



Advanced Diploma of Screen & Stage

Program Curriculum

General Course Structure - Core Units of Competency

This program's accredited title is the '*Advanced Diploma in Screen and Stage Acting*'. Our program is a 2 year Austudy approved course. Its literacy achievement is highly recommended by the Actors Union and is an official Industry entry qualification.

To complete the Advanced Diploma at least one 'elective' unit needs to be completed as well as the nineteen compulsory core subjects listed in the Year 1 and Year 2 Schedules. The shortest elective, **HEAC018: Define Script Formats** is scheduled in Term 2. This unit is offered absolutely free of extra charge. If you wish to, you can do the other elective listed below. This is offered twice a year outside the Conservatory by the Society of Australian Fight Directors (SAFD) but is creditable as an elective toward our Advanced Diploma.

Optional Elective: SAFD002 Perform Minor Staged Swordplay. Inhouse elective or outsourced through the SAFD (information available).

Schedule Note: *Schedules are decided before you begin the program, so ask the Admin Office which are the scheduled nights for the term you are planning to enter. These will remain your scheduled times throughout the program, unless class numbers drop below five students in which case options will be discussed with the class.*

Curriculum

Year 1		
Term 1	HEAC001	Analyse Scripts
	HEAC003	Connect Voice, Body & Mind Reflexes
	HEAC004	Perform Voice Production Skills
Term 2	HEAC002	Display Self Portrayal Skills
	HEAC005	Display Key Character Skills
	THHCOR03A	Follow Health, Safety & Security Procedures
	HEAC018 (Elective)	Define Script Formats
Term 3	HEAC006	Develop Character Personalities
	HEAC009	Perform Speech Production Skills
	HEAC007	Plan Strategies for Acting as a Business
Term 4	HEAC008	Maintain Performance Skills
	SAFD001	Perform Staged Unarmed Combat
Year 2		
Term 5	HEAC010	Perform Physical Storytelling
	HEAC011	Perform Improvisations
Term 6	HEAC012	Display Emotional Risk Skills
	HEAC013	Integrate Vocal Character
	HEAC014	Perform Accents & Dialects
Term 7	HEAC015	Rehearse & Perform a Contemporary Role
	HEAC017	Audition for Screen & Stage (#A)
Term 8	HEAC017	Audition for Screen (#B Showreel Production)
	HEAC016	Rehearse & Perform a Period Role

Core Unit Descriptions

- HEAC001** **Analyse Scripts.** Using American industry methods learn to analyse performance scripts, liaise with Directors and sight problems in a script before entering into a job contract.
- HEAC002** **Display Self Portrayal Skills.** Using international curriculum mask training techniques learn to develop basic physical acting skills and reflexes. Identify and adopt the physical skills/reflexes most untrained actors do not possess.
- HEAC003** **Connect Voice, Body & Mind Reflexes.** Use the A.Con's 'Emotional Movement System' to sharpen and develop the reflex combinations of your voice, body and mind as primary acting tools. The focus is on learning not to separate the instincts of your body from what you are saying, thinking or feeling.
- HEAC004** **Perform Voice Production Skills.** Learn to identify, adopt and develop safe and professionally effective voice placement/production skills.
- HEAC005** **Display Key Character Skills.** Learn to identify, adopt and develop the necessary skills to create different character body traits and mannerisms without them deteriorating during performance.
- HEAC006** **Develop Character Personalities.** Using 'character' mask training techniques develop beyond the skills built in unit HEAC002. This unit includes also the learning of skills developed to test the 'sustainability' of a character's body and mannerisms when working through different emotional states.
- SAFD001** **Perform Staged Unarmed Combat.** Learn to, through the Society of Australian Fight Directors curriculum system, perform safe and realistic unarmed staged combat skills.
- HEAC007** **Plan Strategies for Acting as a Business.** Learn to plan career strategies for acting. Become familiar with the steps involved in acquiring the right agent and plan for your financial needs as an actor. Access knowledge of the rights & reasonable expectations of actors in the commercial market.
- HEAC008** **Maintain Performance Skills.** Learn to keep up and expand your basic skills learnt from the earlier sections of the Conservatory's advanced diploma grade courses.
- HEAC009** **Perform Speech Production Skills.** Learn via a combination of Lessac, Linklater & Berry style techniques, to identify and adopt safe, professionally effective speech placement and production skills.
- HEAC010** **Perform Physical Storytelling.** Following studies in HEAC005 by learning to integrate the researched details of a character's body, personality and psychological journey in a way that does commercial justice to a script's readable story structure. Also focus on the subtler playing of character subtext with respect to more advanced, complex

storytelling structures. This is particularly relevant to your work as a screen actor.

