

## **Degree Programme in Theatre Arts 2015–2018**

Degree Programme in Theatre Arts is a five-year vocational educational programme of actor's art education. It comprises three-year phenomenon-based Bachelor of Arts studies and two-year Master of Arts studies, during which the student applies the means provided by actor's art in exploring one or several themes or phenomena within theatre arts.

Studying theatre arts is a multidisciplinary and multisensory process of collaborative learning and growing, with the aim of becoming an artist who is artistically and professionally capable, versatile, appreciates his or her work and is able to motivate it in relation to the society. The Degree Programme in Theatre Arts offers tools for practicing and developing actor's art in its different forms in the future. The objective is that each student creates his or her own style and way of making theatre.

The starting point in the studies is an understanding of the holistic and corporeal nature of actor's art; everything that the actor does is manifested and realised in his or her bodily actions and embodied thinking. The studies are also defined by the collective and performative nature of theatre arts. Actor's art takes place as performances in various environments with different people and materials.

Studying in the Degree Programme in Theatre Arts forms a pedagogically and artistically integrated study path. The student's growth towards artistry begins in the entrance examinations. It is strengthened as the studies progress gradually turning into a task owned by the student and continuing throughout his or her life. Continuous exercising of the performing body supports the actor's study path? By exercising his/her bodily awareness, sensitivity, fitness and skills, the student learns to identify his/her own possibilities and challenges. A solid base for the actor's professional well-being and lifelong learning is thus created. Continuous exercising also brings forward the special needs of the student to be taken into account in teaching.

Learning is supported by reflection, a working method integrated in the course units. Through engaging in interactive discussions, keeping study diaries and writing essays the student learns to observe and verbalise his/her own knowledge and skills as well as those shown by others, and relate them to the situation earlier. Progressing in the studies, the student receives feedback from peer students as well as teachers and other professionals engaged in teaching. In addition, public performances and other events that form an integral part of the course units help the student to integrate in a larger community that provides feedback. Course units are evaluated as pass or fail. This is motivated by the holistic nature of the studies, and by the fact that learning, as well as growth towards actorship is a different process for each student. It takes place in his or her own pace being supported by comprehensive feedback and evaluation.

The actor of the future is a world citizen capable of functioning in different cultures and environments. Therefore the Degree Programme in Theatre Arts promotes internationalization by means of international courses, teachers as well as international co-operation on both degree levels.

In the Degree Programme in Theatre Arts, actor's art and the profession of an artist are observed through four dimensions:

### **Actor as storyteller**

The actor is a continuator of a long tradition, with a task to tell and to embody private and collective stories. The actor mediates different phenomena with the stories, renews tradition and transforms it into something to be shared together.

### **Actor as poet**

The actor is an artist who creates novelty, with a task to create different artistic units and combine materials in unexpected ways. The actor questions conventional meanings, structures and natural relationships of phenomena thus making change possible.

### **Actor as engineer**

The actor is an initiator, with a task to operate in relation to different physical and technological actors and environments. He or she uses techniques adapted within and outside one's own

field of art, using them to create new kinds of encounters with different technologies such as electronic media and digital environments.

**Actor as social participant**

The actor is a social agent, with a task to work, negotiate and create impact in various sectors of the society. He or she works in relation with different people, social groups and natural environments, becoming affected by them, making an impact on them and working in collaboration with them.

## **BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN THEATRE ARTS 180 ECTS credits**

Phenomenon-based Bachelor's degree studies aim at the identification of the knowledge and skills required in actor's profession, and their comprehensive learning. The studies are based on corporeal interpretations of different phenomena, exercising and acting in collaboration with others. This also covers an overall dramaturgical and artistic thinking, as well as different theoretical and practical approaches to historical, philosophical and cultural backgrounds of the given phenomena. Progressing with the studies, the student increases his or her own knowledge on different fields and techniques of articulation, and participates in performances. The aim is to understand the possibilities of one's own body and thinking, and to gain experience in functioning on different performance sites.

The studies for the Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts progress in annual classes, and they include internationalisation studies and mobile studies. Studies comprise intermediate course units organised around one phenomenon or theme chosen in advance and aiming to enhance the artistic quality of the actor. Permanent and visiting teachers in the Degree Programme take responsibility for the teaching, some of it in collaboration with each other. Each course unit is coordinated by an appointed person in charge.

