

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Richmond Business School
Programme:	Study Abroad
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Show Business: London Theatre Production
Course Code:	THEA BUSM 5601
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS CATS credits 4 UK credits

Course Description:

Using London's world famous and vibrant theatre industry as a resource, this course explores the early stages of theatre production, covering: business planning, funding, casting, and pre-production processes (including technical design) through performance and post-production. Students will critically evaluate past theatre productions, identifying and analysing the elements that contributed to their success or shortcomings, and articulating the underlying factors and contextual influences that informed these outcomes. Students will engage with guest lecturers from various theatre disciplines, go on site visits, and attend diverse performances to observe various production scales and genres.

Prerequisites:

40 Credits

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to develop the following skills:

- Explain the key stages from pre-production through post-production in UK theatre, including project management and performance execution
- Generate and refine ideas aimed at creating a viable and successful theatre production
- Conducting industry trend analysis to understand current market dynamics and exploring various financing options and opportunities available to support the production.
- Gain knowledge and application of technical design processes in pre-production, including set, lighting, and sound design.
- Interact with and learn from guest lecturers across various theatre disciplines to gain industry insights and practical knowledge.
- Critically analysing current theatre productions looking the key elements of a performance to understand their impact on the overall audience experience.

Programme Outcomes:

A5I

B5I

C5I, II

D5I, II

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the complete process of a theatrical production and be able to conduct in-depth industry analysis to predict success of various types of productions
- Apply critical analysis to evaluate diverse theatrical productions, identifying successful elements and areas for improvement
- Exhibit comprehensive understanding of production processes by developing a detailed business plan for a theatrical production from pre to postproduction
- Demonstrate the ability to engage in effective communication with industry professionals.

Indicative Content:

- Introduction to the complete process of theatre production
- Overview of the business aspect of production including licensing, funding and budgeting, hiring, marketing, and responsibilities throughout production
- Study of important roles within the production process from casting to management to technical to actors
- Theatre visits to see various productions and conduct analysis of performances in class
- Site visits to experience the scope and diversity of productions
- Guest lectures from industry experts to gain firsthand insights into professional theatre production processes

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught using a combination of lectures, in-class activities and exercises, theatre and site visits and guest lecturers. All information will be culminated into the end of course assessment where each student will present their own potential production plan for a show of their choice.

Indicative Text(s):

- Gillett, C. and Sheehan, J. (2023) *The Production Manager’s Toolkit*. UK: Routledge.
- Green, J. (2021) *How to Produce a West End Show*. London: Methuen Publishing.
- Seabright, J. (2016) *So You Want to Be A Theatre Producer?* London: Nick Hern Books Ltd.
- Sutherland-Cohen, R. (2017) *Introduction to Production: Creating Theatre Onstage, Backstage, & Offstage (500 Tips)*. UK: Routledge.

Websites

- How we make theatre:
<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/about-us/how-we-make-theatre/>
- Ask a Theatre Producer:
<https://www.barbican.org.uk/read-watch-listen/ask-a-theatre-producer>
- How are new shows selected and funded in the West End?
<https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/support?a=How-are-new-shows-selected-and-funded-in-the-West-End---id--1aMbYMjITOGRMHKnulByeA>
- Arts Council England:
<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/our-organisation>

(All websites accessed November 2024)

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	Nov 2024	