- HEAC011 Perform Improvisations.** Stanislavski said, 'Tension is the actors greatest enemy'. He was talking about both physical tension and mental stress. Mental tension is usually the result of anxiety. It increases your levels of physical tension. Here you will learn skills to conquer these obstacles by studying improvisational techniques and learning to apply them to both comic & dramatic rehearsals and performances.
- HEAC012 Display Emotional Risk Skills.** Learn via Stanislavski based Method Acting style techniques to identify, adopt and develop specifically the details a characters emotional journey as a follow on from the studies in the 010 unit. This unit focuses on how to bring the inner life and journey of the character you are portraying to life by instructing actors on emotional risk and emotional substitution skills.
- HEAC013 Integrate Vocal Character.** Learn via the 'Copeau/Lecoq' half mask techniques to develop from the skills built on in unit 006. This unit includes also the learning of skills 'Copeau/Lecoq' developed to integrate character voices into the physical form of the bodies developed as well as developing the personality layering of more complete character forms.
- HEAC014 Perform Accents & Dialects.** Learn to identify, adopt & develop realistic & professionally effective foreign accent skills for all foreign dialects using the standard American dialect as a blueprint.
- HEAC015 Rehearse & Perform a Contemporary Acting Role.** Learn to, via your participation as an actor assigned a characters role for the public performance of a scene, combine all previously learnt acting skills into the framework of a commercially viable rehearsal for a contemporary character role.
- HEAC017 Audition for Screen & Stage (Part A).** Learn to identify, adopt and develop relevant commercial auditioning skills, strategies and reflexes for live theatre auditions.
- HEAC017 Audition for Screen & Stage (Part B).** Learn to identify, adopt and develop relevant commercial auditioning skills, strategies and reflexes for screen/radio auditions. A complete and professionally produced showreel is created for the actors entry into the profession dubbed onto CD & VHS.
- HEAC016 Rehearse & Perform a Period Acting Role.** Via participation as an actor assigned a characters role for the public performance of a scene, learn to combine all previously learnt acting skills into the framework of a commercially viable rehearsal for a period character role.
- THHCOR03A Follow Health, Safety & Security Procedures.** Learn to identify & deal with work-place hazards using training specified for 'NOHSC7025 Health & Safety Guidelines Generic Competency A'.

Elective Units

1 of the following 2 elective units must also be completed to obtain the Advanced Diploma. HEAC018 is 5 sessions of 1 hr each. It's offered for free. Swordplay is offered by the Society of Australian Fight Directors bi-annually as a condensed 1 week unit.

HEAC018 Define Script Formats. Learn to clearly understand and read all screenplay and play script formats. Learn to compile a commercial 'script pitch' document for sale of a script concept of your own.

SAFD002 Perform Minor Staged Swordplay. Learn to, through the Society of Australian Fight Directors international curriculum, perform safe and realistic staged swordplay skills.

Assessment Process

Gaining a '*Statement of Attainment*' or obtaining an '*Advanced Diploma*' requires more than just attendance at classes. Learning to be an actor is ultimately about learning to do your thing in front of others. Assessing a student's ability with acting skills requires that each student demonstrate the skills obtained in practical performance demonstrations for assessment. As well they will be asked to demonstrate the knowledge and concepts learned that relate to their new skills.

For all units offered these assessments are held during and at the end of every quarter. Formative Skill and Process Knowledge assessments are held during scheduled class times. Summative/Skill Integration assessments are held in a public performance venue once a quarter.