In addition to the phenomenon-based course units the degree includes independent special courses given by visiting teachers and offering the students perspectives on actor's art that differ from the phenomenon-based teaching. Some special courses can also be completed with elective practical, artistic or theoretical intermediate studies. The Bachelor's Degree also includes weekly basic studies running throughout the three academic years, theoretical intermediate studies, language studies, studies in information retrieval, and a written thesis. The Bachelor's Degree prepares the student for the Master's Degree studies.

### **BASIC STUDIES 50 ECTS credits**

#### **EXERCISING THE PERFORMING BODY**

Course unit running throughout the Bachelor's Degree studies building the corporeal and the multisensory foundations in actor's art.

##### **Scope**

20 ECTS credits

##### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

##### **Persons in charge**

University lecturers Samuli Nordberg and Tiina Syrjä

##### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is familiar with the challenges and possibilities of one's own body in movement, speech and voice production
- appreciates the principles of motivated exercising for developing one's physical capacity, bodily awareness and ability to feel sensations, and understands the prospects of individual applications
- is able to observe and identify one's own modes of bodily functions and physical reactions in order to develop them in becoming physiologically and communicatively functional
- identifies the different nature of information received through one's sensory experiences and observations, and deals with them in a constructive and also critical manner when required
- is aware of the importance of the functionality of the musculature, skeleton, voice production apparatus and breathing, as well as the importance of bodily care, recovery, rest and nutrition to the overall well-being of the actor in managing various work related tasks
- is able to create and maintain a flexible body image and self-esteem and use them to relate

constructively to the definitions the actor is subjected to, as well as to the feelings of professional vulnerability and success

- can verbalise one's bodily observations and share them in discussion

### **Contents**

During the course unit the student works with the awareness, ability to feel sensations, physical condition and knowledge and skills of the performing body. Studies take place among other things by training in the Alexander Technique, chi kung, tai chi, yoga, muscular fitness and speech techniques as well as other methods for comprehensive rehearsal of the performing body. The performing body is also periodically trained using techniques strengthening other modes of articulation, such as acrobatics, contact improvisation and the Estill Technique.

The regular group and individual instruction exercises are carried out mainly during the morning hours and thus tune the student for other learning situations during the day.

The course unit comprises partial study attainments with varying content, focus areas and scope. The course unit includes lectures and theoretical instruction.

### **Completion**

Participation in course work

Learning Diary

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

### **Study materials**

Gelb, Michael J. (2013). *Vapaana oppimaan – kehon kautta tietoiseen oppimiseen. Johdatus Alexander-tekniikkaan*. Suom. Päivi Saraste and Aapo Halme. Kuopio: Kuopion Alexander-tekniikka.

Klemola, Timo (2004). *Taidon filosofia: filosofin taito*. Tampere: Tampere University Press.

Koski, Tapio (2000). *Liikunta elämäntapana and henkisen kasvun välineenä. Filosofinen tutkimus liikunnan merkityksestä*. Tampere: Tampereen Yliopisto.

Lauren, Mark (2014). *Kehonpainoharjoittelun käsikirja*. Suom. Teija Hartikainen. Helsinki: Basam Books

### **Further reading**

Linklater, Kristin (2006). *Freeing the Natural Voice*, Nick Hern Books.

MacRitchie, James(1993). *Chi Kung: Cultivating Personal Energy (Health Essentials)*. Shaftesbury, Dorset, UK: Element Books Limited.

*The Nutrition Source*. Harvard University, School Of Public Health.

[www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/)

Ristad, Eloise (1981). *A Soprano on Her Head: Right-Side-Up Reflections on Life and Other Performances*, Real People Press.

## **ACTOR'S ARTISTIC, PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIETAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

Course unit running throughout the Bachelor's Degree studies, creating artistic, professional and societal shaping of actor's profession.

### **Scope**

10 ECTS credits

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

University lecturer Minna Hokkanen

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is familiar with the actor's professional environments and scopes for action, their development and possibilities in Finland and abroad, and is able to function in them
- understands the principles of different media linked to actor's art, their structures, scale and production processes, and can relate to them
- is able to build an active and independent personal artistry in a diverse, constantly evolving profession and society
- is able to reflect one's profession as an artist both verbally and in writing

### **Contents**

During the course unit the student familiarises himself or herself with the field the actor operates in through actor visits and other encounters with professionals, as well as expert lectures, performance viewings, field trips and site visits. The students explore professional theatres and other sites and institutions of artistic activity (such as TV, film, radio, museums, the social and health sector), their activities, work in practice, structures, and production processes.

