

DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

INFORMATION SHEET

In the study of drama students explore - through reading and practical work - the fields of Theatre and Drama; art forms used by people to make sense of the world around them.

In the act of Theatre (as well as in Improvisatory Drama), literature, culture, history, politics and human behaviour all come together. For this reason studying Drama is of value to students, both of Theatre and of other arts subjects, the humanities and the social sciences.

The Drama Department has the use of the proscenium arch Little Theatre, a studio theatre (the Arena), and a number of smaller flexible performance spaces, where approximately fifteen productions are staged annually. Some productions also travel to schools and into communities outside of the University.

CURRICULUM

There are a number of named programmes offered by the Humanities Faculty leading to the BA and BSocSci degrees. These programmes comprise a set of courses within a particular field of study. The Humanities Faculty also offers a 3 year major in Drama **as part of a General BA degree**.

STRUCTURE OF COURSES

1. BA IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

This is a four-year Honours-equivalent degree programme, orientated toward a professional career in Drama and Theatre and is designed to produce well-educated actors and theatre makers capable of creating their own work.

You must choose which Stream Option you prefer:

	Your Option will be:
⇒ Do you want to be an actor in theatre, on television and film?	ACTING
⇒ Do you want to create theatre / write for theatre / direct plays?	THEATRE-MAKING

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT NOT TO ADMIT STUDENTS TO EVERY OPTION IN ANY PARTICULAR YEAR. The Head of the Drama Department will decide which option is available to you and you will be informed on the outcome of your audition/interview. You might be permitted to change your option at the end of the first year, after consultation with the Head of Department. **No changes are possible in 3rd or 4th year.**

The BA in Theatre and Performance comprises:

- *Acting / Theatre-making.* In the first two years, these Options will include courses in Acting, Voice, Movement and Improvisation, as well as courses appropriate to your Option. In the third and fourth years, the course will focus more specifically on your option - e.g.
 - *Acting* may include acting for the camera;
 - *Theatre Making* may include playwriting and devising;
 (Aspects of the training in Acting is offered in English or bilingually in English & Afrikaans or English & isiXhosa.)
- An academic major in Drama (Drama I, II, III and IV);
- Stagecraft A and B (completed in the first two years of study);
- A choice in the completion of 3 semesters in courses outside of the Drama Department which must include 1 at senior level (2nd year or above).

2. THE DIPLOMA IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

This is a three-year professional theatre qualification in either Acting or Theatre Making Aspects of the course are offered unilingually (English) or bilingually (English & Afrikaans or English & isiXhosa) and comprises:

- Acting (which consists of Acting Voice, Movement) or Theatre Making over three years;
- Courses in the academic major of Drama for two years (Drama I & II);
- Stagecraft A and B (completed in the first two years of study);
- A course in professional practice

Note: *There are a limited number of places in this Diploma which will predominantly be offered to students who do not qualify with a matric exemption or NSC endorsed for degree studies, but who do meet the minimum admission criteria of this course, this includes endorsement for diploma studies.*

Students with an exemption should apply for the BA in Theatre and Performance, which is a longer and more intensive training than that offered in the Diploma.

You must choose which Stream Option you prefer.

Your Option will be:

⇒ Do you want to be an actor in theatre, on television and film?	ACTING
⇒ Do you want to create theatre / write for theatre / direct plays?	THEATRE-MAKING

3. DRAMA COURSES OFFERED IN OTHER PROGRAMMES AT UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

These may be studied as a “major” or taken as single courses within the General BA and BSoc.Sci. degrees. **Drama** comprises lectures, research and practical sessions, including student-led research projects and performances.:

If you anticipate studying Drama for your full course duration (i.e. as a senior or “major” subject), you must enter the General BA and BSoc.Sci degrees.

Reminder: - applicants for general BA or BA Soc.Sci with a major in Drama **DO NOT** audition.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES WITH THEATRE AND DRAMA SKILLS

The skills and knowledge gained in studying Theatre and Drama lead into careers in:

- Theatre: theatre/television/film acting, performing, directing, devising, managing, administration, journalism, and technical areas;
- Non-formal Education: advertising, AIDS education, community theatre, educational theatre and industrial theatre
- Teaching and Research: in schools, community centres, NGO projects, and at tertiary level.
- Business and Caring Professions: where communication, negotiation, problem solving, group organisation and role-play skills are necessary.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

☞ For more information about DRAMA COURSES and the THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME, contact:

Shabnam Pansari, Tel: (021) 650-7121 Email: undergrad.drama@uct.ac.za

☞ For more information about UCT ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, contact:

Humanities Faculty Office tel: (021) 650-2717 (BA in Theatre and Performance, Diploma in Theatre and Performance as well as the General BA/ B.SOC. SC in Drama).

