

VCE Theatre Studies 2025–2029

Unit 3 : Producing theatre

Acknowledgement of Country

The VCAA respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.



Familiarisation On Demand Videos

- **Video 1:** Overview of Changes
- **Video 2:** Unit 1
- **Video 3:** Unit 2
- **Video 4:** Unit 3
- **Video 5:** Unit 4

VCE Theatre Studies 2025-2029

- Accreditation period of 2025–2029, with implementation commencing in 2025
- Consists of four units, with this video focusing on Unit 3
- Important to note, any changes to this study design will be announced through the VCAA Bulletin, the only source of official information from the VCAA. It is the responsibility of the VCE teacher to monitor these changes/advice regularly.

Overview of Unit 3 – Key changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Producing theatre	Producing theatre
Area of Study 1 – Staging theatre	Area of Study 1 – Staging theatre
Area of Study 2 – Interpreting a script	Area of Study 2 – Interpreting a script
Area of Study 3 – Analysing and evaluating theatre	Area of Study 3 – Analysing and evaluating theatre

Unit 3 - Key changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Producing theatre	Producing theatre
<p>In this unit students develop an interpretation of a script through the three stages of the theatre production process: planning, development and presentation. Students specialise in two production roles, working collaboratively, creatively and imaginatively to realise the production of a script. They use knowledge developed during this process to analyse and evaluate the ways work in production roles can be used to interpret script excerpts previously unstudied. Students develop knowledge and apply elements of theatre composition, and safe and ethical working practices in the theatre. Students attend a performance selected from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Unit 3 Playlist and analyse and evaluate the interpretation of the script in the performance. The Playlist is published annually on the VCAA website.</p>	<p>In this unit, students develop an interpretation of a script through the three stages of the theatre production process: planning, development and presentation. Students specialise in two production roles, working collaboratively to interpret and realise the production of a script. They apply the knowledge developed during this process to analyse and evaluate how production roles can be used to interpret script excerpts previously unstudied. Students develop knowledge of elements of theatre composition and safe, ethical, inclusive and sustainable (where possible, environmentally sustainable) working practices in the theatre. Students attend a performance selected from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist and analyse and evaluate the interpretation of the script of the performance. The Playlist is published annually on the VCAA website.</p>

Unit 3 Area of Study 1 – Key Changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Staging theatre	Staging theatre
<p>In this area of study students focus on developing skills that can be applied to the interpretation of a script for performance to an audience. They work collaboratively, creatively and imaginatively to contribute to the development of a production of a selected script. As members of the production team, students undertake exercises and tasks throughout the three stages of the production process and apply elements of theatre composition leading to a performance to an audience of the selected script.</p>	<p>In this area of study, students focus on developing skills that can be applied to the interpretation of a script for performance to an audience. They work collaboratively to contribute to the development of a production of a selected script. As members of the production team, students undertake exercises and tasks throughout the three stages of the production process, leading to a performance of the selected script to an audience.</p>

Unit 3 Area of Study 1 – Key Changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Staging theatre	Staging theatre
	<p>Students apply dramaturgy and consider how the script's context, styles and intended meaning can be used to inform their interpretation and any possible recontextualisations of a script for an audience, and they consider audience culture.</p> <p>Students experiment and apply elements of theatre composition in order to manipulate meaning for an audience.</p>

Unit 3 Area of Study 1 – Key Changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Staging theatre	Staging theatre
<p>Students develop an understanding of, and enhance skills in, working in two production roles across all stages of the production process. They apply dramaturgy and use elements of theatre composition in the work they undertake in the two production roles. They develop skills that contribute to the theatre production process, including thinking creatively and imaginatively, working collaboratively, time management, planning, scheduling and reflecting.</p> <p>Throughout the production process, students develop their oral skills through discussions with others in the production team or through explaining how their work in production roles contributes to realising the production aims. They develop knowledge about and apply safe and ethical working practices in theatre production.</p>	<p>Students develop an understanding of, and enhance their skills in, working in two production roles across all stages of the production process. They apply dramaturgy in the work they undertake in the two production roles. They develop skills that contribute to theatre production processes, including working collaboratively, time management, planning, scheduling, evaluating and reflecting.</p> <p>Throughout the production process, students develop their oral skills through discussions with others in the production team or through explaining how their work in production roles contributes to realising the production aims. They further develop knowledge of and apply safe, ethical, inclusive and sustainable (where possible, environmentally sustainable) working practices in theatre production.</p>

Unit 3 Area of Study 1

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Staging theatre

Staging theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to interpret a script across the stages of the production process through collaborative work undertaken in 2 production roles.

