

COMEDY

TRIMESTER 1 - Bachelor & Diploma units

DEVISING FOR PERFORMANCE

→ Material Creation

In this unit, students are introduced to the foundations of devising material for performance through improvisation as a process, exploring sources of creative inspiration and responding to stimuli such as an image, a storyline, a theme, a character, or historical documents. Students devise material considering the style, form, content and purpose of the work, exploring different forms of devising for performance.

ACTING FOUNDATIONS

→ Performance

In this unit, students are introduced to the foundations of acting. Delivered in a studio environment, students are introduced to the idea of the body being the actor's instrument as they explore fundamental relaxation, movement and vocal techniques. Students encounter different approaches to acting practice and have the opportunity to develop an awareness of spontaneity and cooperation.

TRIMESTER 2 - Bachelor & Diploma units

WRITING COMEDY FOR LIVE SOLO PERFORMANCE

→ Material Creation

In this unit, students learn how to write comedy for live solo performances. They are introduced to the comic monologue through an examination of historical and contemporary examples. They apply this practically by writing and developing their own comic monologue through in-class workshops.

CREATING A CHARACTER

→ Performance

In this unit, students can create a character who is different from themselves. In a studio environment, they explore different ways of creating a character – from the external expression through physicality, costume, and movement and then apply this knowledge practically, bringing the character to life.

TRIMESTER 3 - Bachelor only units

WRITING COMEDY FOR LIVE ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

→ Material Creation

In this unit, students explore various techniques for writing comedy for live ensemble performance. Students are introduced to form and the comedic scene through historical and contemporary examples. Students will write their own material which they'll continually develop through class workshops.

LIVE COMEDIC PERFORMANCE

→ Performance

In this unit, students have the opportunity to focus on their live comedic performance and stand up persona. Students are introduced to the minutiae of comedic performance such as timing, voice, movement, and comic text. Students will also further develop their clowning and mime knowledge.

THEORIES OF HUMOUR

→ Theory

In this unit, students are introduced to the foundations of comedy, becoming familiar with principal theories of humour such as The Relief Theory, The Superiority Theory, and The Incongruity Theory. Students examine the relationship of humour to emotion and cognition and explore the ethical questions that arise around the morality of humour and its meaning in contemporary society.

CRITICAL THINKING

→ Industry Production

In this unit, students are introduced to critical thinking and communication skills. These skills are developed by exploring modes of analysis, problem-solving, reflection, evaluation and creation. Students will be presented with artistic works and industry issues, which they will then critically evaluate, embracing both analytic and synthetic thinking.

INTERCULTURAL HISTORY OF COMEDY

→ Theory

In this unit, students explore the regional and cultural aspects of humour and its reception across cultures, including the humour in Australian Aboriginal storytelling. They learn how humour is influenced by social norms and cultural factors and examine its effectiveness to audiences when shared among those with comparable perceptions, attitudes, and knowledge. Students also explore various global historic theatrical traditions of humour.

THE SELF-PRODUCING COMEDIAN

→ Industry Production

In this unit, students are presented with a broad survey of the comedy industry. They will explore the business, creative and personal skills required to succeed in the comedy industry both locally and internationally. Students will learn from industry professionals with presentations providing a broad overview of the industry environment. This comprehensive industry overview is intended to assist students in producing their own live show as a stand-up comedy professional.

COMEDY GENRES

→ Theory

In this unit, students are introduced to the concept of genre in comedy. They learn how comedy genres emerge from the source of humour as well as medium and context. Students will study genres such as anecdotal, black, character-based, improvisational, musical, physical, slapstick, wit, satire, farce, sketch, surreal, romantic, tragi-comedy, spoof, sitcom and vaudeville.

PUBLICITY & PROMOTIONS

→ Industry Production

In this unit, students gain an understanding of core promotional activities and develop their written and verbal communication skills. They learn the ethical and regulatory issues associated with promotion and publicity as well as explore the unique characteristics of TV, radio, print, and online as distinctive media.

TRIMESTER 4 - Bachelor only units

WRITING COMEDY FOR AUDIO

→ Material Creation

In this unit, students develop their writing skills with a particular focus on radio, podcasts, and voiceover. Through the development and pitching of an original concept, students learn how the role of writer as story-artist contributes to the development of scenarios. This covers traditional narrative structure, such as the three-act structure, as well as non-linear narrative, character development, writing for an aural medium, point of view, and aural literacy, including editing.

DIRECTING COMEDY

→ Performance

In this unit, students focus on the development of the director's artistic vision. Students are guided through the directorial process from the pre-production stage, and script analysis, through to rehearsals, and production of a live performance or filming and editing of a scene. Students learn effective communication styles, they will understand the development of leadership knowledge and skills from comedic actors to the production crew.

TRIMESTER 5 - Bachelor only units

WRITING COMEDY FOR SCREEN

→ Material Creation

In this unit, students are introduced to the methods of screenwriting for comedy. Through the development and pitching of an original concept, students learn how the role of the writer as a story-artist contributes to the development of scenarios. Students will create a screenplay for a comedic production such as a web series, sitcom or short-film.

COMEDIC PERFORMANCE FOR SCREEN

→ Performance

In this unit, students build upon previous theoretical and practical foundations and have the opportunity to focus closely on their comedic screen performance. Students are introduced to comedic performance techniques such as timing, voice, working with comic text, physicality and eye line.

TRIMESTER 6 - Bachelor only units

CAPSTONE CREATIVE PROJECT

→ Theory, Performance, Material Creation

In this unit, students will complete the production of a final creative project – a live performance, video, or podcast. Students will produce, devise, and/or write performance, in which they can perform. Students will develop the scope of working in a professional environment, whether on a solo project or as a member of a collaborative team.

PROGRESSIVE COMEDIES

→ Theory

In this unit, students learn the way comedy is used to frame intimate and political crises, to challenge hegemony with radical ideas. The unit explores comic theory, and students analyse the relationships between comedy, politics, religion, identity, liberty, feminism, gender, queer theory and various challenging topics.

LIVE PRODUCTION

→ Industry Production

In this unit, students are introduced to the live production elements of a comedy performance. Students explore scripted requirements to inform costume, props, stage design, lighting design, and sound design and are introduced to the various roles within the creative and professional theatrical environment. Students will develop their own live comedy show.

SCREEN COMEDY

→ Theory

In this unit, students are introduced to comedy on screen. They will analyse film genres, comedy developed for television and Internet streaming services. Students will learn the content, and production values so they can make sophisticated judgements about the comedy.

SCREEN PRODUCTION

→ Industry Production

In this unit, students are introduced to the planning and shooting elements of production from lighting, camera placement to editing processes. Students will explore the creative methods used to develop a comedic film scene as they collaboratively design a production using lighting, props, costumes, sound design, and music.

CREATIVE ARTS BUSINESS

→ Industry Production

In this unit, students explore the business, creative and personal skills required to succeed in the comedy industry. Students will research leading comedy practices to aid personal career development as they have the chance to network with industry professionals to further refine their career direction and vision. They will learn the skills required to maintain relationships with industry professionals and suppliers while applying business and marketing practices to support their success in the industry.