

BFA ACTING

Course Overview 2025

First Year

SEMESTER ONE

ACT7104A Engagement with Technique A (30 credit points)

Grounding in the self.

In your first semester of training, you will be introduced to foundational skills in acting, movement, music and voice, which together form the basis of effective, sustainable and imaginative performance. Learning is mostly experiential and practical. You will also explore what it is to work safely in an ensemble of actors, to reflect on process, and to carry out independent research into texts and character.

ACT7105A Application of Technique A (15 credit points)

Grounding in the self.

Throughout the first semester of training, you will apply the foundational skills acquired in acting, movement, music and voice in exercises and projects designed to develop creative and imaginative responses in the actor. You will work on your own, in pairs, and as an ensemble, to develop your collaborative storytelling skills.

COM7101A Encountering Performance A (10 credit points)

The focus for this subject is how we respond to the performances we experience as audience members. Whether debriefing after a company run or brainstorming for inspiration, a core skill for all performing arts practitioners is sharing observations and reflections from works we have encountered in the past. In this subject, you learn interdisciplinary frameworks for discussing performances with others and transforming your audience experiences from immediate into considered, researched responses.

COM7103A Winjara A (5 credit points)

Winjara encompasses two subjects that span the first year of study. You will be guided from a First Nations perspective towards concepts of interconnectivity, and you will practice deep listening, empathy, communication and collaboration. The focus of these subjects is to create

the foundations for a long-term sustainable professional practice in the arts. You will be introduced to the foundational skills, vocabularies and processes which will underlie your ongoing engagement in the BFA courses, and the development of your practice as creative storytellers. This includes processes for ensuring safe and sustainable collaboration, as well as maintaining your health and wellbeing across your creative careers.

SEMESTER TWO

ACT7104B Engagement with Technique B (30 credit points)

Extending from the self.

As you move into your second semester of training, you will deepen your technical skills in all four disciplines — acting, movement, music and voice — and start to consider your performance in relation to different audiences and spaces. You will find that training increasingly integrates the disciplines, and that there is more engagement with language, style and scale.

ACT7105B Application of Technique B (15 credit points)

Extending from the self.

You will be offered new challenges as an actor as the complexity of exercises increases. You will work to extend your growing skills by applying them in more complex situations that further enhance the imaginative engagement and response of the actor in storytelling, in both stage and screen contexts.

COM7101B Performance and Ideas B (10 credit points)

In the second semester of this subject you will begin to contextualise your own creative foundations as an emerging practitioner. You will develop your dramaturgical skills in order to articulate how meaning is made in performance for artists and audience.

COM7103B Wiṇara B (5 credit points)

Wiṇara encompasses two subjects that span the first year of study. You will be guided from a First Nations perspective towards concepts of interconnectivity, and you will practice deep listening, empathy, communication and collaboration. The focus of these subjects is to create the foundations for a long-term sustainable professional practice in the arts. You will be introduced to the foundational skills, vocabularies and processes which will underlie your ongoing engagement in the BFA courses, and the development of your practice as creative storytellers. This includes processes for ensuring safe and sustainable collaboration, as well as maintaining your health and wellbeing across your creative careers.

Second Year

SEMESTER ONE

ACT7204A Engagement with Technique A (30 credit points)

The expressive character.

You will extend acting, movement, music and voice technical skills. Through iterative experiential exercises and practical critical analysis, you will explore a range of expressive characterisation techniques. You will work with both found and devised texts that strengthen the individual disciplines, and increasingly integrate them across the semester.

ACT7205A Application of Technique A (20 credit points)

Moving towards other.

You will be introduced to the principles of transformation and characterisation. Using your accumulated technical skills, you will engage with two workshop productions that will enable you to explore the process of bringing characters to life through your creative and imaginative responses.

COM7204A Staging Ideas A (10 credit points)

During this subject you will gain a theoretical and critical understanding of significant forms and conventions within the Modernist avant-garde. In being introduced to Modernism's artistic movements, you will also develop an understanding of the contextual influences that shaped these practices. This knowledge will help you to actively relate avant-garde practices to 21st century performance in a range of cultural contexts

SEMESTER TWO

ACT7204B Engagement with Technique B (30 credit points)

Character transformation.

You will be required to embody the theoretical, technical and practical applications of the four disciplines of acting, movement, music and voice when working with a variety of complex language-based, physical and sung texts from a range of theatrical genres. Focus is given to the whole process of characterisation, including creation, actualisation and sustainment of character.

ACT7205B Application of Technique B (15 credit points)

Developing characterisation.

Building upon the work completed in the previous semester, you will deepen your understanding of how to develop characters. You will apply your technical skills to create

characters in both theatrical and screen contexts, with a focus on your individual creative process

COM7204B Contexts of Performance B (10 credit points)

You will engage in discussion and inquiry about the ideas and practices that inform contemporary performance in a variety of forms and contexts. This subject aims to develop your knowledge of and critical response to 21st century contemporary performance practices.

COM7203B Student-Led Project B (5 credit points)

In interdisciplinary groups you will draw on the individual strengths, knowledge and abilities of each member to work together and deepen your understanding of collaborative practices and giving and receiving feedback. The creative outcome will reflect a work-in-progress experience as a demonstration, installation, interactive event, video/audio display or other form.

Third Year

SEMESTER ONE

ACT7302A Acting Interdisciplinary Collaboration A (30 credit points)

Working as a company.

You will learn how to work with professional acting principles and practices in a collaborative setting. You will work with your peers from a diverse range of NIDA courses to realise staged performances. You will bring your technique and skills to the process of making, which may involve working on devised and/or contemporary performance works.

ACT7303A Acting Professional Practice A (15 credit points)

The actor and the profession.

You will begin the process of preparing to enter the industry at the completion of your course. You will work with industry professionals to accumulate the skills and awareness that will aid you in the self-management of an independent career in the performing arts.

ACT7304A Engagement with Technique A (15 credit points)

Synthesising skills.

You will deepen your understanding of how to apply body, voice and musical skills in the development of complex theatrical forms. Your work will explore both existing text and repertoire along with self-generated material that seeks to holistically integrate multiple

disciplines into a synthesised, coherent and expressive form of performance. You will be encouraged to embody specific techniques, and simultaneously celebrate your individuality and unique qualities as an actor.

SEMESTER TWO

ACT7302B Acting Interdisciplinary Collaboration B (30 credit points)

The actor and the audience.

You will further prepare yourself for entering the industry by developing greater awareness of the relationship between the actor and their audience. You will work on both screen and live works in order to skillfully manage the performance requirements specific to each audience.

ACT7303B Acting Professional Practice B (15 credit points)

Honing your professional skills.

You will meet and engage with industry professionals and gain further knowledge and understanding of the working processes in the performing arts industries. You will hone your skills through a series of exercises designed to increase your confidence and readiness to enter the industry.

ACT7304B Engagement with Technique B (15 credit points)

The creative actor.

You will deepen your understanding of how to apply voice, body and musical skills in selected acting scenarios for the stage and screen. Your work is encouraged to couple self-generated material with existing physical and written texts, in order to generate complex and integrated skills in performance scenarios that meet the standards of the professional entertainment industry.