

MFA DIRECTING

Course Overview 2025

CRICOS Code: 113112H

SEMESTER ONE

DIR9101A Directing Techniques (20 credit points)

You will develop and apply advanced directorial techniques used in the rehearsal room. There is a significant focus on the examination of and experimentation with directing methodologies to develop a comprehensive directorial process. Collaboration with actors and communication skills are foregrounded as part of the subject.

DIR9102A Directing Practice (25 credit points)

You will apply your skills to conceptualise, devise and deliver a theatrical production. This includes selecting and researching a text, developing a vision, and staging a production with performers. The subject also prepares directors to work with theatrical design concepts and stage designers in creating artistically cohesive productions.

DIR9104A The Contemporary Director (5 credit points)

You will participate in seminar sessions to investigate the work of significant theatre practitioners working in the 20th and 21st centuries. Through case studies on world-leading artists, you will engage with diverse issues and conventions of contemporary directing. Exposure to and engagement with live productions will supplement case studies in contemporary directing practice.

DIR9105A Dramaturgy (10 credit points)

You will be provided with a theoretical background to key concepts of dramaturgy from the director's perspective in this subject. After building a vocabulary, you engage in literary, scenographic and production dramaturgy modes to build a comprehensive understanding of the roles and processes that underpin best practice in directing.

SEMESTER TWO

DIR9101B Directing Techniques (20 credit points)

After some experience in directing, you will critically reflect on your progress and skills acquisition by participating in peer seminars and laboratory workshops. The content of this laboratory time is self-generated and provides an environment where you will articulate, through practice, a unique directing methodology.

DIR9102B Directing Practice (25 credit points)

You will extend your directing practice by engaging in other artistic mediums. You will collaborate with production designers on pitching and directing work for the screen. You will also work with designers on developing a vision and workshopping your major directing project in a creative development process.

DIR9104B The Contemporary Director (5 credit points)

You will engage in peer-to-peer seminars and workshops in which you interrogate the contexts and key influences of your unique practice as an emerging director. You will research, analyse and present an interactive presentation on a key directing artist, company, or process, and articulate the key influences informing your evolving manifesto as a director.

COM9103A Practice-Based Research Project (10 credit points)

This subject prepares you for conducting research connected with your arts and cultural practice. You will learn key concepts, processes and methodologies of research design and communication, including research ethics and appreciating diverse knowledge practices. Across two semesters, you will propose and conduct research complementary with your creative practice, using research to support your creative process or share knowledge found through making work.

SEMESTER THREE

DIR9104C The Contemporary Director (10 credit points)

You will have the unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge and frame of experience through a directing-related engagement either nationally or internationally. You are

encouraged to undertake a placement or field trip in an area of the arts and entertainment industry that will challenge you creatively and professionally.

DIR9106C Major Directing Project (40 credit points)

You will showcase your unique directorial voice in the development and realisation of a public-facing short production. By leading this process, you will develop advanced competency in researching text, design concept development, casting, rehearsing, technical staging and presenting a small production season.

COM9103B Practice-Based Research Project (10 credit points)

This subject prepares you for conducting research connected with your arts and cultural practice. You will learn key concepts, processes and methodologies of research design and communication, including research ethics and appreciating diverse knowledge practices. Across two semesters, you will propose and conduct research complementary with your creative practice, using research to support your creative process or share knowledge found through making work.