The student explores his or her own agency using methods such as story theatre and other methods of applied theatre.

The student learns about international networking, political decision-making, principles of funding and challenges in the society related to the profession of the actor, the theatre and the wider field of art.

The student becomes familiar with labour legislation, trade union activities, possibilities created by the forms of art practice based on collaboration (such as grant funding, cooperatives) and the basics of independent trade and entrepreneurship.

Course unit comprises partial study attainments with varying content, focus areas and scope.

### **Completion**

Participation in course work  
Learning Diary

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

### **Further reading**

Collective agreement for actors  
Näyttelijäliiton (Actor's association) publication Ämyri  
TINFO theatre statistics

## **ART HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURES**

Course unit running through the Bachelor's Degree introducing the history, philosophy and cultures of theatre and art.

### **Scope**

20 ECTS credits

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

Professor Pauliina Hulkko

## Learning outcomes

Having completed the course unit the student

- identifies connections between cultural history, art history, history of theatre and philosophy within actor's art
- understands the present state of actor's profession and of theatre with respect to different historical traditions
- can interpret the meanings of theatre and other art forms in different times and different cultures
- understands the questions a given artwork has dealt with and raised at the time of its creation
- is able to observe the artist and the artwork as intermediators of messages and meanings
- is able to reflect verbally and in writing the knowledge and skills he or she has learned

## Contents

During the course unit the student will familiarise himself or herself, in addition to theatre and art history, also with the philosophy and cultures as well as the theoretical background of performing arts. Teaching can be offered in cooperation with the Degree Programme in Journalism and Communication.

The course unit comprises partial study attainments with varying content, focus areas and scope.

## Completion

Participation in course work

Learning Diary, essay

## Evaluation

Pass/fail

## Study materials

Aristoteles (2000). *Runousoppi*. Suom. Paavo Hohti. Helsinki: Gaudeamus.

Baggini, Julian & Fosl, Peter S. (2012). *Etiikan pikkujättiläinen*. Suom. Tapani Kilpeläinen. Tampere: niin & näin -kirjat.

Bahtin, Mihail (2002). *François Rabelais – keskiajan and renessanssin nauru*. Suomentaneet Tapani Laine and Paula Nieminen. Helsinki: Like.

Brecht, Bertolt (1991). *Kirjoituksia teatterista*. Suomentanut Anja Kolehmainen et alii. Helsinki: Teatterikorkeakoulu.

Brook, Peter (1972). *Tyhjä tila: nykyteatterista and sen mahdollisuuksista*. Suomentanut Raija Mattila. Porvoo: WSOY.

Campbell, Joseph (1996). *Sankarin tuhannet kasvot*. Suom. Hannes Virrankoski. Helsinki: Otava.

Diderot, Denis (1987). *Näyttelijän paradoksi*. Suom. Marjatta Ecaré. Hki: Valtion painatuskeskus: Teatterikorkeakoulu.

Grotowski, Jerzy (2006). *Kohti köyhää teatteria*. Suomentanut Martti Puukko. Helsinki: Like.

Horatius Flaccus, Quintus (1992). *Ars Poetica*. Toimittaneet Teivas Oksala and Erkki Palmén. Helsinki: Finn Lectura.

Meisner, Sanford & Longwell, Dennis (1987). *Sanford Meisner on acting*. New York: Vintage.

Meyerhold, Vsevolod (1981). *Teatterin lokakuu*. Suomentanut and toimittanut Marja Jänis. Helsinki: Love kirjat.

More, Thomas (1984). *Utopia*. Suom. Marja Itkonen-Kaila. Porvoo: WSOY.

Platon (1999). *Valtio*. Suom. Marja Itkonen-Kaila. Helsinki: Otava.

Vakhtangov, Yevgeny (2011). *The Vakhtangov sourcebook*. Edited, translated and with an introduction by Andrei Malaev-Babel. Abingdon: Routledge.

Zarrilli, Phillip (2009). *Psychophysical Acting: an intercultural approach after Stanislavski*. London & New York: Routledge.

The course unit also includes plays and other written and visual study materials defined by the teachers.

## INTERMEDIATE STUDIES 115 ECTS credits

## INTRODUCTION TO ACTOR'S ART

Course unit teaching the student how to study different fields of actor's art.

