

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: THE CITIZEN ARTIST: THEATRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND
ADVOCACY
Status: Definitive
Code: **6512CMD** (118629)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2014

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

| Team | Leader |
|------------|--------|
| Ros Merkin | Y |

Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 24.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 100.00
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 140

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

| Component | Contact Hours |
|-----------|---------------|
| Lecture | 20.000 |
| Tutorial | 20.000 |
| Workshop | 60.000 |

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

| Category | Short Description | Description | Weighting (%) | Exam Duration |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Practice | WORKSHOP | Workshop | 20.0 | |
| Artefacts | PERFORM | Performance | 20.0 | |
| Presentation | PRESENT | Post-performance presentation | 20.0 | |
| Reflection | SELF & PEER | Self and peer assessment | 20.0 | |
| Essay | CRITIQUE | Critique | 20.0 | |

Aims

This module aims to provide a solid theoretical and practical foundation in the use of theatre and drama as a means of advocacy and/or consultation in a local democracy

context. Central to the module is the practical application of workshop techniques designed to aid a community group in the identification, reflection and articulation of issues of concern with a view to developing dramatic material and participatory strategies to present these issues to appropriate decision makers.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- LO1 Use appropriate research techniques to develop an understanding of the historical, economic and political context of a specific participant group;
- LO2 Utilise a range of drama based participatory strategies to enable a group to identify, reflect upon and articulate issues of concern;
- LO3 Utilise appropriate techniques and strategies to improve/develop a participant group's confidence and ability to engage in the presentation event as a performer and/or contributor to political discourse;
- LO4 Develop a performance which utilises appropriate theatrical and participatory conventions to present a group's views to an audience of decision makers;
- LO5 Efficiently co-ordinate all external factors, including invitations, marketing, catering and utilisation of performance space, in order to maximise the efficacy of the event;
- LO6 Devise and deliver a formal presentation of the key findings of a project to a panel of decision makers;
- LO7 Identify and interpret critically the theoretical frameworks that surround theatre for democracy in order to interrogate the efficacy of a specific project;
- LO8 Work efficiently and effectively, as a member of a facilitation team with an ability to organise time and negotiate and pursue goals with others.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| WORKSHOP PROCESS | LO2 | LO3 |
| PERFORMANCE | LO4 | LO5 |
| POST-PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION | LO6 | |
| SELF AND PEER ASSESSMENT | LO8 | |
| CRITIQUE | LO1 | LO7 |

Outline Syllabus

Phase 1 (2-3 weeks)

The introductory phase of module will be characterised by an exploration of traditional and contemporary perspectives on democracy followed by an in depth consideration of the notion of the Citizen Artist and the use of theatre in an advocacy/democratic context. In parallel, research tasks specific to a host organisation (usually a Local Authority) will be undertaken culminating in a series of

formative presentations and a short political knowledge test.

Phase 2 (10 weeks)

The host organisation will facilitate introduction to Community groups that wish to take part in the project. Students will split into small teams and work with each group on a weekly basis to create a piece of participatory Theatre for Democracy that will represent the participant's concerns to an audience of local politicians and other decision makers.

Weekly taught sessions will continue introducing and exploring practical skills to support each sub-phase of the project (Group building/ Identifications of Issues/Devising/Rehearsing). Each team will also be allocated a supervising tutor and host organisation contact. Towards the end of the phase each team will submit a short Project Brief outlining the issues their group will be exploring, the techniques used and the likely technical and budgetary requirements for their performance.

Phase 3 (1 week)

Each group will present their work at a People's Parliament event that will take place within the host organisation. After input from the project team the host organisation contacts will lead on inviting councillors and decision makers to attend. All other aspects of the performance will be managed by the project team.

Phase 4

After the performance each team will collate and develop an evaluation before giving a formal presentation to a Local Area Partnership (or similar) about the project.

Following this each project team will take part in a staff facilitated Self and Peer Assessment and Accreditation process. In this session marks will be negotiated to recognise each individual team member's contribution to the group process.

Finally, each student will complete an individual 3000 word written critique of the project interrogating the efficacy of the practical work with reference to relevant policy and theory.

Learning Activities

This module is delivered in lecture, group workshop and seminar formats. Students are expected to work in pairs or small groups for the purposes of practical assignments and seminar presentations.

Notes

Course Notes