

Module Specification

Summary Information

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| Module Code | 4602TPT |
| Formal Module Title | Essential Production Skills |
| Career | Undergraduate |
| Credits | 30 |
| Academic level | FHEQ Level 4 |
| Module Pass Mark | 40 |

Learning Methods

| Learning Method Type | Hours |
|----------------------|-------|
| Lecture | 60 |
| Workshop | 140 |

Module Offering(s)

| Start Month | Duration |
|-------------|----------|
| September | 28 Weeks |

Aims and Outcomes

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| Aims | This module will introduce the student to the basic theories, practice, skills, and technologies used in the core backstage professions of stage management, lighting, sound, stage rigging, scenic construction and prop making. This forms a strong foundation to enable the student to choose a pathway of study at level 5. This module also equips the student with basic safe working knowledge and practical core competencies in design and technical tasks that consider industry expectations as well as LIPA in-house safe working practices through exploration of the legal health & safety obligations explicit in the workplace. These competencies will enable the learner to work in an informed and safe manner. |
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Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

| Code | Description |
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| ML01 | Demonstrate abilities in fundamental backstage production-related skills, associated with stage management, lighting, sound, stage rigging, scenic construction and prop making. |
| ML02 | Identify and implement industry and discipline specific health and safety regulations and safe working practices. Selecting and using tools and equipment safely, competently, and appropriately. |
| ML03 | Produce a portfolio of work that records the development of skills and learning of each backstage discipline, supported by further individual research, self-reflection, and analysis of areas for personal development. |
| ML04 | Document the development of ideas and research throughout a design process from initial concept to the final design in the form of a designer's journal. |
| ML05 | Employ good interpersonal and collaborative skills when working on production-based tasks. |

Module Content

Outline Syllabus

Students will study each backstage discipline through a series of lectures, practical sessions, demonstrations, group tasks, projects, and workshops. Although each subject is taught separately, connections will be made and there will be common topics, such as the role and hierarchy of the department and the relationships to the rest of the production team and the production process; the related health and safety practices; and theatre terminology. Students will be introduced to essential technical production skills that may include:

Stage Management: Reading and understanding a text identifying the challenges and issues it presents to the stage management team. Preparing a book, recording rehearsal notes, and blocking. Marking up a rehearsal space. Making up a props list, basic prop making techniques, finding rehearsal props, marking up a props table. Practical workshops in cueing, stage setting, stage managing and using the associated technology.

Lighting: Introduction to lighting systems, cables, and tools. Understanding lighting plans and paperwork. Theatre lighting fixture types. Rigging and focusing workshops. DMX protocol and controlling intelligent fixtures. The language of light and how light can be a contributing and communicative element of performance. Designing with colour. Practical lighting as performance group workshops.

Sound: The physics of sound. Introduction to basic sound reinforcement systems and components. Console architecture. Introduction to monitors for live sound. Introduction to theatre sound design. Microphone theory and practice. analogue and digital recording/playback. The production process and running a show. Introduction to system optimisation.

Stage Rigging: Introduction to stage rigging equipment and the related approved codes of practice and regulations. Practical workshops in counterweight flying operation and rigging a temporary flying system. Knot tying for stage work.

Scenic Construction: Induction to safe practice in the construction workshop. Types of hand tools and machinery. Types of materials and their uses. Basic construction techniques. Workshops in woodworking construction.

Prop Making: The process of prop making. Common materials. Basic techniques. Practical workshop.

Health and Safety: Working at height and the use of in-house access equipment, such as stepladders, extension ladders, Zarges, Tallescopes and Genie platforms. Use of chemicals, solvents and flammable or volatile substances. Fire safety at work and fire procedures in the performance venues. Risk assessing and construction design and management regulations.

Module Overview

This module introduces the basic theories, practice, skills, and technologies used in the core backstage professions of stage management, lighting, sound, stage rigging, scenic construction and prop making. This allows you an opportunity to experience a broad range of fundamental practical technical skills, underpinned by industry and discipline specific health and safety regulations and safe working practices.

Assessments

| Assignment Category | Assessment Name | Weight | Exam/Test Length (hours) | Learning Outcome Mapping |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Portfolio | Portfolio of Learning | 100 | 0 | ML01, ML02, ML03, ML04, ML05 |