### Scope

10 ECTS credits

### Subject

Theatre Arts

### Person in charge

University lecturer Samuli Nordberg

### Learning outcomes

Having completed the course unit the student

- regards the studies belonging to the Bachelor Degree of Theatre Arts as a coherent whole and is familiar with one's own learning environment
- understands the diversity of the fields of actor's art and connections between them
- regards these connections with respect to different modes of working, such as scene rehearsing
- understands the nature of studying theatre arts, and is able to reflect it using his or her experiential understanding
- knows the basics of experiential perception and awareness of one's own body, and working with it
- recognises the impact of information coming in through different senses on the movement and the voice of the actor
- understands the differences between solistic work and group work in terms of rehearsing methods
- is able to work within the span from free activities to particular scene choreography
- identifies the requirement of comprehensiveness in actor's profession
- understands the importance of critical thinking for the artist

### Contents

The starting point of the course unit is a holistic understanding of the actor as storyteller, poet, engineer, and societal participant. During the course unit the student will study different fields of actor's art (movement, sound, speech, music) as well as dramaturgy and critical thinking. In addition, a performance is realised during the course unit.

Studies on information retrieval and orientation studies are included in the course unit. In addition, studies on philosophy and history of art and cultures are linked to the course unit.

### Completion

Participation in course work

Learning Diary, essay, performance

### Evaluation

Pass/fail

### Study materials

Baillargeon, Normand (2011). *Älyllisen itsepuolustuksen pikakurssi*. Suom. Tapani Kilpeläinen. Tampere: niin & näin -kirjat.

Brestoff, Richard (1995). *Great acting teachers and their methods*. Lyme: Smith and Kraus Book.

Oida, Yoshi (2004). *Näkymätön näyttelijä*. Suom. Lauri Sipari. Helsinki: Like.

Silde, Marja (toim.) (2011). *Nykynäyttelijän taide: horjutuksia and siirtymiä*. Helsinki: Maahenki.

Varley, Julia (2011). *Notes from an Odin actress: stones of water*. Abingdon: Routledge.

## DO IT BY YOURSELF: THEATRE, WORLD AND I

Course unit teaching independent artistic thinking and skills required in realising performances.

### **Scope**

15 ETCS credits

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

University lecturer Mikko Kanninen

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is able to function within an artistic work group independently and in collaboration with others
- understands actor's work as a dramaturgical process
- is familiar with the basics of scene rehearsal
- knows how to mediate one's own artistic thinking verbally and understands the importance of artistic negotiation in work group activities
- identifies the differences and requirements of solistic and collaborative expression
- is able to find and create materials for building performances, especially from autobiographical and documentary perspectives
- is able to use and discuss means of actor's articulation required in working with given materials and engage in discussion about them
- masters the basic dramaturgical structures and basic vocabulary required in writing a scene and realising a performance
- is able to explore how a collaborative project is realised in a larger societal and cultural context
- is able to reflect one's thinking with respect to the work process both verbally and in writing

### **Contents**

During the course unit the student practises the basics of realising a theatrical event, and develops his or her artistic thinking through different forms of actor's art. The student works with autobiographical and documentary materials, and studies musical theatre ensembles through written and improvised materials.

During the course unit, acting students prepare theatrical events in work groups, which can be realised in cooperation with theatres in Tampere and with students of the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki.

The course unit comprises partial study attainments with varying content, focus areas and order that can vary according to the chosen phenomenon.

The course unit includes lectures and theoretical instruction. Studies on philosophy and history of art and cultures are also linked to the course unit. In addition, internationalisation studies can be included in the course unit.

### **Completion**

Participation in course work

Learning Diary, essay, performance

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

### **Study materials**

Written and audiovisual study materials defined separately by the teachers are included in the course unit.

### **Further reading**



Kahneman, Daniel (2012). *Ajattelu nopeasti and hitaasti*. Suom. Kimmo Pietiläinen. Helsinki: Terra Cognita.

## **DYNAMIC ACTOR**

Course unit teaching actor's total psychophysical expression.

### **Scope**

10–20 ECTS credits

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

University lecturer Mikko Kanninen

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is able to do a given role work in a theatrical event, building on movement and voice
- is able to combine different areas in acting to a coherent whole as well as create loud, powerful and dynamic expression in terms of voice and movement
- is able to apply one's own expression to scene rehearsing
- is able to direct and tune the scenic (voice, speech, movement) energy with respect to the performative material
- deepens one's own vocal and corporeal expression as well as musical expression as appropriate for the particular role work, performance space and activity
- welcomes and puts different kinds of instruction into practice in a creative way and builds a chosen content and idiom as part of the ensemble
- explores the realisation of a performance in a wider societal and cultural context
- reflects on the relationship of different fields of expression and their significance in the performance process verbally and in writing

### **Contents**

During the course unit the student will study powerful total expression, becoming impressed and making an impact with movement, speech, music, working with the texts, and actor's dramaturgy. Dramaturgy is also practiced with techniques of instant composition and traditional composition.

