# **Drama and Theatre Arts**

# **Module Descriptions 2023/24**

# **Level H (i.e. 3rd Yr.) Modules**

Please be aware that all modules are subject to availability.

For many of these modules, some experience of studying Drama and Theatre Arts may be required, and you should remember this when choosing your modules.

Please note that at the time this document has been prepared (March 2023) the following information is provisional, and there may be minor changes between now and the beginning of 2023/24 academic year.

**Please note: Forms of assessment are currently undergoing review for 2023/24, and as a result the assessment information listed within this handbook may be subject to change.**

# **SEMESTER 2 MODULES**

## **Art of the Actor**

MODULE CODE: 24779

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1 x Essay (75%) and 1 x Group presentation (25%)

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Please note this module is only available to students who study Drama or a similar discipline at their home institution.**

**DESCRIPTION**

In what ways can we develop a contemporary understanding of acting? Over the module, we will look at some of the key questions, assumptions and metaphors concerning the training, rehearsal and performance phases of the actor. A comparative and evaluative study of the specifics of particular acting approaches will include selected historical and contemporary paradigms, which will also take account of non-Western performance. The problematic issue of emotion and psychology in acting, as well as the body in training/performance, will be reconsidered. We will also look at how the contemporary actor is positioned and some of the emerging alternative theories of how the actor’s process can be understood. We will also consider the actor in terms of skill, and how we might consider issues of inclusivity. The module is supported by a structured week by week programme of reading, and audiovisual material will also be used.

## **Alexander Technique for Performers**

MODULE CODE: 38068

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1 x essay (50%) and 1 x Practical - group performance (50%)

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Please note this module is only available to students who study practical Drama at their home institution.**

**DESCRIPTION**

This module aims to provide the student with an introduction to the Alexander Technique and an insight into its application in performance. Students will develop their performance practice on the basis of an approach promoting flourishing and wellbeing. This approach is founded on the insights of F.M. Alexander, in relation to biomechanical advantage in posture and movement, skill acquisition (including voice skills), and wellbeing. The Technique has been taught to performers for over 100 years in Conservatoires and other training establishments. Problems for the performer such as ‘stage fright’ and how to develop qualities of ‘presence’ and ‘spontaneity’ will be discussed.

## **Applied Theatre and Performance Praxis**

MODULE CODE: 38782

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1 x Workshop, 15 minutes, led by students individually and for a hypothetical community, and accompanying documentation in the form of a workshop plan (50%) and 1 x Essay (50%)

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Please note this module is only available to students who study practical Drama at their home institution.**

**DESCRIPTION**

This practical module will investigate modes of facilitating performance practices in connection with marginal and displaced peoples across complex socio-political global contexts. Critical engagement with the history of applied theatre and performance practices will help to examine the tensions between the interests of communities and institutions and how these might be responded to in praxis. Three key areas of study will drive the module: Critical histories, personal practices and new applications. As you grasp the theories and methodologies that are being adapted for diverse applied theatre and performance practices, you will develop an awareness of the positionality and sustainability needed for praxis. Ultimately, the module will prepare you to design and facilitate a workshop for a hypothetical community, practising it with peers. Weekly seminars will explore case study examples through digital archives, autoethnographic accounts, critical readings of the literature and visiting workshops; practise and evaluate methodologies by leading and participating in workshops; and facilitate personal reflection through ethnographic research techniques including transcriptions, interviews, video diaries, logbooks and blogging.

## **Live Art**

MODULE CODE: 27842

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD:

Practical: Live Art work (Typically between 10 and 20 minutes) (50%)

Reflective writing (2,000-words) (50%)

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Please note this module is only available to students who study practical Drama at their home institution.**

**DESCRIPTION**

The module will offer a practical exploration of some of the major histories, conceptualisations and practices of live art. Focusing on work produced from the 1960s onwards, the module will look at the development of performance art and live art. The module will be taught thematically, exploring areas such as ‘Feminism and Gender’, ‘Multimedia and Technologies’ and ‘Body-based art’. Each area will be examined in relation to individual artists, their practices and critical or theoretical approaches. Running throughout the module will be considerations of the interdisciplinary nature of performance/live art and reflections on the constitution of self/identity in relation to the embodied, the historical/cultural and the theoretical. The module will expand on the students’ understanding of viewpoints, proxemics, distance and the plastic arts in performance, developing the students’ critical and reflective abilities, practical skills and aesthetic sensibilities.