Module Specification

Script and the Actor

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 24 Jan 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Script and the Actor

Module code: UALAY4-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Not in use for Modules

Field: Lens and Moving Image

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module introduces students to professional processes of conceiving, researching, developing, writing, interpreting, and critiquing screen narratives. The module develops an understanding of the pitching and creative

development of a project towards a market and audience.

Scripts are considered from the perspective of the actor and their character; interpreting, developing and performing the thoughts, feelings and actions of the character, and their narrative and thematic development.

In the screenwriting portion of the module, the emphasis is on research, creative development, and the skills of scriptwriting.

Students work on selected projects to build the dramatic potential of their screen stories through plot, character development and thematic ideas. They develop these projects from outline, pitch and treatment to the first draft script.

Students are further introduced to a range of professional research and creative development methods as well as developing core/basic capacities in budgeting, scheduling and risk assessment.

Outline syllabus: The module content develops students' learning within the Professional, Enterprise and Research pathways embedded in the programme curriculum.

Professional Pathway Syllabus content:

Short vs. long form screen narrative

Dramatic structure

Developing characters

Writing dialogue

Introduction to theme, subtext, symbolism and metaphor, genre and tone, visual style and non-verbal storytelling

The development process: premise, step-outline, treatment, pitch, script drafts, script editing and analysis

Working with writers, directors and other Heads of Department, using creative development and pre- production strategies

Project planning and resource management, including basic budgeting principles, scheduling, risk assessment and sustainable film production

Research Pathway Syllabus content:

Creative idea development using research, and also autobiography and personal themes

Enterprise Pathway Syllabus content:

Leadership qualities and people skills

Enterprise and personal agency attributes

Pitching projects, verbally and in writing

Sourcing and recruiting talent/collaborators

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Students undertake short practical assignments in pairs or individually that enable them to apply understandings developed in the module and as well as practice the professional screenplay form and production theory.

These exercises—underpinned by regular formative project development assignments— also support discussion and interaction in relation to wider aspects of creative practice, professional attitudes and learning skills. The specific assignments will be expanded upon in the Module Handbook.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours Face-to-face learning = 72 hours Total = 300

Lectures introduce aspects of the syllabus which are expanded on in screenings, tutorials, and above all in small project development workshop groups. Support for

library access and information skills is available through the UWE Study Support and the UWE Library Services web pages, including interactive tutorials on finding books and journals, evaluating information and referencing

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Apply creative idea generation, research, and development strategies to initiate and refine ideas;

MO2 Apply principles of dramatic writing, the elements of narrative design, character and thematic development and the distinctive features of the short film form;

MO3 Use constructive criticism, script analysis and creative narrative and character development, working with feedback and contributions from actors;

MO4 Communicate clearly and use professional writing craft skills including vocabulary and layout to a basic level;

MO5 Situate work in the broader context of screenwriting and fictional narrative production

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment strategy

Assessment: Portfolio (pass/fail)

For the summative assessment, students are required to submit a portfolio demonstrating their engagement and the development of the concepts, exercises and assignments explored and set in the taught sessions.

The assessment enables the student to demonstrate achievement across all the learning outcomes of the module.

This assessment type has been chosen to enable students to combine a range of outputs supported by the teaching and learning and to facilitate the development of creative scriptwriting in professional formats.

Formative and summative assessments are designed to provide the opportunity for students to understand and reflect upon their achievements and to support the monitoring of progress by tutors and students.

Assessment methods used are varied in demonstrating achievement to both academic and industry stakeholders, and form a coherent programme of assessment which is designed to offer students the maximum opportunity to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and experience that they have gained through the course of study, as well as to support ongoing and continuous improvement in their individual creative practice and development as practitioners.

Forms of assessment used as part of this module may include:
•Presentation and participation in studio-critique (formative)
•Portfolio review and assessment (formative/summative)
•Group and individual visual/verbal presentations (formative)
•Peer and self-assessment (formative and summative)
•Evaluative and reflective outcomes, including visual, verbal and written (formative and summative), such as:
•a short film script and development materials, lookbook and pitch documents.

*The Pass / Fail Assessment Strategy for this module has been designed to:

1.Establish a more authentic and subject appropriate approach to the assessment process, placing greater emphasis on assessment as learning, rather than an assessment of learning – which is more aligned to the iterative nature of creative practice.

2.Establish a less marks driven approach to assessment, particularly during the early stages of a student's journey will provide students with an opportunity to build confidence and develop individual approaches to iterative practice and creative risktaking without the perceived pressure / punitive nature of a marks driven culture.

3.Remove the emphasis from final marks, making explicit the role of feedback in students future learning and progression. Greater emphasis on assessment feedback will enable staff and students to establish a broader shared language and understanding of assessment away from the granular detail of marks.

4.Signal a more holistic, inclusive approach to assessment and would align with the University's wider priorities of inclusivity and accessibility.

Assessment components:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio pass/fail
Weighting:
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Portfolio pass/fail
Weighting:
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Filmmaking [Bower] BA (Hons) 2023-24