During the course unit the acting student gives a performance in a directed theatrical event. The theatrical event can be realised in cooperation with theatres in Tampere and with the students at the Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

Studies on philosophy and history of art and cultures are linked to the course unit. Internationalisation studies can also be included in the course unit.

The course unit comprises partial study attainments with varying content, focus areas and order can vary in relation to the chosen phenomenon.

### **Completion**

Participation in course work

Learning Diary, performance

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

### **Study materials**

Murray, Simon & Keefe, John (2007). *Physical Theatres: A Critical Introduction*. London: Routledge.

Stanislavski, Konstantin (2011). *Näyttelijän työ*. Toimittanut ja suomentanut Kristiina Repo. Helsinki: Tammi.

### **Further reading**

Toporkov, V. O (1984). *Toiminnasta tunteeseen: Stanislavski-muistiinpanoja*. Suom. Martin Kurtén and Heikki Mäkelä. Helsinki: Teatterikorkeakoulu.

Other written and audiovisual study materials defined separately by the teachers.

## **MY OWN VOICE**

Course unit during which the student learns to work with and build performances on different texts, drawing on actor's experiences and visions.

### **Scope**

10–20 ECTS credits

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Persons in charge**

University lecturers Tiina Syrjä and Sanni Orasmaa

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- identifies the characteristics of texts and is able to find appropriate means of expression for them
- is able to analyse and interpret different play texts
- is able to realise different scenes
- is able to use one's voice in both speech and singing, as well as the body movements in a diverse and expressive way
- is able to work the text into a rich monologue performance with respect to content and form
- is able to create and alternate characters
- identifies one's own special artistic voice in a wider historical and cultural context
- is able to reflect and assess one's own work verbally and in writing

### **Contents**

During the course unit the student practises embodiment of the text combining different means of expression. He or she works with different text types and contents from different periods: drama, poems and prose. Texts are also used as the basis, aid and motive for expression in terms of movement, and musical expression. The course unit also teaches how to work with characters, manners of speaking, dialect and costumes and the outlooks of the character. The course unit can also include acting in a foreign language.

During the course unit the student prepares a monologue performance that can be realised in cooperation with the Degree Programme in Dramaturgy at the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki

Studies on philosophy and history of art and cultures are linked to the course unit.

The course unit comprises partial study attainments with varying content, focus areas and order that can vary according to the chosen phenomenon.

### **Completion**

Participation in course work

Learning Diary, performance, essay

**Evaluation**

Pass/fail

**Study materials**

Chekhov, Michael (2002). *To the actor: On the technique of acting*. London: Routledge.

The course unit also includes plays, poetry and other literary texts from different periods. The texts are chosen in relation to the chosen phenomenon.

**Further reading**

Brunetti, Dave (2006). *Acting Songs*. BookSurge Publishing.

**POPULAR ART OF THE ACTOR**

Course unit on popular forms of actor's art and their forms of expression.

**Scope**

10 ECTS credits

**Subject**

Theatre Arts

**Person in charge**

University lecturer Sanni Orasmaa

**Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is familiar with popular traditions in different cultures and their forms and media of expression
- understands the special requirements of popular forms of expression, and is able to make use of one's own knowledge and skills of movement as well as speech and singing techniques and interpretation with respect to them
- is able to do role work in a presentation on the field of popular theatre
- masters the techniques required by microphones
- understands the importance of scenic popular forms (such as musical, soirée, improvisation, cabaret, stand up, stage show) in Finland and abroad
- is able to reflect both verbally and in writing the different phenomena of popular theatre art in a wider historical, social and cultural context

**Contents**

During the course unit the student familiarises himself or herself with the popular forms of actor's art in theory and in practice. He or she practices different presentation techniques shared by speeches, singing and dancing and learns how to use the technology required by them.

During the course unit the students prepare a theatrical event that can be realised in cooperation with theatres in Tampere and with the students at the Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

The course unit includes theoretical instruction. In addition, studies on philosophy and history of art and cultures are linked to the course unit. Internationalisation studies can also be included in the course unit.

