

## **MINOR IN DRAMA AND PERFORMANCE (choose and complete 5 modules)**

### **Foundation Level (compulsory and pre-requisite to other CDP modules)**

CDP101 Introduction to Performance and Theatre Skills

### **Ordinary Level (choose and complete at least 1 module)**

CDP201 Twentieth-Century Theatre: Theory and Practice

CDP202 Contemporary Theatre in Singapore and Southeast Asia

### **Advanced Level (choose and complete at least 2 modules)**

CDP331 Theatre for Young People

CDP332 Acting Workshop

CDP434 Drama and Alternative Media

CDP435 Playwriting Workshop

CDP436 Independent Study in Drama

CDP437 Contemporary Drama (Course Outline)

CDP438 Directing Workshop

CDP439 Asian Theatre Systems

## **Content of Subjects**

### **Foundation Level (compulsory and pre-requisite to other CDP modules)**

#### **CDP101 Introduction to Performance and Theatre Skills**

A practical exploration, from the actor's perspective, of how theatre is devised and applied to text. Working with the body and voice as instruments, a number of 20th-century theatre-making methodologies will be explored, such as those deriving from the work of Stanislavski, Artaud, Brecht, Michael Chekhov and Grotowski. Technical skills in lighting and sound and in managing the stage will also be introduced.

### **Ordinary Level (choose and complete at least 1 module)**

#### **CDP201 Twentieth-Century Theatre: Theory and Practice**

After a basic guide to the main movements in twentieth-century theatre, key areas are selected for detailed study. The emphasis is on understanding crucial developments in theatre practice, through workshop methods wherever possible, supported by exploration of the ideas that animated the changes. The selection of material will build on major figures such as Stanislavsky, Brecht and Boal, and extend to some of the following areas: the revolt against realism; popular and political theatre; 60's radicalism; feminist theatre; interculturalism and post-colonial theatres. Representative plays such as Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and David Henry Hwang's *Mbutterfly* will be introduced for exploration in terms of the concerns of the course.

#### **CDP202 Contemporary Theatre in Singapore and Southeast Asia**

An introduction to Singapore theatre and the main driving forces in Southeast Asian theatre. Major playwrights will be surveyed, from Robert Yeo to Kuo Pao Kun, Kee Thuan Chye and Nick Joaquin. Then the key new directions in Singapore theatre will be explored through the work of leading companies, such as TheatreWorks, The Necessary Stage, Theatre Practice and Theatre

### **Advanced Level (choose and complete at least 2 modules)**

#### **CDP331 Theatre for Young People**

A survey of theatre for, by and about young people. This module will investigate current approaches to involving young people in the process of making theatre, particularly in Singapore.

It will focus on modes of devising and presenting Theatre-in-Education, youth theatre and community-based performance in practical workshop, with a major performance component.

### **CDP332 Acting Workshop**

Building on the Foundation Module, this workshop-based course develops detailed approaches to acting. Stanislavsky-based methods will develop an understanding of realist acting. Both Asian and Western traditions will contribute to the development of non-realist acting approaches. These approaches will culminate in text-based scene-work and in devised work with the stress on voice and movement.

### **CDP434 Drama and Alternative Media**

An investigation of performance across a range of creative media. This module will apply contemporary theories of performance, such as postmodernism and the dramaturgy of space and body, to critique and devise performance in contexts alternative to conventional theatre. Topics such as performance art, video, acting for the screen, site-specific performance or cabaret may be addressed in seminars and practical workshops.

### **CDP435 Playwriting Workshop**

Students will work both individually and in small-group devising. A range of processes will be encouraged, leading to a variety of end-products - for example, from realist scene-work to the development of treatments for multi-media performance. Details will depend upon the particular tutor and the needs of the group. Visiting playwrights will be invited in wherever possible.

### **CDP436 Independent Study in Drama**

This course is designed to accommodate flexibly advanced topics for the Drama and Performance student. This course could take the form of an academic pursuit or a more practical experience. The course will be individually tailored to the members of the class. Where appropriate, independent study methods will be introduced. Examples are: a small-team guided research project on an aspect of drama in the community; a detailed study of an innovative dramatist or company, considering both theory and practice; a researched and theorised chamber production.

### **CDP437 Contemporary Drama**

An investigation of contemporary approaches to theatre and performance. This module will apply a range of methodologies to critique a selection of contemporary dramatic texts and performance events from Asia and the West. Topics such as gender and performance, interculturalism, postmodernism, postcolonial theatre or physical theatre may be addressed in seminars and performance workshops.

### **CDP438 Directing Workshop**

This is primarily a practical course, though the evolution of the role of the director in the twentieth-century will be explored. After practice in finding a connection with scripts and in developing an initial process for working on them with actors, further work on scenes and short plays will allow for exploration of the range of the director's duties: collaboration in design, sound, lighting and other technical areas; responsibility for blocking and the artistic coherence of the production; development of a leadership style suited to the size of company, nature of the project and so on. There will be a presentation of student-directed short scenes.

**CDP439 Asian Theatre Systems**

The major Asian popular traditional forms will be studied - Chinese Opera and Japanese Noh and Kabuki will form a core. Further exploration of the large range of Asian forms will necessarily be selective - examples are: Bangsawan, Khon, Wayang Wong, Ketoprak or Zarzuela. The aim is both to appreciate the richness of traditional forms and to assess which are most viable as modern theatre. There will be workshops to explore movement, costume and performance styles.

**Schedule for Minor in Drama and Performance**

CDP101 to be offered every Semester

CDP201 every July semester

CDP202 every January semester

CDP331 - 435 alternate July semesters

CDP436 - 439 alternate January semesters