

VCA Drama

New area text blocks...

Bachelor of Dramatic Art

757-112 Acting 1

Credit points: 50

Contact: 18.5 hours per week for 32 weeks. During rehearsals these hours may be extended (*Year long*).

Description: The foundations are laid for the development of the art of acting and the composition of original performances. The elements of acting are taught through classes, tutorials, projects and individual and group performances, and they include working spontaneously and using this spontaneity within the theatrical context; working authentically: emotionally, psychologically, imaginatively, physically and vocally; sustaining authenticity and concentration for the duration of a dramatic sequence; playing dramatic action, working through intention; analysing text for use in rehearsal; allowing transformation to take place using the materials of theatre and creating theatrical imagery.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the stated outcomes have been achieved. Progressive assessment (70%); rehearsal (10%); performance (20%). Students must achieve a pass in all three areas.

757-113 Voice 1

Credit points: 12.5

Contact: 6 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: Voice is a physical activity, and as such, initial work is organised around a foundation of work that allows the individual to discover interdependence of voice and body. The focus of the work lies in addressing idiosyncratic habits which may inhibit the speaking actor. The subject will include a selection from the following: physical awareness of breath in the body, muscularity, resonance, active listening, sight-reading, basic speech structures, kinaesthetic awareness of voice and language and meaning in the moment of speaking through storytelling and, approach to phonetics. Students will be expected to draw upon their experiences of awareness through movement activities such as Feldenkrais, and Alexander Technique in order to facilitate the interdependence of voice and body. There will also be some combined voice/movement classes to enhance this process.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the stated outcomes have been achieved. Progressive class assessment (70%); class assignments (20%); application of class work to rehearsal and performance (10%)

757-115 Critical Studies

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 2 hours per week (*Year long*).

Description: This subject provides an opportunity to discuss a range of ideas and issues related to culture in general, and theatre in particular, in an analytical and enquiring manner. Discussion will draw on examples from both contemporary and historical practices and will stimulate student's interest in the critical context in which culture takes place. The subject covers two main areas;

- . a general discussion of theatre/cultural practice and an introduction to reviewing or criticism including an investigation into the conventions of theatre criticism;

- . an introduction to aspects of modern theatre history with an examination of a number of influential theatrical movements through particular dramatic texts.

Students will be expected to keep a journal.

Assessment: Assessment is based on class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the stated objectives have been achieved. Students are required to present a performance manifesto of 10 minutes duration. Class participation (75%); manifesto/project (25%). In order to pass this subject, a passing grade is required in both areas.

757-116 Singing 1

Credit points: 6.25

Contact: 24 hours over 14 weeks (*Year long*).

Description: Singing 1 is devised as an integral part of Voice and students' singing skills are developed within the framework of their acting process. The singing component is introduced in the first two weeks of the year. The emphasis in the first block is to give students the understanding and confidence to approach a song as a performer, therefore a significant proportion of time is devoted to group singing and establishing an understanding of differ-

ent music styles. The second block is introduced in Semester two after the students have completed two terms of work in Voice. The subject includes: exercises to develop breathing and supple diaphragm support; the relation of posture to singing; articulation exercises and games; games to develop rhythm sharing and pitch awareness; group singing.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the stated outcomes have been achieved. Progressive class assessment (100%). This subject will not be graded, and will be recorded as P or N.

757-114 Movement 1

Credit points: 12.5

Contact: 6 hours per week (*Year long*).

Description: This foundation year aims at awakening more deeply the actor's sensitivity and performance potential through heightening their physical awareness. The playground provided is designed to encourage a sensate learning, ignite the student's curiosity and stimulate their impulse to "play". Fundamental to first year is the actors' capacity to work from a grounded centre. The qualities of strength, flexibility, coordination and stamina are regarded as vital in preparing the actors' physical availability. A strong sense of alignment, flow and release are necessary to allow vocal freedom. Awareness through Movement classes (Feldenkrais method) aim at presenting more physical choices to actors and enhancing their quality of movement. The students become available to physical patterns other than habitual tendencies, which often limit their range of expression. Students will also experience movement practices drawn from the work of Monika Pagneux. These practices enliven the performer and lead them to discover the essential components of the objectives outlined above. They encompass an exploration of sensorial perception, rhythmical play, physical improvisation, chorus work and ensemble skills.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, the degree to which the stated outcomes have been achieved, and the ability to process and integrate the material into performance work. Assessment is progressive throughout the year.

