

This course overview provides a summary of the MA Stage Management programme as offered in 2011. Please note that whilst the information reflects the programme offered to date, it may be subject to amendment and change in future years.

The programme provides a thorough, professionally recognised training for graduates of any discipline who wish to work within the field of stage management or those who have worked in the theatre and related entertainment and event industries and who seek formal training.

Educational Aims

To develop high quality practitioners in the field of theatre and live performance production. The programme offers the students the opportunity to:

- Develop a systematic understanding of the theatre industry and the professional practice in its production
- Develop and apply a range of practical, communication and research skills applicable to the management of theatre production in a professional context
- Develop a critical approach to decision making in complex and unpredictable situations
- Develop self direction and originality in problem solving and act autonomously in the planning and implementation of tasks at a professional level

Practical Skills

Credits: 20

Teaching Methods: Practical demonstrations, seminars and group exercises

Assessment: Continuous assessment (100%)

Through this module students will develop a range of practical and organisation skills, associated with the role of stage management in the creation and production of theatre and live performance events. Students will learn skills including rigging and use of theatre lighting and sound equipment, the construction and rigging of theatre scenery and the use of theatre communications equipment. The module will examine the paperwork associated with theatre production and the managerial methodology associated with supporting directors, designers and actors in creating and producing live theatre events.

Management Studies

Credits: 20

Teaching Methods: Seminars and workshops

Assessment: Costed tour plan (100%)

Tuition will be given in planning skills via a team exercise to plan and cost a small scale tour. The module also examines costing methodologies and logistical problem solving and develops team skills in supporting the work of others. The latter part of the module looks at your long term career pathway through the preparation of job seeking skills and the creation of self promotion materials.

Productions

Credits: 100

Teaching Methods: Guest professionals, group sessions, individual mentoring

Assessment: Four production positions (Pass/Fail, 30%, 30%, 40%)

This module will significantly enhance students production experience in line with their career aspirations. Students will work on four productions, adopting a role within the stage management team, working through the rehearsal and production period before a run of live performances.

As an alternative to the third and/or fourth production, students may undertake a work experience placement with a professional theatre company. Also as an alternative to the fourth production, students may take a second work placement or have professional practice credited as Employment Based Experience.

Professional Practice Portfolio

Credits: 60

Teaching Methods: Tutorials, guidance seminars

Assessment: Journal (100%)

Students will embark upon a career in theatre and performance management and, over the next twelve months, develop a reflective journal of their working practice and development. Practical and academic support and mentoring will be provided by the college, either at the college campus or through distance learning methods. This allows employment to be taken in any location worldwide.