For all information regarding Bursaries, Financial Aid and Fees, please consult the UCT Website using the following link:

<http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/funding/undergraduate/financial/>. The UCT Drama Department does not offer bursaries to First Year Students. Alternatively you could contact the Student Financial Aid Office on 021 650 3545 or email sfa-finaid@uct.ac.za

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AUDITION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

(for BA in Theatre and Performance & Diploma in Theatre and Performance **only**)

In order to be considered for admission to either of the above courses, you will be required to attend an audition & interview. You will also need to submit the Personal Information Sheet [D] and written assignment to the auditioner from the Drama Department at your audition.

FIRST AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare to perform the following tasks/pieces:

ACTING (theatre/film)		THEATRE-MAKING
1 poem		1 poem
1 excerpt from any play (monologue)		1 excerpt from any play (monologue)
1 contrasting excerpt from another play/ Demonstrating some transformation of character		1 short piece of your own creative writing (written or performed)

- **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY SHAKESPEARE!**
- All items should be between **1 - 2 minutes long**.
- All these items should be performed from memory and at least one should be in English. A table and chairs will be available should you require them.
- Should you wish to incorporate a task or piece which does not appear under the requirements for your Stream Option, flexibility will be allowed.
- Improvisation and interviewing may also be required by the auditioner/s.
- **Please note:** Students who are being considered for acceptance into the programme will be called back for a Second (Call-Back) Audition at a date specified. If required by the auditioner, students **must** attend this second audition. Dates will be posted on the Drama Website www.drama.uct.ac.za
- The suggested monologues found on the Drama Website are only a guide. Applicants are welcome to present their choice of audition pieces.

WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS – to be handed in at the audition ONLY!

1. Submit your Personal Information Sheet D to the auditioner.
2. Typed 3-4 page essay on the following topic and submit it to the auditioner:

“A vision of my future contribution to the development of South African theatre and drama”

Bilingual actor training: Candidates are reminded that the BA in Theatre and Performance and the Diploma in Theatre and Performance are offered unilingually in English or bilingually in English and Afrikaans or English and isiXhosa.

Tweetalige akteurs opleiding: Kandidate moet in gedagte hou dat die ‘BA in Theatre and Performance’, sowel as die ‘Performer’s Diploma in Theatre’ ook tweetalig in Engels en Afrikaans aangebied word.

Ingqeqesho yelwimi ezimbini kumdlalo weqonga: Abafundi bakhunjuzwa ngukuba iBA kwi Theatre and Performance nakwi Performer’s Diploma kwi Theatre zakuthi zifumaneke ngesiNgesi okanye ngelwimi ezimbini– IsiXhosa nesi-Ngesi

AUDITION OUTCOME

After the result of the audition is known, the Programmes Admissions Officer will inform the applicant of the outcome by letter. Please **do not phone the Drama Department** to enquire about outcomes, as no outcome can be discussed telephonically.

If you are not successful in your audition, & provided you meet the entrance requirements, you can still apply for a place in the General BA degree majoring in Drama. There are opportunities within this programme to study the academic subject Drama, which includes both lectures and practicals – this is not the intensive practical training as offered in the Theatre & Performance programme. (See the Sheet **B**, 3 for further information.)

GENERAL AUDITION TIPS

The following are not hard and fast rules - consider them tips that will strengthen your audition.

