

2010



salamanca performing arts
course in entertainment

Advanced Diploma of Stage Management
Diploma in Live Production, Theatre and Events

COURSE INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Contact:

Guy Hooper – Course Coordinator

Salamanca Arts Centre
77 Salamanca Place
Hobart TAS 7004

Phone: 03 62 203 152
Mobile: 0421 276 122
Fax: 62 347 330
Email: space@salarts.org.au
Web: spacetasmania.org.au



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Diploma in Live Production, Theatre and Events

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1. AIM OF THE COURSE

The Salamanca Performing Arts Course in Entertainment (SPACE) aims to produce graduates with the broad-based knowledge and practical skills required to gain and sustain professional employment in the arts and entertainment industry

- as a member of the technical crew on a show or event,
- as an employee of a theatre-based or independent production company,
- as a team member or leader of a production crew in a variety of venues and industry contexts.

What you can get out of SPACE

Technical production in theatre and live events is an area with good prospects for employment, and is currently forecast to continue as a growth sector of the economy.

SPACE delivers training in a variety of specialisations designed to prepare students for a career in their chosen field. SPACE students have opportunities to gain technical skills in a range of areas including lighting, sound, staging, stage management or set and props making. Students will be individually counselled in the selection of the most suitable subjects based on their occupational goals.

Completion of Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses can lead to work in:

- theatre, corporate presentation, festivals, and other live entertainment,
- film and television productions,
- contemporary music performance,
- display construction, and
- tourism-linked entertainment such as theme parks, casinos and cruise ships.

2. WHO IS LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED

The SPACE course will appeal to people who see themselves as being engaged in the entertainment industry as technicians or managers in either theatre or events, whether as full-time or as committed part-time professionals. In particular it will appeal to:

1. School-leavers seeking to make a professional career in the entertainment industry;
2. People who wish to gain accredited, nationally portable, in-demand skills, which can lead to regular work;
3. People who already have experience in any combination of professional, amateur, cooperative or community-based theatre, and who wish to refine their skills and gain formal recognition for them.

3. OVERVIEW

The SPACE course is part of the National Entertainment Industry Training Package. Students can enroll in the Diploma of Technical Operations or the Advanced Diploma of Stage Management and will be trained and assessed in a number of core units, stream units and electives.

On successful completion of the course, graduates will receive a nationally recognized Advanced Diploma or Diploma.

4. CAMPUS

The SPACE course is currently delivered from the campus of the Tasmanian Polytechnic and Tasmanian Academy Hobart Campus, Olinda Grove Mount Nelson. The Campus has a fully equipped 600 seat proscenium arch theatre with fly tower, dressing rooms and foyers as well as a large drama studio with a fixed lighting grid, workshop and props bay. SPACE also accesses other Hobart Campus facilities including computer labs, workshops, electronics lab, library and audio-visual services.

5. DELIVERY METHODS

SPACE offers extensive, practical, 'hands-on' training structured around three methodologies:

- Concentrated formal delivery of contemporary practices by industry professionals
- Extensive practice and development of skills on SPACE and Hobart Campus productions
- Work placements or employment in the professional industry.

Delivery modes include workshop demonstration and practice, lectures, independent learning assignments, tutorials, production and workplace training.

6. DURATION AND CONTACT HOURS

The course is two years full time (40 contact weeks per year). Students are expected to work weekdays and possibly some Saturdays from February through to December, with breaks equivalent to school holidays. During performance projects and industry placements, after-hours work is also expected.

7. ATTENDANCE

Punctual attendance at all classes and all other calls is **compulsory** except in cases of illness, where medical certification is required. This reflects normal expectations in the industry.

Attendance records will be kept for each subject and these will form part of a student's final assessment.

8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should be at least 17 years of age with TCE qualifications preferred but not mandatory or be of mature age with appropriate industry experience.

They will normally need to be of sound health and fitness, with a willingness to work long hours. They will also need to be able to demonstrate a strong desire to work in the entertainment industry.

All applicants will be required to participate in a selection interview to help determine their suitability for the course.

Applicants who do not meet aspects of the entry requirements but who can demonstrate real commitment to the entertainment industry may be admitted at the discretion of the selection panel.

9. STUDENT PROFILE

To enable students to have a high expectation of successfully completing the Advanced Diploma or Diploma they should possess the following skills and personal attributes.

- Previous experience in school, amateur, semi-professional or professional theatre or other areas of the entertainment industry.
- The ability to communicate courteously and effectively with a wide range of people.
- A realistic view of the Entertainment Industry as a career and a general awareness of working conditions.
- High motivation for creating a career as a designer or technician in the entertainment industry.
- The ability to take substantial individual responsibility for the standard of their own work.
- The ability to manage time effectively and independently plan their study schedule.
- The ability to work both independently and collaboratively to achieve team goals.
- Sufficient flexibility to adapt to attendance requirements for classes and productions.
- The willingness to study and work at times when your friends will be socialising.
- Experience with or no fear of learning to use hand and power tools.
- Written and spoken English.
- The ability to undertake reasonably hard physical tasks including loading trucks and containers, lifting and climbing.
- The stamina to work long hours per day, for several days without a day off, when required.
- The ability to work at heights on ladders and elevated platforms, have a head for heights or be able to develop the skill.
- Awareness of any allergies, particularly to adhesives, workshop air borne particles, for example MDF.
- Awareness of any anomaly to accurate colour perception.

