Module: Physical Theatre *by AME*

Code: PFA1006

15 credits at level HE4

Description and Purpose of Module

This is predominately a skills based module providing a practical exploration of physical approaches to theatrical performance. The learners will investigate a range of physical techniques through workshop participation and the study of the works of contemporary practitioners. They will apply these skills and knowledge to devise a physical performance project.

Indicative Syllabus Content

1 Physical approaches and techniques

Individual skills: character, rhythm, control, balance, focus, response, travelling, dynamics, fluency, motif, mime, strength, stamina, definition, movement accuracy, physical and mental commitment.

Contact work: balance, counter-balance, lifts, catches, trust

Group work: the physical ensemble, choral movement placement in space, timing, group rhythms, tableaux, interaction, movement dynamic, voice and movement, physical expression of sound and words, physical comedy.

2 Contact improvisation

Exploration: pairs/trio/small groups, using stimulus, spontaneous, structured, use of music to determine mood, use of props, in character, personal and general space

Development: applying direction

3 Physical performance project

Selecting material: stimulus for devising, text, research, sound, observation, video, music, and voice

Application of skills: selection of technique, devising process, adapting taught exercises, creating original material

Performance: space, timing, confidence, body control, cohesion, group dynamic, individual role, dramatic effectiveness, style, originality

4 Contemporary practitioners

Total theatre: e.g. Steven Berkoff, Volcano Theatre Company, Frantic Assembly, Kaos Theatre Company
Lecoq based work: e.g. Trestle Theatre Company, The Right Size, John Wright Company,
Hoipoloi Theatre Company, recent work by Theatre de Complicite
Dance-Theatre work: e.g. DV8, V-tol, Erzatz, The Charnock Company, Edwards and Watton, Yolande Snaith

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

This module is predominantly practical as learners explore physical theatre techniques and contact improvisation. They should be allowed plenty of time to experiment with this and given the chance to develop exploratory material. The module will culminate in a project, which will provide the opportunity to demonstrate skills, knowledge and experience in a creative way. The study of contemporary practitioners should be taught alongside the practical work, so it is constantly informing their own work.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

	Learning Outcomes when you have successfully completed this module you will:	Assessment Criteria to demonstrate that you have achieved the learning outcome you will:
1.	Investigate a range of physical approaches and techniques	• contribute effectively to physical workshops • respond appropriately to physical theatre exercises and develop exercises to meet the needs of the performance context
2.	Explore the potential of contact improvisation as a way to devise material	• work with others in a spontaneous physical way • use a variety of stimuli as a starting point for improvisation
3.	Apply appropriate skills and knowledge to a physical performance project	• select and adapt physical techniques to meet the needs of the performance and contribute effectively to the devising and performance process • demonstrate an understanding of contemporary practices through performance
4.	Analyse and place in context the work of contemporary practitioners	• analyse contemporary developments within the field of physical theatre • recognise the role of physical performance in the context of theatre practice

Assessment

Your achievement of the learning outcomes for this module will be tested as follows:

Type	PRA	PRE	CW
Description	Rehearsal process	Performance	Portofolio - research, 1000 word report
%age	40	40	20
Final Assessment	N	N	Y
Learning Outcomes	1,2	3	4

Prerequisite Module(s)

There are no prerequisites for this module.

Barred Combinations

No restrictions apply.

Indicative Reading

Callery, D. (2001) Through the Body: A Practical Guide to Physical Theatre. London: Nick Hern

Dennis, A. (2002) The Articulate Body: The Physical Training of the Actor. London: Nick Hern

Murray, S., Keefe J. (2007) Physical Theatres: A Critical Introduction. London: Routledge

Wrigh,t J. (2006) Why is that so Funny? A Practical Exploration of Physical Comedy. London: Nick Hern

DVD
2006 DV8 The Cost of Living

Module Type:	STAN
Module Length:	1
Host Subject Group:	Theatre and Film Studies
Version Number::	0.1

Activity Log

User Name	Date Accessed	Action
mt1	14/01/2010 17:36:53	added
Admin	01/07/2010 10:51:29	Ammended
mn2	01/07/2010 15:28:38	Ammended
Admin	01/07/2010 17:04:51	Revalidated
Admin	01/07/2010 17:10:13	Ammended
Admin	01/07/2010 17:13:20	Revalidated
at2ext	02/12/2010 18:40:19	Ammended
Admin	26/01/2011 16:30:06	Revalidated

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