBLE PRODUCTION

Production Double Units

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit brings students together to work on an ensemble performance under the guidance of a theatre director. The student cohort will work on a text-based piece of theatre or a devised performance. Students will implement the learning they have achieved to date in an experiential exploration of practice and the practical application of theory. Students will self-allocate to specific roles as actor, writer, director, or stage manager. The unit will also encourage self-reflection and constructive critical analysis.

INDUSTRY FOUNDATIONS

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In this unit, you will immerse yourself in the world of the creative industries and explore the many pathways to transforming your passion into a profession. Through insights from industry professionals and hands-on creative activities, you will develop a deeper understanding of how your industry operates while reflecting on your career aspirations and creative potential. From generating ideas to bringing them to life, you will experiment with flexible approaches to creative collaboration, working on cross-disciplinary projects that mirror real-world creative environments. By gaining a clearer perspective on the industry landscape, you will be better equipped to carve out your place as a creative professional and make confident, informed career choices.

Writing & Directing

TRIMESTER 3

Bachelor units only

TWENTIETH CENTURY PRACTICE

Shared Studio

This unit presents an overview of selected twentieth century directors and their influences on acting methodologies and performance practice. Beginning with an overview of Stanislavski and The Method, this unit will introduce students to the theories and practice of various practitioners who have been influential in shaping contemporary performance. The unit will comprise scholarly examination and practice-based exploration. This is a common unit shared between all students in the Performing Arts BPAs, Writing/Directing, Acting and Stage Management.

WRITING STUDIO 1

Studio Practice

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit builds on the skills attained in the Diploma of Performing Arts to provide students the opportunity to write a complete short play script. Students will learn further elements of characterisation, dialogue, plot and structure and will study specific genres of plays to gain understanding of the contextual issues of playwriting. Students will also learn techniques of dramaturgy and script editing. Through regular table reads, students can develop confidence in giving and receiving feedback about their work. The unit will conclude with a table read of the short plays written by students to an invited audience.

DIRECTING STUDIO 1

Production Studio

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines in detail the various elements comprising the director's role. It provides students with an overview of the relationship between directing and dramaturgy, the need for collaboration, technical preparation, and, through specific scene and genre study, equips students to direct a variety of plays and other forms of performance. Students will gain professional insight into how a director works, and be lead in practical exercises to develop their understanding of and proficiency in directing.

APPLIED DRAMATURGY

Production Studio

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit introduces students to the foundational skills of dramaturgy in an applied context. It provides an overview of the history of dramaturgical theories, tracing key developments from Aristotle and Lessing to Brecht, Lehmann, and the post-dramatic. Students will explore the practical applications of these theories through hands-on, collaborative studio experimentation. The unit also introduces the field of Theatre Semiotics through a dual approach. Upon completing this unit, students will be equipped to critically engage with the dynamic interplay between performance, audience, and the broader social and cultural contexts in which theatre operates. The integration of theoretical and practical tools culminates in a performance installation developed from a selected source text. This is a common unit shared between all students in the Performing Arts BPAs, Writing/Directing, Acting and Stage Management.

Writing & Directing

TRIMESTER 4

Bachelor units only

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE

Shared Studio

This unit aims to contextualise for students the history of Australian theatre, the political and cultural issues surrounding it and a considered examination of selected theatrical works. Students will analyse the development of Australian theatre and the movement for a national voice, contextualised by the performance tradition of the First Nations custodians of country. Students will examine current issues regarding culture and women in theatrical representation and contemporary arguments regarding authenticity, adaptation, and appropriation. This is a common unit shared between all students in the Performing Arts BPAs, Writing/Directing, Acting and Stage Management.

ELECTIVE

Creative Foundations

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Production Double Units

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit brings together students from the BPAs in Writing & Directing, Acting and Stage Management to work on a collaborative performance under the guidance of professional practitioners. The student cohort will divide to work on a text-based piece of theatre or a devised performance. Students will implement the learning they have done to date in an experiential exploration of practice and the practical application of theory. Students within each degree will self-allocate to roles appropriate to their degree and be mentored in their work by professional practitioners. The unit will also encourage self-reflection and constructively critical analysis of the work produced.

Writing & Directing

TRIMESTER 5

Bachelor units only

INTIMACY, CONSENT, STAGE COMBAT

Shared Studio

This unit brings together students from the BPAs in Writing & Directing, Acting and Stage Management to learn the principles and practices of safe physical interaction in performance. It will cover intimacy coordination, consent, fight/contact choreography, annotation of safe practice and the creation and facilitation of safe working environments for theatre and screen.

SCREENWRITING FOR SHORT FILMS

Studio Practice

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Building on the skills learnt in earlier Writing Studio units, such as structure, plot and characterisation, students will now learn how to conceptualise their ideas for a short screen-based script, how to write an outline of their screen project, and how to pitch an idea to producers. Students will continue to build skills in giving and receiving feedback. Students examine how to build audience engagement through the writer's creative choices using character, suspense, point of view and genre. Throughout the unit, students will write their own short screenbased script. This is a shared unit between Performing Arts and Screen & Media.

DIRECTING FOR SCREEN

Studio Practice

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit provides students with the skills needed to direct a short screen project and exposes them to the craft and practicalities of more complex screen production. Industry professionals will work with students to develop knowledge of screen directing techniques to explore their own aesthetic vision for screen production. This unit considers production organisation and scheduling and provides insight into career development for directors in the screen industry. Throughout the unit students will plan, shoot, edit and present a short screen project.

DEVISING PROJECT

Production

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores performance methodologies and collaborative making strategies for the creation of new devised performance work. Students will engage in applied learning of diverse performance-making processes to critically examine and develop their own collaborative practice. They will develop the necessary skills to communicate their methodologies, equipping themselves to become industry-ready, proactive, and articulate artists. This learning will culminate in the creation of a devised work responding to a range of stimuli, including texts, stories, music, and image, and presented to a live audience. This is a common unit shared between all students in the Performing Arts BPAs, Acting, Writing/Directing and Stage Management.

Writing & Directing

TRIMESTER 6

Bachelor units only

PERFORMANCE INNOVATION

Shared Studio

This unit provides students with a broad study of theories of performance, an understanding of the conceptual and material thinking underpinning historical and contemporary forms of avant-garde performance and case studies of various works and practitioners who have been influential in their innovation of performance practice. Students will learn about the frames, possibilities and limitations of performance and will gain an understanding of shifting definitions of live and recorded performance. This is a common unit shared between all students in the Performing Arts BPAs, Writing/Directing, Acting and Stage Management.

CAPSTONE PRODUCTION

Production Double Units

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit builds on the learning achieved in the Collaborative Project. This unit brings together students from the BPA (Writing & Directing), BPA (Acting) and BPA (Stage Management) to work on a collaborative performance under the guidance of professional practitioners. The student cohort will work on a text-based piece of theatre or a devised performance. Students will implement the learning they have done to date in an experiential exploration of practice and the practical application of theory. Students within each degree will self-allocate to roles appropriate to their degree and be mentored in their work by professional practitioners. The unit will also encourage self-reflection and constructive critical analysis of the work produced.

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT OR PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

Creative Foundations

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Students will be involved in the day-to-day activities of a chosen workplace where they will have the opportunity to apply some of the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that they have developed during the course. Students will be connected to a range of industry organisations and professionals. They will review their industry placement as they observe, develop, analyse and critically assess skills and knowledge acquired during this placement, and reflect on the implications for future career goals and directions, or complete a portfolio developed throughout the course.