

BA Theatre Design and Production

Scenic Construction

Module Code: HPTD4004

2021 - 2022

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What are the learning outcomes?

Upon successful completion of this module, a student should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Display basic knowledge and understanding of scenic construction.
- Operate hand and machine tools commonly used in scenic construction in line with Health and Safety procedures.
- Display practical knowledge and understanding of the applications of CAD through the generation of technical drawings and ground plans in order to construct scenic units.

When do we meet?

Tuesday November 15th – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 1

This session will go through the module booklet and discuss the Health & Safety aspects of working in the workshop and go through a tool induction.

Study Task 1:

From today's session make notes on each of the tools and how to use them correctly. Please watch the Festool videos on Moodle to remind you of how they work.

Wednesday November 16th – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 2

In this session we will start to make traditional canvas clad flats.

Study Task 2:

Research four different types of rostra used in theatre. How are they built and why is there a need for using different methods? Give advantages and disadvantages of these. Find picture references of scenery that use rostra in the design and explain what type you think may have been used and why.

Tuesday March 1st – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 3

We will continue to make flats and make a circular rostra.

Study Task 3:

Research theatre trucks. What they are, how they can be moved and what safety measures need to be put in place when doing so. Find examples of sets that use trucks. Research about, and fill out a risk assessment for using a truck.

Tuesday March 8th – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 4

We will be making treads (steps)

Study Task 4:

Research how treads are made for theatre. Consider form and function. Are all treads built in the same way? What are the safety regulations for the use of treads i.e. where does the critical angle come into play and why is it so important. Is the use of handrails necessary? What is important about tread and riser sizes? How do you stop noise? Again, find references to sets and scenery that use steps or treads. Why would you normally not clad these in Shuttering Ply, but when may this be possible?

Tuesday March 15th – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 5

In this session use the time to finish the treads and make first year set.

Study Task 5:

What are revolves and how can they be operated? Is it possible to operate revolves on a raked stage? As usual find images to supplement your research, start to widen your research area and try forums – speak to people in the industry. I also want you to find 2 different interesting sets, make it personal to you and next week we will share these images with the group and talk about why they are interesting. (EMAIL ME THE IMAGES BEFORE THE SESSION PLEASE!).

Tuesday March 22nd - Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 6

Interesting sets. In this session you will present your selected images and talk about how they were made or how they could be made. You will have 5 minutes each to present your ideas.

Study Task 6:

What are the benefits of using metal to build scenery? Show at least three examples to illustrate your answer and show that you understand these. This means that your answer should not just be a picture but be accompanied by notes referring to these points.

Tuesday March 29th – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 7

This session we will make end of year set

Study Task 7:

Over the next couple of weeks go back over your process workbook and readdress any area that you consider you have not fully recorded. Does your workbook clearly show your learning journey so far? It is not a case of recording merely what you have done in class but where did you start from and where are you now? Consider mistakes and successes alike. Take a look at 'how is my work marked'.

EASTER BREAK

Tuesday May 3rd – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 8

This session we will make end of year set

Study Task 8:

Name four ways that flats or sets can be joined together. Explain the advantage and shortcomings of each method. Are there any inventions out there to make this easier?

Tuesday May 10th – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 9

This session we will make end of year set

Study Task 9:

Research into welding and metalworking, what are the different types of welding, why are they different? We know wood comes in a variety of sections (3x1, 3x2 etc) but in what forms can you buy lengths of metal? What would be the cost difference between a wooden set and a metal one?

Tuesday May 17th – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 10

This session we will make end of year set

Study Task 10:

Research how you could construct a tree, which has cast members climbing on it. How would it be fixed to the stage and how could you make something so prominent not overwhelm the stage. This should include materials and some estimate about cost, time and resources needed. Don't panic - just think it through.

Tuesday May 24th – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 11

This session we will make end of year set

Study Task 11:

Select a piece of scenery, (either one we have made or if you are feeling ambitious one we have not!) and using CAD draw a third angle orthographic technical drawing of it.

Tuesday May 31st – Group A (morning) and Group B (afternoon)

Class Session 12

This session we will make end of year set

Study Task 12:

Explore what materials you can use to clad scenic elements that need to be three-dimensional. You should include any protective coatings and explain why they are necessary.

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

Blaikie, T. *Scenic Art and Construction*, Marlborough: Crowood, 2002

Finch, R. *The Welder's Handbook: A Complete Guide*, New York: HPBooks, 1997.

Gillette, A.S. *Stage Scenery: Its Construction and Rigging*. Harper & Row: m, b 1981

Gillette, J. M. *Theatrical Design and Production*, New York: Mayfield, 1999.

Griffiths, T. R. 'The Workshop', in, *Stagecraft: the Complete Guide to Theatrical Practice*, Oxford: Phaidon, 1990.

Hendrickson, A. *Mechanical Design for the Stage* **(This is an e-book available online and accessible via the Library catalogue)**

Hoggett, C. *Stagecrafts*, London: A & C Black, 1975. Colorado: Meriwether, 1991,

Lord, W. 'Hardware', in, *Stagecraft 1*, Colorado: Meriwether, 1991

Pritchard, D. *Soldering, Welding, and Brazing*, London: Meriwether, 1991

Raoul, B. *Stock Scenery Construction*, Louisville: Broadway Press.1999

Recommended

Arnold, R. *Scene Technology*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall 1990.

Gibson, R. *Practical Welding*, London: Macmillan, 1994.

Glerum, J. *Stage Rigging Handbook*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2007.

Ruck, J. *Welding Projects*, London: Goodheat Wilcox, 1998.

Warre, M. *Designing and Making Stage Scenery*, London: Studio Vista 1966.

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Winslow, W. *The Handbook for Model-making for Set Designers*. Crowood Press 2008

Thorne, G. *Technical Drawing for Stage Design*. Crowood Press 2009

Sammler, B,J & Harvey, D. *Technical Design Solutions for Theatre Volume 1*. Focal Press 2002

Sammler, B,J & Harvey, D. *Technical Design Solutions for Theatre Volume 2*. Focal Press 2002

Sammler, B,J & Harvey, D. *Technical Design Solutions for Theatre Volume 3*. Focal Press 2013

Parker, W. Smith, H. Wolf, R. *Scene Design and Stage Lighting*. CBS College Publishing 1985

Blurton, J. *Scenery: Draughting and Construction*. A & C Black Ltd 2001