

BA Theatre Design and Production

Stage sound, Lighting & AV systems

Module Code: HPTD4005

2018 - 2019

Module Tutors:

Dave Atkinson (Sound) d.atkinson@uwtsd.ac.uk

Ceri James (Lighting & AV) cerij@me.com

What are our aims?

- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of equipment and techniques used in the manufacture of sound, lighting & AV for theatre and entertainment.
- To develop students' abilities to apply knowledge and understanding through practical tasks.
- To introduce students to the basic methodology of technical etiquette and practice.

What are your learning objectives?

In marking your work on this module your tutor expects you to:

- Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of the sound, lighting & AV designers and technicians in the design process, rehearsal period and run of a show.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of technical methods in a variety of lighting, sound and AV equipment.
- To be able to set up and operate a basic PA, lighting or AV installation.
- Apply Health and Safety procedures to your work.
- Create specific elements responding to a designers brief.
- Organise your knowledge, through library, online and other information resources.

When do we meet?

Thursday March 21st 10:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00

Sound Class Session 1 RH002

This session will go through the module booklet and discuss the Health & Safety aspects of working on stage. Sound equipment will be introduced at an introductory level.

Sound Class Session 2 RH002

In this session we will take a practical look at what we saw in session 1 and start to connect some systems together. We will be covering analogue and digital desks, active and passive speakers, XLR, powercon, speakon, microphones and radio mics and how to get it all working. We will also set up and use access equipment.

Sound Study Task 1:

From today's session make notes the equipment you have used, the differences between them and when and where they are best used.

Friday March 22nd 14:00 – 17:00

Sound Class Session 3 RH002

In this session we will cover paperwork, tech rehearsal, production week and rehearsals for sound designers and sound operators, the hierarchy and different sound roles. We will also look into how to choose the correct equipment, as well as PRS and how to start designing a show. Let's look at a script.

Sound Study Task 2:

Design and cost for the purchase of a PA for a mid scale tour. Imagine you are the sound person for the company, write a justification for your wish list!

Monday March 25th 14:00 – 17:00

Sound Class Session 4 RH002

Foley Art. Who was Foley and how do you make sound effects?

Sound Study Task 3:

Experiment with Qlab and build a mini show of cues.

Wednesday March 27th 10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00

Sound Class Session 5 RH002 (POSTPONED)

Qlab software. We will learn the basics of the industry standard for running sound in theatre.

Sound Class Session 6 RH002

Project. In groups you will need to create live Foley art to a given short clip. In this session I will give you your clip and we can discuss how you want to go about making your live effects!

Thursday March 28th 10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00

Sound Class Session 7 Halliwell Theatre / RH002

I will have 1-hour tutorials with each group to go through the plan for the afternoon's presentation.

Sound Study Task 4:

How might the sound equipment we have used be used for a live band or festival? Consider what the differences may be compared to theatre. Also explore recording studios and what differences can be found here. Complete your process workbook.

That's the end of sound, now we move onto lighting and AV

Tuesday April 2nd 10:00 – 13:00

Lighting & AV Class Session 1 – Halliwell Theatre

Introduction to Stage lighting, the basic equipment used. Lantern types, power distribution, dimming, control, basic rigging. How to rig lanterns, cable and power. How each lantern works, focus and beam type

Equipment –

Fresnels x 2 (650w & 1 kW)

Profile x 2 (fixed and zoom)

Gobo holder and gobo

Iris

1 x Cyc Flood

2 x Par (cp 62 & CP 6 1)

Gel /Frost

LX Bar at stage height (on wind up stand)

1 x 6 way dimmer

3 x 10 m 15 amp TRS

1 x soca /15 amp spiders in /out

ETC Ion/ DMX cable

Wednesday April 3rd 10:00 – 13:00

Lighting & AV Class Session 2 – RH002

BASIC PRINCIPLES, THE FUNCTION OF STAGE LIGHTING, THE CONTROLLABLE QUALITIES. WHERE TO START – METHODS, DIRECTION OF LIGHT SOURCES, LIGHTING MULTIPLE STAGE AREAS, MOTIVATION, EFFECTS, THE DESIGN PROCESS.

How we translate ideas into reality

How do we document our thoughts, how do we respond to the text, dance, video, music and visual influences

Study Task 1:

Document your response to a short video

Max Richter – The Nature of daylight. <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/music-video/max-richter-on-the-nature-of-daylight/1394092587>

Thursday April 4th 10:00 – 13:00

Lighting & AV Class Session 3 – RH002

The language of lighting design; Intensity, Visibility vs over exposure, Colour, Perception, interpretation, emotional response, Shape, Form, Quality, Soft and hard light, contrast, light and shade, negative space. (what not to light).