The course unit comprises partial study attainments with varying content, focus areas and order can vary in relation to the chosen phenomenon.

**Completion**

Participation in course work  
Learning Diary, performance, essay

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

### **Study materials**

Schechter, Joel (toim.) (2003). *Popular theatre: a sourcebook*. New York: Routledge.  
Symonds, Dominic & Taylor, Millie (toim.) (2014). *Gestures of music theater: the performativity of song and dance*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Other written and audiovisual study materials defined separately by the teachers.

## **BA THEATRE**

During the course unit the third year students establish their own BA theatre and define its artistic starting points, business idea and organisational model, and assume responsibility of sharing the resources between the artistic projects, and of defining production schedules. Studies take place together with the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki and with the School of Art and Design at the Aalto University.

### **Scope**

15 ECTS credits

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

Theatre arts professor Pauliina Hulkko

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is able to combine all fields of expression to a whole, versatile character or role work
- identifies the genre of the theatrical event in preparation, the structure and the idiom expected, and is able to create appropriate modes of expression
- understands the progress of the creative process and relates one's own activities to it
- is able to function an independent, communicative, creative and critical member of an artistic work group
- is able to relate the theatrical event under preparation and the larger repertoire of the BA Theatre to the contemporary social and cultural context
- is able to reflect the preparation process of the BA Theatre and one's own role work both verbally and in writing

### **Contents**

During the course unit the student participates in planning and preparing of a performance, working as a member of a multi-artistic work group, and completing an independent artistic work as an actor.

### **Completion**

Participation in course work  
Learning Diary, performance, essay

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

## **ALTERNATING SPECIAL COURSES OF ACTOR'S ART**

The course unit is offered as independent special courses given by visiting teachers, and they are offered in between the phenomenon-based course units. Special courses offer the student an understanding and an experience differing from other teaching, and engaging in discussion with it.

The course unit can also include elective course units, internationalisation and mobility studies as well as studies conducted during the summer, which can include for example the students' individual artistic projects and various assignments within literature, skills acquisition or performance viewing.

**Scope**

15 ECTS credits

**Subject**

Theatre Arts

**Person in charge**

University lecturer Tiina Syrjä

**Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is able to link the skills and abilities needed in special fields of actor's art that he or she has learned to one's work as well as to other course units
- can locate the knowledge and skills obtained during the special courses on the study path, and reflect on them both verbally and in writing

**Contents**

During the course unit the student learns to use the skills and means of expression required by various special fields or art (such as actor's art, dance and historical traditions and genres of music as well as performance techniques and technologies related to actor's art). Work done within the applied theatre and different audiences can be integrated in the course unit.

Working is conducted by completing assignments that are relevant to the pedagogy or the methods of each special field, and by scene exercises. It can also include lectures and independent work.

It is possible to organise small-scale public theatrical events or open rehearsals during the special courses belonging to the course unit. Some of the courses can be realised in cooperation with the Open University at the University of Tampere and the extension studies unit at the School of Communication, Media and Theatre and the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki. It can also include the Nordic NORTEAS studies or other internationalisation studies.

**Completion**

Participation in course work

**Evaluation**

Pass/fail

**Study materials**

Other written and audiovisual study materials defined separately by the teachers.

**ELECTIVE STUDIES AND ARTISTIC PROJECTS**

Course unit offered as elective studies, and as artistic projects realised by the student outside the Degree Programme in Theatre Arts, which can also be completed during the summer.

**Scope**

10 ECTS credits

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

Professor Pauliina Hulkko

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is capable of completing theoretical and practical studies independently and purposefully
- is capable of independent artistic work
- is able to reflect verbally and in writing one's own work and knowledge and skills adopted

### **Contents**

During the course unit the student completes theoretical or practical studies independently that can be chosen from the course unit portfolio of either the Degree Programme in Theatre Arts or other universities. It is also possible for the student to complete studies by participating in an individual artistic project or a professional course unit within the field.

### **Completion**

Participation in the course unit work: elective studies, an artistic project or a professional course unit. Learning Diary, essay or report.

