

BFA TECHNICAL THEATRE AND STAGE MANAGEMENT

Course Overview 2026

First Year

SEMESTER ONE

TSM7102A TTSM Interdisciplinary Collaboration A (15 credit points)

In this subject, disciplines collaborate to realise NIDA's major play production seasons. In your first year you will undertake both a technical crew role and an assistant stage management role, reflective of those within professional live performance contexts. You will be required to complete both roles on alternate play production seasons during the year.

TSM7104A Technical Theatre A (15 credit points)

In this subject, you will be introduced to foundational concepts and processes of lighting, sound, and video for performance. Through conceptual exploration and practical application, you will explore the fundamental principles and systems of these disciplines.

TSM7105A Stage Management A (10 credit points)

Your first stage management subject will introduce you to the fundamental concepts and practices of stage management. Beginning with the role of the Assistant Stage Manager, key skills development will include rehearsal room mark up, basic risk assessment and Work Health & Safety procedures, props sourcing and sustainable practices.

TSM7107A Dramaturgy and Performance Analysis A (5 credit points)

In this subject, you will learn the foundational skills and frameworks for analysing theatre and live performance. Through practical experiences and field trips, you will engage in critical discussions to contextualise your practice and that of others.

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. This foundational appreciation for how audiences participate in all performances prepares you for the more technical, dramatic frameworks you will apply with peers in the Term 3 subject, Doing Dramaturgy.

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

TSM7102B TTSM Interdisciplinary Collaboration B (15 credit points each)

In this subject, disciplines collaborate to realise NIDA's major play production seasons. In your first year you will undertake both a technical crew role and an assistant stage management role, reflective of those within professional live performance contexts. You will be required to complete both roles on alternate play production seasons during the year.

TSM7107B Dramaturgy and Performance Analysis B (5 credit points)

In this subject, you will learn the foundational skills and frameworks for script analysis, in order to develop your ability to engage in critical discussions to contextualise storytelling and meaning.

TSM7108B Production Processes B (25 credit points)

This is a practical subject that will teach you how different production and design disciplines collaborate in the production process. You will learn and apply skills in sound and video design, content creation, lighting programming and plotting, running a rehearsal room, calling a show, and common theatrical conventions and staging solutions.

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 Wujara B (5 credit points)

Wujara 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

TSM7202A TTSM Interdisciplinary Collaboration A (15 credit points each)

In this subject, disciplines continue to collaborate to fully realise a range of NIDA productions. In your second year, you will undertake a technical supervision role and a stage management role, reflective of those within professional live performance contexts. You will be required to complete both roles on alternate play production seasons during the year

TSM7204A Technical Theatre A (15 credit points)

In this subject, you will explore the practice and processes of lighting, sound, and video design and expand your knowledge of technical systems. Predominantly through practical application, you will investigate multichannel and immersive sound design, live sound mixing, video content creation and basic animation techniques, advanced video playback and integration (including projection mapping and multi-display surface systems), advanced lighting control, technical system networking, technical drawing and theatrical illusions.

TSM7205A Stage Management A (15 credit points)

Building upon the foundational skills learnt in first year, in second year you will focus on stage management in specialist environments and contexts, including musicals and opera. You will develop your skills in score reading, as well as in complex risk management.

TSM7207A Dramaturgy and Performance Analysis A (5 credit points)

This subject continues the development of your skills in analysing a range of performance forms. There will be a specific focus on visual dramaturgy, sonic dramaturgy, movement dramaturgy, and new and emerging dramaturgies.

COM7204A Contexts of Performance A (10 credit points)

This subject encompasses two subjects that span the second year of study. You will explore the impact that a range of 20th century artistic movements and key performance practitioners have on contemporary creative practices.

SEMESTER TWO

TSM7202B TTSM Interdisciplinary Collaboration B (15 credit points each)

In this subject, disciplines continue to collaborate to fully realise a range of NIDA productions. In your second year, you will undertake a technical supervision role and a stage management role, reflective of those within professional live performance contexts. You will be required to complete both roles on alternate play production seasons during the year

TSM7207B Dramaturgy and Performance Analysis B (5 credit points)

This subject further continues the development of your skills in analysing a range of performance forms. There will be a specific focus on visual dramaturgy, sonic dramaturgy, movement dramaturgy, and new and emerging dramaturgies.

TSM7208B Production Processes B (25 credit points)

In this practical subject, you will continue to learn the ways in which different disciplines collaborate in the realisation of a production project. This year, you will apply those skills to expanded performance environments. Areas covered include event logistics and management, immersive design, audience management, site-specific work, and technical drawing.

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

TSM7302A TTSM Interdisciplinary Collaboration A (30 credit points each)

In this subject, disciplines continue to collaborate to fully realise a range of NIDA productions. In your third year, you will undertake both a design role in lighting, sound or video, and a senior management role, reflective of those within professional live performance contexts. You will be required to complete each role on alternate play production seasons during the year.

TSM7310A TTSM Professional Pathways A (30 credit points)

This subject will prepare you for entry into the industry and give you the agency to develop a portfolio of personalised final year experiences. You will engage in NIDA productions and industry experiences that align with your artistic practice, desired professional development and employment goals. You will also develop the entrepreneurial and business skills to kickstart your career.

SEMESTER TWO

TSM7302B TTSM Interdisciplinary Collaboration B (30 credit points each)

In this subject, disciplines continue to collaborate to fully realise a range of NIDA productions. In your third year, you will undertake both a design role in lighting, sound or video, and a senior management role, reflective of those within professional live performance contexts. You will be required to complete each role on alternate play production seasons during the year.

TSM7310B TTSM Professional Pathways B (30 credit points)

This subject will further prepare you for entry into the industry and give you the agency to develop a portfolio of personalised final year experiences. You will engage in secondments and industry experiences that align with your artistic practice, desired professional development and employment goals. You will also develop the entrepreneurial and business skills to kickstart your career.