1. If your monologue is speaking to another character, try not to direct the speech to an 'invisible person' on stage. That means don't set up a chair and speak to it, and don't direct your speech at a wall or to empty space. Use the panel as the character you're addressing and speak directly to us (yes, make eye contact!). Either choose one of us, or speak to the whole panel. It's difficult for us to get a clear idea of your capabilities when you're turned away or if your focus is directed at a person who is clearly not present. Acting is connecting!
2. We don't encourage you to use music for transitions or as background during your audition. Fiddling with CD players and phones can become time consuming and stressful, as well as distracting from your performance. If it isn't necessary for the performance (and it usually isn't), we kindly ask you not to include it in your rehearsal.
3. Keep costume changes to a minimum. If you can suggest a change of character through a simple change (i.e. a hat you can take on and off, a jacket that's easy to slip on), do so. But there's no need to completely undress and change your outfit for every piece. Basic theatre blacks (plain black trousers and t-shirt) are fool-proof and advised.
4. Bring your own props, but keep it as stripped down and as simple as possible. The only set in your audition venue is a table and chair.
5. Each prepared piece must be 2 minutes or less. You will most likely not get through three full pieces. We may ask you to move on to your next piece before you've finished. This is not a bad thing: it means the panel has seen what they needed to from that piece. Remember that the prepared performance itself is only a small part of your audition. We're looking at many other things, including how you transform between pieces, how you conduct yourself, how you respond to direction, etc. When preparing your material, less is more.
6. On that note, the panel is doing a multitude of things while your audition takes place. We are taking notes, looking at your marks, reading your essay, checking your application status and so on. We won't be looking at you all the time, but that doesn't mean we're not paying attention! Keep going.
7. You may be asked to do something you haven't prepared, such as improvise, move, sing or be directed to redo a piece with a different instruction. Be ready for curveballs!
8. If you're applying as an actor or theatre maker in a language other than English (bilingual streams), prepare at least one of your pieces in that language.
9. Refrain from accent work. Our students usually don't start on accents until the senior years, as such work is considered advanced voice practice. In first year, we're much more interested in your own voice and how you interpret the piece in a way that feels like an honest reflection of your own experience and background.
10. Most importantly, relax and have fun. If you're tense, neither you or the audience will enjoy your performance. Give yourself enough time to warm up and find your focus before you step into the room, but once you're in, remember you're there to play.

Have a great audition!

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PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET

HAND-IN AT YOUR AUDITION

(ID PHOTOGRAPH
OF YOURSELF –
THIS IS VITAL AND MUST
BE ATTACHED PRIOR TO
YOUR AUDITION)

Full name

I have applied for:

BA in Theatre and Performance

Diploma in Theatre and Performance

If applying for the **BA in Theatre and Performance**, choose your *first*, *second* and *third* choices (*tick*):

	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice
Acting Unilingual in English			
Acting Bilingual in English and Afrikaans			
Acting Bilingual in English and Xhosa			
Theatre-Making			

If applying for the **Diploma in Theatre and Performance**, choose your *first*, *second* and *third* choices (*tick*):

	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice
Acting Unilingual in English			
Acting Bilingual in English and Afrikaans			
Acting Bilingual in English and Xhosa			
Theatre-Making			

Home Address

Email

Tel

Fax

Cell

Contact number of Family or Close Friend

Date of birth

Age

Home Language

Male

Female

ID Number

Command of languages (spoken - fluent, good, fair, poor etc.):

English	Other (specify)		

Titles of audition pieces

Poem

1st Monologue2nd Monologue

Referees:

(Give the names and contact details of at least two people who would be prepared to give an assessment of your potential):

Name:

Tel:

Email:

Name:

Tel:

Email:

Which School and/or College or University did you attend?

Qualifications (e.g. Senior Certificate, LTCL, BA, etc.)

Subjects and Grades (if known)

If you have already completed part of your BA degree, list the subjects passed and year/s completed:

Previous training in Speech and/or Drama

Related skills/hobbies (e.g. singing, drawing, etc.)

Experience of Theatre/Performing/Acting (plays, directors & parts)

Intended career

Why do you wish to follow this profession?

Have you applied to UCT for financial assistance?
YES **NO** Date of application for funding:

Have you written / booked a date to write the **NBT** test through UCT Alternative Admissions?
YES **NO** Date of test::

Have you applied to stay in a UCT Residence while studying at UCT
YES **NO**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above particulars are correct.

Signature of Applicant Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY * FOR OFFICE USE ONLY *** FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

FIRST AUDITION DATE		AUDITIONERS	SYMBOL
Recommend			
<i>BA T&P</i>	<i>DIP</i>	<i>Stream</i>	
Comment:			