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

### **BA thesis**

#### **Scope**

10 ECTS credits

#### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

#### **Persons in charge**

University lecturers Mikko Kanninen and Tiina Syrjä

#### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is able to review and assess one's own knowledge and skills, and personal development with respect to the current phase of the study path
- is able to write about one's artistic work using appropriate concepts and vocabulary
- identifies challenges in one's work
- is able to work independently and purposefully towards completing a thesis
- can formulate one's thinking in writing in an interesting and grammatically correct form
- can apply skills in information retrieval to completing the thesis
- masters the basic principles of academic referencing
- is able to discuss actor's art within the theatre field and with other experts

#### **Contents**

The thesis is a written study completed by the student based on the experiences and learning diaries created by the student during the Bachelor's Degree studies, and focusing on one or several phenomena within actor's art of one's own choice. Writing the thesis is practiced with assignments in writing and by studying Bachelor's Degree theses completed at the Theatre Work (Näty).

The thesis is discussed and presented in joint thesis seminars.

A maturity test is written on the theme of the thesis, and it is with the maturity test that the student shows expertise on the theme and demonstrates a good command of the Finnish language and the key concepts of actor's art.

**Completion**

Participation in course work: thesis seminar, written thesis and maturity test

**Evaluation**

Pass/fail

**Study materials**

Completed Bachelor's Degree theses at the Degree Programme in Theatre Arts and other reading defined by the teachers.

**Further reading**

Adler, Stella (1988). *The technique of acting*. Toronto & New York: Bantam Books.

Benedetti, Jean (2007). *Art of the actor: the essential history of acting, from classical times to the present day*. New York: Routledge.

Carreri, Roberta (2014). *On training and performance: traces of an Odin Teatret actress*. Translated and edited by Frank Camilleri. Abingdon: Routledge.

**LANGUAGE STUDIES 15 ECTS credits**

**SWEDISH 5 ECTS credits**

(a course unit description is published by the language centre of the university)

**ENGLISH 5 ECTS credits**

(a course unit description is published by the language centre of the university)

**FINNISH 5 ECTS credits**

Kirjallinen viestintä (Written communication) 3 ECTS credits Puheviestintä (Speech communication) 2 ECTS credits

(a course unit description is published by the language centre of the university)

## **MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN THEATRE ARTS 120 ECTS credits**

### **Actor as researcher**

The starting point in the Master's Degree studies is a state of curiosity created during the Bachelor's Degree studies towards different artistically, professionally and socially interesting phenomena, and an ability to study and reflect on them from different perspectives to actor's art: as story teller, poet, engineer and social participant. The objective for each student is to identify and strengthen one's own artistic singularity and to deepen one's professional knowledge and skills. The degree includes internationalisation studies and mobile studies, some of which can be completed within universities abroad. The Master's Degree in Theatre Arts gives eligibility to conduct postgraduate (doctoral) studies in theatre arts.

The studies in the Master's Degree follow the student's personal study plan. They comprise advanced special courses offered by the Degree Programme in Theatre Arts, course units chosen by the student from the course portfolio of the University of Tampere and other universities, as well as advanced artistic projects and vocational practice. The two latter parts can also be realised in an international environment. Based on the artistic expedition of the student, he or she completes a thesis comprising an artistic part and a reflective part.

### **ADVANCED SPECIAL COURSES 20–40 ECTS credits**

The Degree Programme in Theatre Arts organises special courses as part of the Master's Degree covering different fields of actor's art and its theories, with content and focus areas varying for each academic class.

#### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

#### **Persons in charge**

University lecturers Mikko Kanninen and Tiina Syrjä

#### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is able to develop one's own artistic singularity based on the knowledge and skills acquired
- is able to apply the field of actor's art or the theoretical perspective covered to one's own working

#### **Contents**

Special course units fall under the following headings:



Possibilities and awareness skills of the performing body

- during the special courses the student explores in depth some of the techniques and exercises adapted during the Bachelor's Degree studies.

Contemporary presentation forms and actor's dramaturgy

- during the special courses the student explores in depth the forms of contemporary performance and acting as dramaturgical event consisting of various elements.

Historical theatre cultures, genres and epochs

- during the special courses the student explores in depth historical theatrical cultures, genres or epochs. These include for example *commedia dell'arte*, Shakespeare's theatre, farce and non-European theatrical traditions.

Techniques and forms of performance within the popular theatre

- during the special courses the student explores in depth the techniques and the forms of performance within the popular theatre. These can include for example cabaret, stand up and different improvisation techniques.

Social and pedagogical applications of actor's art

- during the special courses the student applies one's personal actor's art to different social phenomena, studying them together with different communities and audiences. In this study, the student can make use of the techniques adapted, such as story theatre.

Special techniques of actor's art

- during the special courses the student explores in depth techniques strengthening one's own artistic expertise. These can include for example mime, puppet theatre, Viewpoints and the gestalt method.