Key Knowledge

- the nature and purpose of the three stages of the production process in the development of a creative and imaginative interpretation of a script
- the elements of theatre composition
- approaches to working collaboratively in a production team
- contributions that can be made by individuals working creatively and imaginatively as part of a production team to interpret a script across the three stages of the production process
- ways in which theatre production is informed by dramaturgical techniques that can be used as part of a production process, culminating in the performance of a script to an audience

- the nature and purpose of the three stages of the production process in the development of the interpretation of a script
- approaches to working collaboratively in a production team
- **analysing and annotating a script for performance**
- **the contexts, theatre styles and intended meaning of a script and how they inform an interpretation for performance and any recontextualisation possibilities**
- contributions that can be made by individuals as part of a production team to interpret a script across the 3 stages of the production process
- ways in which theatre production is informed by dramaturgical techniques that can be used as part of a production process, culminating in the performance of a script to an audience

Unit 3 Area of Study 1

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Staging theatre

Staging theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to interpret a script across the stages of the production process through collaborative work undertaken in 2 production roles.

Key Knowledge

- approaches to using elements of theatre composition to exploit possibilities in a script
- techniques and processes regarding safe and ethical working practices associated with theatre production
- strategies for documenting, analysing and evaluating contributions to the three stages of the production process
- theatre terminology and expressions.

- audiences and audience culture
- approaches to applying elements of theatre composition to manipulate possibilities in a script
- techniques and processes regarding safe, ethical, inclusive and sustainable (where possible, environmentally sustainable) working practices associated with theatre production
- strategies for documenting, analysing and evaluating contributions to the three stages of the production process
- the role of theatre technologies in contributing to the interpretation of a script across the three stages of the production process
- elements of theatre composition
- theatre terminology.

Unit 3 Area of Study 1

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Staging theatre

Staging theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to interpret a script across the stages of the production process through collaborative work undertaken in 2 production roles.

Key Skills

- identify and describe aspects of the three stages of the production process
- apply elements of theatre composition creatively and imaginatively
- contribute effectively to the development of a creative and imaginative interpretation of a script for performance to an audience
- contribute effectively to two production roles in collaboration with others in the production team across the three stages of the production process
- apply dramaturgical processes and use elements of theatre composition to work in two production roles
- apply theatre technologies to enhance realisation of production aims

- identify and describe aspects of the three stages of the production process
- analyse a script for production performance
- contribute effectively to the development of an interpretation of a script for performance to an audience
- contribute effectively to two production roles in collaboration with others in the production team across the three stages of the production process
- apply dramaturgical processes to work in two production roles
- apply theatre technologies to enhance realisation of production aims
- apply elements of theatre composition across the production process

Unit 3 Area of Study 1

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Staging theatre

Staging theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to interpret a script across the stages of the production process through collaborative work undertaken in 2 production roles.

Key Skills

- demonstrate techniques and processes regarding safe and ethical working practices associated with theatre production
- document, analyse and evaluate on-going contributions towards the realisation of production aims across the three stages of the production process
- demonstrate appropriate use of theatre terminology and expressions in written and oral documentation and discussions.

- demonstrate techniques and processes regarding safe, ethical, **inclusive and sustainable (where possible, environmentally sustainable)** working practices associated with theatre production
- document, analyse and evaluate ongoing contributions towards the realisation of production aims across the three stages of the production process
- **identify intended audience(s)**
- apply relevant use of theatre terminology in written and oral documentation and discussion.

Unit 3 Outcome 1 teaching and learning

Staging theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to interpret a script across the stages of the production process through collaborative work undertaken in 2 production roles.

Teaching and Learning Example

- Select a script(s) or script excerpts, with consideration of the audience culture and educational context
- Develop timeline and procedures for the planning, development and presentation stage
- Create production role specific checklists
- Explore the scripts(s) through dramaturgical activities (e.g., researching contexts, theatre style(s), movements, conventions)
- Analyse and annotate script(s); identify interpretative possibilities for applying production roles
- Establish overall vision of interpretation and assign production roles
- Undertake planning and development activities relevant to production roles and selected script(s)
- Refine work undertaken in production roles and present a performance to one or more audiences
- Engage in all presentation stage activities from bump-in to bump-out
- Reflect on contributions made to the planning, development and presentation of the performance and evaluate work undertaken by self and others, using documentation to illustrate the process.

