PFR405: Directing Actors (CFS)

Status	Approved
Module Name	Directing Actors (CFS)
Module Code	PFR405
Credit Value	30
Level	4
Pre-requisites	
Named Module Leader	Collins, Amanda

Module Aim

This module aims to position actors as 'key collaborators' so that you can understand the process of script development with actors using a shared collaborative language.

Summary Module Description

By approaching performance from both the point of view of writers and filmmakers, you will enhance your understanding of how to develop good quality work from both sides of the camera. What do actors look for in a script? How do they prepare a scene for audition? How can a screenwriter maximise the casting potential of a project? How does the filmmaker coax a performance from an actor? The module will develop a variety of approaches, informed by the principle processes of script analysis, script breakdown, staging, mise-en-scene and communication, to enhance working with experienced screen actors.

Through assignments, presentations, demonstrations and workshop exercises, this module will cover techniques for casting, rehearsal, improvisation, and the principles of on-set directing, as both a creative and analytical process.

Module-Specific Employability Skills

The module will offer you an opportunity to practice the following skills that can be used in professional settings in film, television and creative industries, as well as in academia and beyond:

Industry & Business Knowledge: You will develop an ability to recognise and apply relevant terminologies, technologies and processes to your creative practice or evaluation of others' work.

10/7/2025

Health and Safety: You will enhance your awareness of health and safety guidelines and apply them in professional settings.

Problem Solving and Innovation: You will grow your capability to logically and critically evaluate the currently available film and television practices and progress your creativity towards innovation by applying conceptual models to practical challenges.

Imagination and Creativity: You will gain the confidence to determine your potential contribution to the creative industries, finding the courage to use artistic solutions and produce unique and original work.

Collaboration and Team Working: You will develop a positive attitude when working with others in a respectful, organised and collaborative manner.

Organisation: You will advance your project and time management skills.

Personal Development: You will be advised on how to define your priorities, manage your time effectively, develop an understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses and find ways of responding to constructive criticism and feedback. Your ability to forge productive relationships with others and to understand the essential elements of how creativity is fostered in team environments will go on to support you and your ambitions in your academic career and beyond.

Learning Outcomes

LO #	Learning Outcome Name	Learning Outcome Description	Assessment Criteria Category	
BAF	BAPFMASFU01 BA(Hons) Practical Filmmaking (2 year) - CFS v1.2			
1	Technical	Identify & apply ideas, creative elements, processes and techniques appropriate to a project	PROCESS	
2	Collaboration	Identify & apply constructive relationships and work effectively on a project	COLLABORATION	
3	Communication	Identify & apply professional communication and presentation skills	COMMUNICATION	
4	Professionalism	Identify & apply self-management skills and set priorities for personal and professional progression	ORGANISATION	

10/7/2025 2 / 5

5	Research	Identify & apply research, resources and methodologies that inform a project	RESEARCH	
6	Analysis	Identify & apply specialist information and practices	ANALYSIS	
7	Innovation	Identify and apply problem solving techniques and test ideas in the realisation of a project	INNOVATION	
8	Industry	Identify and apply industry vocabulary and knowledge to enable you to support your engagement with the commercial marketplace	INDUSTRY	
	BAPFMISFU01 BA(Hons) Practical Filmmaking with Integrated Foundation Year (3 years) - CFS v1.2			
1	Technical	Identify & apply ideas, creative elements, processes and techniques appropriate to a project	PROCESS	
2	Collaboration	Identify & apply constructive relationships and work effectively on a project	COLLABORATION	
3	Communication	Identify & apply professional communication and presentation skills	COMMUNICATION	
4	Professionalism	Identify & apply self-management skills and set priorities for personal and professional progression	ORGANISATION	
5	Research	Identify & apply research, resources and methodologies that inform a project	RESEARCH	
6	Analysis	Identify & apply specialist information and practices	ANALYSIS	
7	Innovation	Identify and apply problem solving techniques and test ideas in the realisation of a project	INNOVATION	
8	Industry	Identify and apply industry vocabulary and knowledge to enable you to support your engagement with the commercial marketplace	INDUSTRY	

10/7/2025

Assessment Methods

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	%	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Compulsory or Compensatable
PC	Directing actors in a scene	100	CLO: 2, 3, 8, 2, 3, 8	Compulsory

The following codes for assessment methods apply		
PC	Practical (PC)	

Modes of delivery

Module Target Learner Hours: 300		
Activity	Hours	
Lecture	18	
Seminar	12	
Tutorial	6	
Practical classes and workshops	36	
Guided independent study	228	

Indicative list of resources

ABBOTT, J. 2009. Improvisation in Rehearsal. UK: Nick Hern Books

BARTOW, A. 2008. *Handbook of Acting Techniques.* Nick Hern Books

CALDARONE, M & LLOYD-WILLIAMS, M. 2004. *Actions: The Actor's Thesaurus*. Nick Hern Books

CANON, D. 2012. In Depth Acting. Oberon Books

CHURCHER, M. 2011. A Screen Acting Workshop. Nick Hern Books

Weston, J (1999): *Directing Actors: Creating Memorable Performances for Film and Television.* Michael Wiese Productions Module

10/7/2025 4 / 5

Refer to the Module Guide for a range of up-to-date resources e.g. films, scripts, journal articles, websites and podcasts.

Named Awards

Course

BAPFMASFU01 BA(Hons) Practical Filmmaking (2 year) - CFS

BAPFMISFU01 BA(Hons) Practical Filmmaking with Integrated Foundation Year (3 years) - CFS

10/7/2025 5 / 5