757-212 Acting 2

Credit points: 50

Prerequisites: Acting 1, Voice 1, Movement 1, Singing 1.

Contact: 24 hours per week all year. Every six weeks extra hours may be required for rehearsals and performance (*Year long*).

Description: The aim of Second Year is to consolidate the Principles of Approach to Performance and the development of a personal methodology. The training includes: the investigation of elements inherent in the making and interpreting of work within the contexts of rehearsal and performance. Emphasis is placed upon projects within which the actor will focus on Naturalism, Shakespeare, Scene Study, Contemporary Theatre; playing a series of complex characters and communicating these characters to an audience, inhabiting and communicating different worlds to an audience; continuing to work authentically and achieving this in the context of theatre, film and television; and, using heightened language and applying dramatic structure to their work.

Assessment: Learning is cumulative and progressive, increasing in difficulty as the year progresses, and no formal mark is assigned until year's end. Transformation, Mastery of Skill and Methodology and Active Reflection are fundamental to all areas of assessment. Progressive assessment (50%); rehearsal process (20%); performance (30%).

757-213 Voice 2

Credit points: 12.5

Prerequisites: Voice 1.

Contact: 4.5 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: This subject requires students to extend the kinaesthetic awareness of voice and speech developed in First Year. There is a closer examination and investigation of voice and speech techniques which can be applied to a range of texts and performance settings. Students are encouraged to work more autonomously to make choices appropriate to character, style and performance. Content includes the following as transformative elements in performance: the development and extension of breath release, placement, resonance, and range, accents and speech structures.

Assessment: Students are given ongoing class assignments within the year. These may take the form of group vocal projects, soundscapes, demonstration of technical exercises and prepared and impromptu sight-readings and progress. Progressive class assessment (50%); class assignments (10%); Transference of skills from class to performance (10%); performance (30%).

757-214 Physical Performance 2

Credit points: 12.5

Prerequisites: Movement 1

Contact: 4.5 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: The focus is upon fine-tuning the skills acquired in year 1, through each individual connecting more vividly to their physical landscape as a rich environment from which to create. Physical improvisation will be extended into sound and word play. Awareness through Movement classes (Feldenkrais method) and the fundamentals of Monika Pagneux will continue to be a practical source of support, visited at a more demanding level and used as a springboard into performance work. Simple and applied acrobatics will be practised in Semester 1, social and period dance in Semester 2.

Semester 1. This discipline extends the potential of the playful body visited in first year. It challenges the actors' sense of physical limitations, demands strength and a constant awareness of the power of the centre/pelvis. It provokes the performer with a highly dynamic form which can serve dramatic context. Semester 2 This unit is to enhance the actors aptitude in relation to stylized movement, attitude, poise, precision, coordination and partnering.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, the degree to which outcomes have been met, and the ability to process and integrate the material into performance work. Notification of unsatisfactory progress may be made at any time during the year. Progressive class assessment (50%) class assignment (20%); application of class work to performance (30%).

757-216 Singing 2

Credit points: 6.25

Prerequisites: Singing 1

Contact: 2 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: The second year of the subject emphasises interpretation as well as the development of skills introduced in Singing 1. The subject will include a selection of exercises to develop power with simultaneous freedom in the throat; articulation exercises and games; exercises to develop the different resonating areas of the body; sounds and songs which focus on the development of ear and harmony; preparation and performance of a variety of songs for the class.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the stated objectives have been achieved. Continuous class assessment (70%); performance (30%). This subject will not be graded and will be recorded as P or N.

757-217 Language

Credit points: 6.25

Prerequisites: 2nd year standing

Contact: 2 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: The purpose of this unit is to provide students with the opportunity to explore their kinaesthetic relationship to language and integrate this with formal language structures. Students will investigate how the actor is affected and changed by this relationship in order to realise vocal transformation. The subject includes: Introduction to the History of Language with a particular emphasis on Australian English; Speech Skills (including specific needs of the individual); Shakespeare; and Phonetics for Accent and Dialect work and Radio.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation and the degree to which the stated outcomes have been achieved. Progressive class assessment (50%); class assignments (10%); transference of skills from class to performance (10%); performance (30%).