Unit 3 Assessment

Outcome 1

Interpret a script across the stage of the production process through collaborative work undertaken in two production roles.

Task 1

Ongoing developmental contributions to the interpretation of a script across all three stages of the production process through collaborative work in two production roles.

Outcome 1 Task 1

Assessment Task example

- As a class, select a script, script excerpts or a series of short plays to interpret across the planning, development and presentation stage of the production process
- Engage in production role audits with the class teacher to ascertain progress and provide ongoing feedback
- Assess student contributions across all three stages of the production process

Note: Pay close attention to 'Assessment of levels of achievement' for School-assessed coursework. This clearly states for all SACs that 'tasks must be a part of the regular teaching and learning program and must not unduly add to the workload associated with that program. They must be completed mainly in class and within a limited timeframe'. Teachers should use this advice to aid in the selection of script(s) for the purpose of this Outcome.

Unit 3 Assessment

Outcome 1

Interpret a script across the stage of the production process through collaborative work undertaken in two production roles.

Task 2

Analysis and evaluation, supported by relevant documentation of ongoing contribution to all 3 stages of the production process in 2 or more of the following formats:

- oral
- written
- visual
- multimedia.

Outcome 1 Task 2 Assessment Task examples

- **8-10 minute oral presentation with PowerPoint slides and embedded audio/visual files that illustrate evidence of work undertaken in two production roles across the three stages of the production process**
- **Digital folio that documents work completed by the student across all stages of the production process, together with production meeting notes and written responses to set questions that use a range of command terms**



Unit 3 Area of Study 2 – Key Changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Interpreting a script	Interpreting a script
<p>In this area of study students interpret the theatrical possibilities of excerpts from a script. In doing so, they demonstrate their understanding of working creatively and imaginatively in two production roles across the three stages of the production process. Students respond to and interpret script excerpts and stimulus material, formulating and justifying possible responses and documenting their interpretation. The documentation should include written material, annotated script excerpts and illustrations, as appropriate, to support interpretive choices.</p> <p>Students revisit their learning about the stages of the production process, elements of theatre composition, dramaturgy, compositional skills and ways that work in production roles can contribute to creative and imaginative interpretations of scripts for performance to audiences.</p>	<p>In this area of study, students interpret the theatrical possibilities of excerpts from a script. In doing so, they demonstrate their understanding of working in two production roles across the three stages of the production process. Students respond to and interpret script excerpts and stimulus material, formulating and justifying interpretative possibilities, including recontextualisation, and they document their interpretation. The documentation should include written material, annotated script excerpts and illustrations, as appropriate, to support interpretive choices.</p> <p>Students revisit their learning about the stages of the production process, their learning about dramaturgy, and ways in which their work in production roles can contribute to interpretations of scripts for performance to audiences. They develop their understanding of audiences and audience culture.</p>

Unit 3 Area of Study 2 – Key Changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Interpreting a script	Interpreting a script
<p>The script excerpts used for teaching and learning and assessment in this area of study must be different to scripts studied for Areas of Study 1 and 3</p>	<p>They further develop their understanding of safe, ethical, inclusive and sustainable (where possible, environmentally sustainable) theatre work practices.</p> <p>The script excerpts used for teaching and learning and assessment in this area of study must be different from scripts studied for Areas of Study 1 and 3.</p>

Unit 3 Area of Study 2

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Interpreting a script

Interpreting a script

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to outline concepts and ideas for an interpretation of excerpts from a script and explain how these could be realised in a theatre production.

Key Knowledge

- theatre production possibilities of selected scripts
- the language of the scripts including nature, purpose and effect
- ways in which meaning can be constructed in theatre performance through work in production roles, including through use of elements of theatre composition
- working practices in production roles in one or more of the three stages of the production process

- theatre production possibilities of selected scripts
- the languages of scripts including nature, purpose and effect
- the context, theatre style(s) and intended meaning of a script and how these can inform an interpretation
- ways in which meaning can be constructed in theatre performance through work in production roles
- working practices in production roles in one or more of the three stages of the production process
- how elements of theatre composition can be manipulated to create deliberate effects on audiences
- audiences and audience culture

Unit 3 Area of Study 2

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

Interpreting a script

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to outline concepts and ideas for an interpretation of excerpts from a script and explain how these could be realised in a theatre production.