Friday April 5th 10:00 – 13:00

Class Session 4 – Halliwell Theatre

Theory into practice. Equipment needed:

1 x Cyc Flood

2 x Par (cp 62 & CP 6 1)

Gel /Frost

Various stands if possible

1 x 6 way dimmer

3 x 10 m 15 amp TRS

1 x soca /15 amp spiders in /out

ETC Ion/ DMX cable

Colour

Working in groups of 2

Using concepts and information from previous class, use the equipment to interpret 3 concepts

3 lighting states that express

How you felt on the first day at college

How do you feel today

How do you will feel at the end of your course

This should be done using colour, direction, intensity and time

Study Task 2:

Choose a film, book or play, think about how you could precis in a small lighting design. Notate using colour, direction and intensity

Sketch/draw or put in words how you would achieve

This will form part of an end project, combining sound, AV and lighting after the Easter break

Sound Class Session 8 Halliwell Theatre

This session is the Foley project presentation where each group demonstrates their short clip with the live Foley mix.

Tuesday April 30th 10:00 – 13:00

Lighting & AV Class Session 5

Enter a brief description of the class.

Wednesday May 1st 10:00 – 13:00

Lighting & AV Class Session 6

Enter a brief description of the class.

Study Task 3:

Give them a challenge to research – make them read books

Thursday May 2nd 10:00 – 13:00

Lighting & AV Class Session 7

Enter a brief description of the class.

Friday May 3rd 10:00 – 13:00

Class Session 8

Enter a brief description of the class.

Study Task 4:

Give them a challenge to research – make them read books

Process Workbook hand in will be at 10am on Friday 10th May

ASSESSMENT

Coursework & Practical Projects and Process Workbook 100%

A key part of this assessment is your evidence shown over the course of the module by the use of a process workbook/ electronic folder. You must keep this up to date and relevant to what you have learnt.

The aim of the Process Workbook is to:

- Provide a personal record of your development on the module.
- Promote reflection on, and insight into incidents that have occurred as a part of your working practice on the module.
- Record your understanding and insights drawn from personal and group experiences as a result of undertaking work in this module.
- Show clear understanding of personal development needs and how the tutorial system has aided this.
- Show clear and focused engagement with self directed learning.

Additional hard copy material may be required for presentation but you will be informed about the form and nature of these as the module progresses.

How is my work in Sound, lighting and AV Assessed?

Your ability to study means:

- You read and take coherent notes on the Required Reading and module bibliography.
- You demonstrate an understanding of the design & implementation process.
- You demonstrate theoretical understanding of the various terms, equipment, cables, procedures and techniques used in technical design and installation.
- You demonstrate understanding of the role of the different team members in each sound, lighting & AV department.

Your ability to practice means:

- You are able to recognise specific sound, lighting & AV cables and equipment.
- You handle cables and equipment with an appropriate level of knowledge, confidence and skill.
- You apply techniques, as directed, with an appropriate level of skill.
- You care for the cables and equipment and working environment with due regard for cleanliness, organisation and health and safety.
- You are able to apply and synthesise techniques to achieve solutions to various construction challenges.

Your ability to demonstrate development means:

- You identify those skill areas and techniques that you find difficult
- You develop appropriate strategies to practice those techniques you find difficult.
- You make tangible improvements through practical application in a sustained manner throughout the duration of the module.

Your ability to manage your workload means:

- You attend all classes fully prepared and with the correct equipment and clothing.
- You ensure that all directed study tasks are completed by the due deadline.
- You commit fully to all exercises and projects with an appropriate level of focus and energy.
- You work in a sustained and serious manner throughout the duration of the module.
- You demonstrate increasing autonomy in your approach to tasks.
- You work in a supportive and consensual manner with colleagues

Bibliography

Resources are limited in any library so as good common practice don't just rush in and sign out as many books as possible. Use the Library space to take notes of what you need. A book's knowledge is of no use on a shelf or stuck in a drawer or cupboard. Remember you are a part of a Production Team – help each other.

Essential

Fraser, N. Lighting and Sound, Oxford: Phaidon, 1993.

Reid, F. The Stage Lighting Handbook, London: A & C Black, 1992.

Shelley, S A Practical Guide to Stage Lighting.

Walne, G. Sound for Theatre, London: A & C Black, 1990.

Recommended

Cadena, R. Automated Lighting (This is an e-book available online and accessible via the Library catalogue).

Davies, G. Create your own Stage Effects, London: A&C Black, 1999.

Finelli, P.M. Sound for the Stage, New York: Quire, 1994.

Gillette, J. M. Designing with Light, California: Mayfield Publishing, 1989.

Griffiths, T. R. 'Lighting', in, Stagecraft: the Complete Guide to Theatrical Practice, Oxford:

Phaidon, 1990, pp. 93-109.

Hays, D. Light on the Subject, New York: Limelight, 1995.

Kaye, D. Sound and Music for Theatre (This is an e-book available online and accessible via the Library catalogue).

Miller, J. Stage Lighting in the Boondocks: A Layman's Handbook of Down to Earth