Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama)

This course offers you the opportunity to explore many roles onstage and behind the scenes as you investigate what makes drama tick. You’ll learn about what’s come before in the history of drama so you can change what happens next. You’ll combine theory, skills and practice as you explore the rich possibilities that theatre and performance hold to entertain, engage and transform our view of the world. You’ll collaborate with others to create new performances that are built to surprise.

Theatre necessarily combines many fields of creative practice, so drama graduates tend to be curious, versatile and able to adapt quickly to a rapidly changing creative environment. They’re the people we call on to find out not only why, but how drama works.

Why choose this course?
If you are interested in exploring practical careers in directing, designing, teaching, devising, creative producing and administration, or performing in a range of experimental theatre forms, then this course is for you. The course offers flexibility and breadth, combining creative experiences in performance making with highly relevant theoretical studies that will connect you with contemporary performance both nationally and globally.

Previous graduates have had a dynamic impact on the development of the Australian creative industries sector, and our most recent graduates are at the heart of the exciting growth in the independent theatre sector in Australia.

Real-world learning
It’s important to make strong industry connections from the start of your career. That’s why you’ll be taught by industry professionals who are making performance right now. Their expertise and passion will inspire and guide you as you collaborate with talented students within your cohort. The professional networks you establish will assist you throughout your career.

The flexible nature of the course means you can combine creative experiences in performance making with theoretical studies. This will allow you to get the most from classroom learning as you connect with contemporary performance both nationally and globally.

Entrepreneurial theatre production
In your final year you will develop your skills as a collaborative and entrepreneurial theatre artist. Working with specialist staff and industry professionals, you will prepare, create and present your final production.

Accurate as at 25/08/2020. For the latest information see: https://www.qut.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-fine-arts-drama
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Assumed knowledge
Before you start this course we assume you have sound knowledge in these areas:
- English, or Literature, or English and Literature Extension, or English as an Additional Language (Units 3 & 4, C)

We assume that you have knowledge equivalent to four semesters at high school level (Years 11 and 12) with sound achievement (4, SA).

Course structure
Your course
To meet the course requirements of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama), you must complete the following:
- Two common units (KYB101 and KYB102) – 24 credit points
- Drama major – 168 credit points
- Complementary studies – 48 credit points from the Situated Creative Practice Extension plus 48 credit points chosen from a minor or unit options (electives).

Year 1
- strong practical focus with classes, workshops and an end-of-year production
- investigate theatre history
- develop performance skills
- learn how to lead drama workshops in theatre, educational and corporate contexts

Year 2
- extend practical skills and understanding of devised performance in the Australian and community theatre context, its history and plays
- option to undertake events and festival management units
- tailor your course to your vocational interests
- choose electives in a second major and/or minors from creative industries or across QUT

Year 3
- develop as a collaborative and entrepreneurial theatre artist
- acquire leadership skills in directing
- analyse your own creative practice
- undertake internships and project-based work
- complete your second major, minors or electives
- learn from specialist staff and industry professionals
- prepare, create and present your final production

Study overseas
Study overseas while gaining credit towards your QUT creative industries degree with one of our worldwide exchange partners. Overseas study can be for one or two semesters (or during the semester break) and the units you take can be in a creative or non-creative discipline area, depending on how they match with your QUT course. Saving your electives for exchange will allow you the most flexibility. Find out more about studying on exchange.

Careers and outcomes
As a multiskilled graduate you will seek to complement your artistic career with paid employment in related areas. Our graduates make new performance work and create new ways of looking at the world. They harness the collaborative power of groups of people to make things happen. This explains the dynamic impact they continue to have on the Australian creative industries, and the successful careers they’ve developed across the sector.

Graduates have established successful careers as playwrights, artistic directors, directors and designers or performers working across a variety of genres including physical theatre or music.

Double degrees
Combine drama with a second study area for greater career flexibility and opportunities in other industries. Consider a double degree with:
- Business to develop a career in performing arts marketing and management or and in stage management.
- If you are looking to apply your creative abilities to education settings or the teaching profession you have some options. You can complete your drama course first and then follow with a Master of Teaching in early childhood, primary or secondary education.* Or you can now undertake a double degree in secondary education at the same time as your drama degree.

*Check entry requirements for the Master of Teaching for specific teaching areas.

Fees
HECS-HELP
You may be eligible for HECS-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your course fees, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the HECS-HELP information.