Key Knowledge

- dramaturgy and how it can inform work in production roles
- theatre technologies and how they can enhance theatre production
- theatre terminology and expressions to explain and justify concepts and ideas that could be realised in a theatre production

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Interpreting a script

- dramaturgy and how it can inform work in production roles
- theatre technologies and how they can enhance theatre production
- theatre terminology to explain and justify concepts and ideas that could be realised in a theatre production
- safe, ethical, inclusive and sustainable (where possible, environmentally sustainable) work practices.

Unit 3 Area of Study 2

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

Interpreting a script

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Interpreting a script

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to outline concepts and ideas for an interpretation of excerpts from a script and explain how these could be realised in a theatre production.

Key Skills

- outline ways in which work in production roles can be used creatively and imaginatively to interpret scripts
- formulate and justify interpretations that could be realised through work in production roles
- document and annotate an interpretation of the scripts
- identify and explain how work in production roles in one or more of the three stages of the production process could be used to realise ideas or concepts for a theatre production

- **identify and describe** ways in which work in production roles **could be used** to interpret scripts
- formulate and justify interpretations that could be realised through work in production roles
- **annotate a script for interpretation**
- identify and explain how work in production roles in one or more of the three stages of the production process could be used to realise ideas or concepts for a theatre production

Unit 3 Area of Study 2

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

Interpreting a script

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Interpreting a script

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to outline concepts and ideas for an interpretation of excerpts from a script and explain how these could be realised in a theatre production.

Key Skills

- describe how dramaturgy, elements of theatre composition and theatre technologies could be applied to realise ideas and concepts in the interpretation
- use appropriate theatre terminology and expressions in writing and discussion

- describe how dramaturgy and theatre technologies could be applied to realise ideas and concepts in the interpretation of a script
- describe how the elements of theatre composition could be manipulated to affect an audience
- apply relevant theatre terminology in writing and in discussion
- describe how the application of safe, ethical, inclusive and sustainable (where possible, environmentally sustainable) practices could be applied to a production.

Unit 3 Outcome 2 teaching and learning

Interpreting a script

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to outline concepts and ideas for an interpretation of excerpts from a script and explain how these could be realised in a theatre production.

Teaching and Learning Example

- *Analysis of previously unseen script excerpts from a variety of styles and/or movements*
- *Engagement in supplied dramaturgy to help inform interpretations of script(s)*
- *Develop understanding of production aims and how production roles contribute both individually and collectively to realise a desired interpretation*
- *Classes focusing on how to annotate a script*

Unit 3 Assessment

Outcome 2

Outline concepts and ideas for an interpretation of excerpts from a script and explain how these could be realised in a theatre production.

Assessment

Documentation that outlines the concepts and ideas for interpretation in excerpts from a script and provides an explanation of how these could be realised in a theatre production in any one or a combination of the following formats:

- an essay
- a written report
- responses to structured questions

Outcome 2 Assessment Task examples

- **Provide students with a script excerpt(s) from a play and relevant dramaturgical material (contextual information, overview of implied style and associated conventions, production aim(s) etc). and structured questions using a range of command terms with space to write responses and illustrate ideas.**
- **Research task that informs a written report outlining interpretative possibilities for realising a production of a play.**

Unit 3 Area of Study 3 – Key Changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Analysing and evaluating theatre	Analysing and evaluating theatre
<p>In this area of study students analyse and evaluate an interpretation of a script in a production from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Unit 3 Playlist. Students analyse and evaluate the relationship between the written script and its interpretation on stage. In doing so, students study ways the interpretation on stage draws on and interprets the contexts in the script. This includes the decisions that have been made when interpreting the script, for example decisions about acting, direction and design and the use of theatre technologies and elements of theatre composition.</p>	<p>In this area of study, students attend, analyse and evaluate an interpretation of a script in a production from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist. Students analyse and evaluate the relationship between the written script and its interpretation on stage. In doing so, students study ways in which the interpretation on stage draws on and interprets the contexts in the script as well as any recontextualisation choices. This includes the decisions that have been made when interpreting the script, for example decisions about acting, direction and design, and the use of theatre technologies and elements of theatre composition.</p>