Applicants who are most successful are those who have studied to year 12, including maths and physics to at least year 10, and who also have sufficient previous experience to make an informed choice when selecting this course.

10. COURSE STRUCTURE

The subject streams being offered in 2010 are

- Core Units also incorporating underpinning units. These units are compulsory for all students.
- Audio/ Lighting
- Stage management
- Sets and Props

For detailed subject information see appendix A

11. PATHWAYS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The SPACE course is excellent preparation for entry into theatre or drama degree programs at university level, and further study at institutions such as the School of Visual and Performing Arts University of Tasmania, NIDA, the VCA or WAPPA.

12. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Assessment of the all units will be conducted in accordance with the assessment guidelines and competency standards of the official Training Packages.

Whilst some streams and levels of study require a higher content of theory, written and research skills, the ultimate criteria for assessment is a student's ability to demonstrate competency under pressure on shows in productions in their selected streams.

Individual assessments will be conducted for each unit of the course, and the processes will be valid, reliable, fair and flexible. The assessment procedures and criteria for judging performance will be made clear to all participants enrolled in this course.

13. RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Students who have gained skills through other formal studies in the same related area, informal, 'on-the-job', training or experience and who believe that they have the required skills to meet the assessment criteria of a unit offered in this Training Package, may apply for recognition of those skills. RPL is processed after the applicant has been accepted into the course and may be discussed at the Subject Selection Interview prior to enrolment. Fees apply to RPL and the process of gaining recognition may involve formal assessment.

14. FEES

The maximum fee that a student will pay for this course in a calendar year is currently capped at **\$990** per annum. Fees are calculated individually for each student based on the units of study selected and the cost of delivering those units.

Students who are holders of a Pensioner Concession Card, a Health Care Card, or a Veterans Affairs Pensioner Card are eligible for a concession that is currently capped at **\$275**

Students will graduate with no HECS debt.

15. CONTACT INFORMATION

Guy Hooper
SPACE Coordinator

Phone: 03 62 203 152
Mobile: 0421 276 122 (Coordinator)
Fax: 03 62 347330
Email: space@salarts.org.au

APPENDIX A

FIRST YEAR

CORE UNITS

Source and apply entertainment industry knowledge
Participate in OHS processes
Work with others
Manage own work and learning
Use hand tools
Use power tools/hand held operations
Handle physical elements safely during bump in / bump out
Produce simple word-processed documents
Create and use spreadsheets

AUDIO / LIGHTING 1 STREAM

Apply a general knowledge of audio to work activities
Select and manage microphone and other audio inputs
Install, align and test audio equipment
Operate professional audio equipment
Repair and maintain audio equipment
Apply a general knowledge of lighting to work activities
Repair and maintain production equipment
Prepare, install and test lighting equipment
Record and operate standard lighting cues

Electives

Analyse performance outline/script
Apply a general knowledge of theatrical rigging

STAGE MANAGEMENT 1 STREAM

Analyse performance outline/script
Create update and use production reference documents
Organise and facilitate rehearsals
Plot and rehearse cues

Electives

Apply a general knowledge of staging to work activities
Apply a general knowledge of theatrical rigging
Apply a general knowledge of audio to work activities
Apply a general knowledge of lighting to work activities

SETS & PROPS 1 STREAM

Apply set construction techniques
Research, obtain and prepare props
Apply a general knowledge of props construction
Apply a general knowledge of staging to work activities
Repair, maintain and alter props
Produce technical drawings

Electives

Apply a general knowledge of audio to work activities
Apply a general knowledge of lighting to work activities
Apply a general knowledge of theatrical rigging
Analyse performance outline/script

SECOND YEAR

CORE UNITS

Implement workplace health, safety and security procedures
Manage people performance
Promote team effectiveness
Manage risk
Organise and monitor bump in/ bump out
Coordinate production operations
Establish and manage production requirements and resources

AUDIO / LIGHTING 2 STREAM

Operate wireless audio equipment
Mix live audio
Set up and operate stage monitor systems
Manage and compile audio replay material
Install and operate follow spots
Explore the use of colour
Set up, record and operate lighting cues and effects
Record and operate lighting using advanced techniques

Electives

Provide First Aid (Workplace II Senior First Aid) St John
Compile production schedules

STAGE MANAGEMENT 2 STREAM

Call the production/event
Stage manage the production/event
Compile production schedules
Manage a budget
Realise productions

Electives

Provide First Aid (Workplace II Senior First Aid) St John
Research, obtain and prepare props

SETS & PROPS 2 STREAM

Make sets
Undertake a basic construction project
Use casting and moulding techniques to make props
Construct mechanical props
Produce computer-aided drawings

Electives

Provide First Aid (Workplace II Senior First Aid) St John
Compile production schedules