Special areas of song, speech and music

- during the special courses the student deepens one's own artistic expertise with techniques or special areas of song, speech or music. These can include for example the Estill technique, acting in a foreign language, and free accompaniment.

Special techniques and forms of dance

- during the special courses the student explores in depth techniques and forms of dance that strengthen one's own artistic expertise. These can include for example urban forms of dance, special techniques of contemporary dance, and ballet.

Technological environments of actor's art

- during the special course units the student explores in depth the working with various performance technologies and environments defined by them, such as audiovisual, digital and virtual environments.

History, philosophy and cultures of art, and artistic research

- during the special course units the student explores in depth the phenomena of art history, philosophy and culture, and on artistic research in theory and in practice

## **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

## **ADVANCED ARTISTIC PROJECTS 10–30 ECTS credits**

The student plans and realises a performance based on a phenomenon or a theme of one's own choice either by himself or herself, or as a member of a work group. He or she can also participate as a performer in a project created by someone else. It is possible to carry out the project in an international setting, and it can form the artistic part of in the Master's Degree thesis.

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

Professor Pauliina Hulkko

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is able to apply one's own knowledge and skills concerning actor's art independently and purposefully for reaching an artistic goal
- is able to, as a performance maker or performer, build an artistic unity projecting one's true artistic voice with respect to the content and the idiom of the performance
- is able to analyse the adopted knowledge and skills both verbally and in writing

### **Contents**

The advanced artistic projects aim at helping the student to find and strengthen one's own artistic singularity as well as support one's own knowledge and skills in different areas of making a performance. The projects can be realised within or outside the activities of the degree programme.

### **Completion**

Participation in planning and realising an artistic project or performing in one Learning Diary, report or essay.

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

## **PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP 20–30 ECTS credits**

During the course unit the student participates as an actor or performer in a professional production in Finland or abroad. Professional internship can form the artistic part of the Master's Degree thesis.

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

University lecturer Minna Hokkanen

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- can do a total character and/or role work in a framework created by a professional artistic production

- can function as an independent player in creative interaction with an artistic work group
- can receive demanding artistic directions and transfer them into practice
- is familiar with the methods of production and structures of work in the internship and is able to function within them
- is aware of his or her rights and responsibilities as a worker
- is able to critically analyse the activities of the artistic unit formed by the internship institution, from the perspective chosen and based on one's own research theme, and transform one's own thinking into writing in a clearly structured manner.

### **Contents**

The internship takes place primarily as working in the theatre, but as the goal is to strengthen the student's own actorship and special knowledge and skills, the work can also take place within television or film. The student is active in finding the internship placement. While in the internship, the student chooses a research perspective on theatre or some of its phenomena, through which he or she observes the internship. The student writes a report or an essay based on these observations.

### **Completion**

Role work or role works in the professional production  
Learning Diary, report or essay

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail

## **MA thesis 40 ECTS credits**

The thesis in the Master of Arts in Theatre Arts comprises artistic work and an integral reflective part, in which the student observes one's own work and thinking through phenomena and perspectives of one's own choice. The artistic part of the thesis can also be realised as professional internship or as student's own artistic project. The scope of the artistic and reflective parts together is 40 ECTS credits, and the scope of each part can vary between 10–30 ECTS credits.

### **Subject**

Theatre Arts

### **Person in charge**

Professor Pauliina Hulkko

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed the course unit the student

- is able to apply phenomenon-based actor's thinking in artistic and written work
- is able to analyse one's own role in the performance through actor's art, technique, and ethics as well as the content and the meaning of the performance
- is able to write about actor's art and about one's own actorship comprehensively projecting one's true artistic voice
- is able to use appropriate concepts and vocabulary creatively in one's thinking and the chosen phenomenon
- masters academic referencing practices
- is able to outline the work in terms of artistic research

- is able to argue on the research topic verbally and in writing

### **Contents**

The artistic part of the thesis can be formed by participation in an artistic production or other realisation of the actor's art. The reflective part must provide perspectives to the artistic work and open the related artistic thinking of the student. The thesis includes participation in a thesis seminar.

### **Completion**

Artistic work and reflecting part. Participation in a thesis seminar, presentation of one's own thesis, and assuming the role of an opponent for a thesis of a peer student. The studies include two hours of acquiring skills for information retrieval, and a maturity test.

### **Evaluation**

Pass/fail