



Academic Promotion Discipline Statement

Discipline area: Creative Arts and Writing
Discipline: Performing Arts
Sub-Discipline Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies
School: Social Work and Arts

Discipline Overview

Drama, theatre and performance studies is a creative discipline that focuses on live performance in front of an audience, focusing particularly on the creation, production, design, performance and management of creative projects in a variety of settings.

Performing arts is mature in terms of practice, however the transition of the discipline to academia is more recent. Higher degrees by research in the performing arts were not available in Australia or internationally until the late 1980's. There are many academics even at very senior levels in performing arts schools across Australia who do not hold a PhD. Instead an individual's record of work and achievement in the performing arts has traditionally been the measure of success and esteem.

Members of this discipline typically complete undergraduate studies and gain several years of professional practice in the performing arts industry prior to entering academia. Given the applied nature of performing arts, post graduate and doctoral qualifications are rare in the performing arts industry.

Gender Profile

Profession/Industry	30% female / 70% male (Performing Arts Technicians) 56% female / 40% male (Actors, Dancers and Other Entertainers)
Higher Education Sector	Data not currently available
Charles Sturt University	66% female / 34% male

Discipline Context and Expectations

INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION	This discipline is not subject to industry accreditation requirements.
DISCIPLINE PEDAGOGIES	Teaching includes lectures and workshops integrated with hands-on practice in group and individual settings. Practical elements include the design and production of performing arts projects which may be conducted in a range of settings including online, on-campus and physical locations beyond the University footprint
STUDENT PROFILE	Undergraduate students are almost exclusively school leavers with a significant cohort (70%) of female identifying students. Postgraduate students range in ages from 30- 49 (predominately female), and over 50 (predominately male), and are drawn from a broad range of discipline backgrounds.

STUDENT FEEDBACK/PERFORMANCE	There are no unique discipline specific attributes requiring consideration.
RESEARCH APPROACH	<p>Academics in performing arts generally have expertise in and/or work in one of several specialisations, including: acting/performance; stage management; sound design, set and costume design; scriptwriting; and direction. They may engage in the creation of performance works as well as producing traditional written research output.</p> <p>The research approach, whether it be through performance works or publication, is predominantly collaborative in this discipline.</p>
PUBLICATION	<p>Publication in scholarly journals is less common. There are some refereed interdisciplinary and medium specific journals, but they are not as common as in some other disciplines. Research is also published in industry journals, which are subject to varying degrees of quality.</p> <p>Book chapters and books are rare in this discipline.</p> <p>Journal editor invitations are rare.</p> <p>The authorship in this discipline follows no set convention for the order of the contributors.</p>
CREATIVE WORKS	<p>Performing arts industry is very broad, encompassing stage, screen and music. It operates at many different levels, from large commercial companies, small and mid-size theatre companies to solo performance and therefore performance context and scale can vary significantly. An individual is judged on the aesthetic critical and commercial success of their work and those who produce the best work are highly sought after.</p> <p>Performance projects generally involve a team of people, each person contributing unique but complementary performance and production expertise. Contributors are likely to be responsible for a specific element in a performance project. Even solo performance is rarely undertaken in isolation.</p> <p>Participation in high profile performing arts productions is a significant achievement in this discipline.</p>
CONFERENCES	<p>In this discipline conferences are mostly interdisciplinary. Some are competitive and involve prestigious invitations.</p> <p>It is normal for academics in this discipline to attend full paper competitive conferences. Presentation at such conferences is highly regarded and can precede article submission in peer reviewed journals.</p>
GRANTS	<p>There are limited opportunities for performing arts researchers and practitioners to access grant funding. Australian Research Council (ARC) grants are highly competitive. Performing arts projects are rarely funded by ARC.</p> <p>In this discipline it is more common for projects to be self-funded or supported by small grants such as those offered by Create NSW.</p>
HDR SUPERVISION	<p>HDR students both domestic and international, are very difficult to attract in this discipline because most students are very industry focused. Students must demonstrate an ongoing art practice to undertake an HDR program.</p> <p>Therefore, opportunities for supervision as a primary or co-supervisor are rare.</p>



RECOGNITION	<p>There are no specific awards or fellowship which are academic in nature.</p> <p>However, the performing arts industry recognises excellence in performance and production through a range of peer reviewed awards (national and international) which are indicative of high industry standing and reputation, for example Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Awards, Helpmann Awards, MPSE Gold Reel awards(sound), and the Academy Awards. These awards are extremely competitive and to be nominated should be considered on par with publication in a highly ranked journal.</p>
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT	<p>With such a strong focus on collaboration in this discipline, building and maintaining industry partnerships and relationships is integral.</p>
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	<p>Professional registration and accreditation is not required in this discipline. However, academics may be members of professional bodies, such as the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance.</p>

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