757-311 Acting Projects

Credit points: 50

Prerequisites: Acting 2, Voice 2, Physical Performance 2, Language

Contact: 26 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: This is a year where the emphasis shifts to performance. Classes and/or tutorials continue and they are linked with the rehearsal and performance process. Students are now encouraged to set their own objectives in the work in consultation with a staff member. In this year there will be a series of projects which range from performing in plays from the existing repertoire, to new plays, to a Film and TV project, to original works. Acting Projects: A series of plays directed either by staff members, or guest directors or student directors. These plays will be performed to the public and could take place in a variety of venues. Performance Making: Performances may be developed dealing with a selection of the following skills: narrative, character, metaphorical coherence, thematic unity, theatrical conventions, the rule of significance (where the work expresses a significant attitude to some problem concerning humankind and/or his/her relationship to the universe). The development of this work will be guided by students preferences and needs. It could be exercise based or the time could be devoted to the rehearsal of a single piece. The work could be student or staff initiated.

Assessment: Transformation and Mastery of Skill and Methodology are fundamental to all areas of assessment in Acting Projects. Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the

stated objectives have been achieved. Rehearsal process (50%); performance (50%). In order to gain a passing grade in this subject, a pass must be achieved in both areas. Students are required to keep a journal.

757-312 Acting 3

Credit points: 18.75

Prerequisites: Acting 2, Voice 2, Language, Physical Performance 2

Contact: 4 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: The work in this area will be to consolidate the craft areas and will be dealt with on a tutorial basis or in rehearsal. All work will be related to the particular project in rehearsal. Students are required to keep a journal. Other areas covered include Auditions/ Acting for Film and Television.

Assessment: Transformation, Mastery of Skill and Methodology and Active Reflection are fundamental to all areas of assessment in Acting 3. Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the stated objectives have been achieved. Progressive class assessment (100%).

757-313 Voice 3

Credit points: 6.25

Prerequisites: Voice 1&2, Language

Contact: 2 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: This unit focuses upon The Actors Voice at Work and is designed to refine and strengthen voice skills in performance. Students are required to develop techniques and approaches which serve the vocal requirements of performance as well as maintaining technical rigour by exercising autonomy with individual practice and extending and committing to vocal imagination within the performance requirements. Class assignments are ongoing throughout the year and may take the form of prepared or impromptu sight reading, the development of choral work, group and solo prose/poetry readings and a selection of texts which extend the vocal requirements of the actor in relation to a variety of performance styles and contexts.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, the degree to which outcomes have been met, and the ability to process and integrate the material into performance work. Notification of unsatisfactory progress may be made at any time during the year. Progressive assessment (20%); class assignments (10%); voice in performance (70%).

757-314 Physical Performance 3

Credit points: 6.25

Prerequisites: Physical Performance 2

Contact: 2 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: The focus of the movement course in the third year is consolidation of skill. This will take place within the framework of performance projects. The forms of practice explored in this year (i.e. Awareness through Movement sequences, exercises relating to ensemble skills) will be tailored to address any specific themes emerging from individual or group requests. Classes and rehearsals will investigate the specific nature of the physical language now held by the individual actor and the relationship and role of that language within each performance project.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the stated outcomes have been achieved. Progressive class assessment (30%); application of class work to rehearsal and performance (70%).

757-316 Singing 3

Credit points: 6.25

Prerequisites: Singing 2

Contact: 2 hours per week all year (*Year long*).

Description: The last year of the subject focuses more intensively on the singing voice as an extension of the actors skills. The content will cover a selection of the following: exercises for breathing, resonance, power and articulation; dramatic and conceptual analysis of songs leading to performance; the process of preparation/investigation of a wide variety of songs; the preparation of performances for the class, the school and, on Performance Day or for musical productions, for the general public.

Assessment: Assessment is based upon class participation, level of preparation, and the degree to which the stated objectives have been achieved. Continuous class assessment (50%); performance (50%).