

Victorian College of the Arts

Master of Theatre Practice

1 Background

The Proposal is for the introduction of a one-year coursework Masters degree in Theatre Practice. This course will have two concurrent parallel study areas (in Directing and Performance Creation), which will share four subjects and diverge in the focus each area gives to the nature of the project in the main practical subjects, Applied Projects 2A and 2B. This one-year Masters is intended to work as an extension of the one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Creation. It will allow high achieving students to develop an increased level of specificity in the development of their arts practice. The course will also include sufficient theoretical and research subjects to provide a stepping-stone to a professional Doctorate programme.

Postgraduate Diploma Courses in Directing and in Animateuring have been offered in Drama at the VCA since 1997. In 2006 they were amalgamated with other Drama postgraduate courses and Postgraduate Diploma courses in Dance into a Postgraduate Diploma in Performance Creation with several common and shared courses and some areas of discipline specificity. Over the years it has become clear that the intensive one year Diploma course, whilst it provides a strong base in the foundations of creative leadership in Theatre, is not long enough to take the high achieving student beyond the foundations and into the kind of advanced level in practice and theory that they seek and for which they are ready. Every year a significant proportion of the Diploma students request such advanced level tuition. The introduction of a Masters by Coursework as a second year following the Diploma course would enable many of the past graduates of the Diploma courses in Drama to return for the higher degree as well as providing incoming students with this attractive option. In particular, the course is expected to attract an increased number of international students into postgraduate study in Drama at the VCA. The Dance Discipline currently offers a Masters by Coursework in choreography. The course proposed herein would bring Drama into line with our partner in the Performance Creation Diploma. We see this also as a vital link in a chain, which can lead a Theatre practitioner into a Professional Doctorate program. Such a program is currently in preparation at the VCA.

2 Course/Program Objectives

On completion of the course, students should:

- Have developed and refined individual leadership abilities and capacities for initiating and realising projects in theatre practice
- Have significantly advanced their skills and expertise in aspects fundamental to their primary arts practice – namely directing or performance creation - such that they would be ready to work at a professional level
- Have developed the capacity to evaluate, discriminate and make informed choices as part of theatre practice within aesthetic domains
- Be able to conceptualise, realise and present original theatre and/or theatrically aligned projects
- Demonstrate highly developed problem solving abilities and flexibility of approach
- Have developed the skills of articulating the ideas and processes inherent in their creative work within the context of relevant artistic discourse and research
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of quantitative and qualitative Research processes
- Have developed their skills in collaborating with other theatre artists (actors, designers, technical personnel) in the realisation of a theatre project, such that they would be ready to work at a professional level

3 Entry Requirements

To be recommended by Academic Board at a later date.

4 Course/Program Structure

All subjects are compulsory. There is choice of focus given within each subject.

| Subjects | Points | |
|---|---------------|----------|
| Discipline Skills 2 | 12.5 | All Year |
| Cross Disciplinary Studies 2 | 12.5 | All Year |
| Performance Theory and Research Skills | 12.5 | All Year |
| Professional Experience Elective | 12.5 | All Year |
| Applied Project 2A (Directing) | 50.00 | All year |
| OR | | |
| Applied Project 2B (Performance Creation) | 50.00 | All year |
| Total Points | 100.00 | |

5 Availability of Course

The course will be available from semester 1, 2008 to CSP, Australian and international fee-paying students on a full-time basis.