Unit 3 Area of Study 3 – Key Changes

2019-2024 Theatre Studies	2025-2029 Theatre Studies
Analysing and evaluating theatre	Analysing and evaluating theatre
<p>Students evaluate the ways theatre practitioners, such as the director, actors, designers, or a dramaturg, have contributed to the interpretation on stage. Students study how the theatre styles and contexts implied in the written script are interpreted when the play is performed to an audience. Students analyse the theatre production and develop skills in using theatre terminology and expressions to describe how the script has been interpreted creatively and imaginatively. Their analysis and evaluation of the production is informed by work undertaken in Areas of Study 1 and 2.</p>	<p>Students evaluate the ways in which theatre practitioners (such as the director, actors, designers) and dramaturgical processes have contributed to the interpretation on stage. Students study how the theatre styles and contexts implied in the written script are interpreted when the play is performed to an audience. Students attend the theatre production and develop skills in applying relevant theatre terminology to analyse and evaluate how the script has been interpreted. Their analysis and evaluation of the production is informed by work undertaken in Areas of Study 1 and 2.</p>

Unit 3 Area of Study 3

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Analysing and evaluating theatre

Analysing and evaluating theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to analyse and evaluate the interpretation of a written script from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist in production to an audience.

Key Knowledge

- analyse and evaluate ways in which the contexts of a written script were interpreted creatively and imaginatively in performance to an audience
 - analyse and evaluate the application of production roles to develop the written script for performance
 - analyse and evaluate the use of theatre technologies in the production
 - analyse and evaluate the use of elements of theatre composition in the production
 - use appropriate theatre terminology and expressions
- approaches to analysis and evaluation of a theatre production
 - the contexts of the written script and how they have been interpreted in the production and any recontextualisation choices
 - theatre styles in the written script and those used in the play in performance
 - production roles and their application in developing the written script for performance
 - evidence of the interpretations of the written script made by the creative team
 - the nature of audiences and audience culture

Unit 3 Area of Study 3

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Analysing and evaluating theatre

Analysing and evaluating theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to analyse and evaluate the interpretation of a written script from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist in production to an audience.

Key Knowledge

- theatre technologies and their application in the production
- elements of theatre composition and their application in the production
- terminology to describe, analyse and evaluate a theatre production.

Unit 3 Area of Study 3

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

Analysing and evaluating theatre

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Analysing and evaluating theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to analyse and evaluate the interpretation of a written script from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist in production to an audience.

Key Skills

- analyse and evaluate ways in which the contexts of a written script were interpreted creatively and imaginatively in performance to an audience
- analyse and evaluate the application of production roles to develop the written script for performance
- analyse and evaluate the use of theatre technologies in the production
- analyse and evaluate the use of elements of theatre composition in the production
- use appropriate theatre terminology and expressions.

- analyse and evaluate ways in which the contexts of a written script were interpreted in a performance of a production to an audience
- analyse the interpretation of audiences and audience culture in a production
- analyse and evaluate the intended meaning of a written script with the meanings conveyed in the performance of the production
- analyse and evaluate the application of production roles to develop the written script in production

Unit 3 Area of Study 3

2019-2024 Theatre Studies study design

2025-2029 Theatre Studies study design

Analysing and evaluating theatre

Analysing and evaluating theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to analyse and evaluate the interpretation of a written script **from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist in production to an audience.**

Key Skills

- analyse and evaluate the application of theatre technologies in the production
- analyse and evaluate the application of elements of theatre composition in the production
- apply **relevant theatre terminology.**

Unit 3 Outcome 3 teaching and learning

Analysing and evaluating theatre

Outcome

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to analyse and evaluate the interpretation of a written script from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist in production to an audience.

Teaching and Learning Example

Pre-attendance

- Read through script as a class
- Worked examples of text analysis followed by individual/pair analysis of selected excerpt(s)
- Practical exploration of multiple scenes, applying a range of theatre conventions and design elements
- Develop a 'fact file', including key quotes from the script as well as names of the cast and creative team

Post-attendance

- Class discussion, sharing strong examples that can be used to analyse and evaluate the interpretation
- Respond to sample questions (verbal and/or written) in preparation for assessment
- Undertake analysis and evaluation of intention of script and/or playwright and the interpretation of the production team
- Memorise quotes and names of creative team

Unit 3 Assessment

Outcome 3

Analyse and evaluate the interpretation of a written script from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist in production to an audience

Assessment

An analysis and evaluation of an interpretation of a written script in production from the prescribed VCE Theatre Studies Playlist to an audience in any one or a combination of the following formats:

- an analytical essay
- responses to structured questions

Outcome 3 Assessment Task example

Written responses to structured questions

- Students are analysing and evaluating an interpretation of a written script in production from the VCE Theatre Studies Playlist
- A range of questions covering key knowledge and skills
- A range of marks allocated to the questions to represent higher and lower order thinking
- Throughout the life of the Study Design (2025-2029), VCAA End of Year Written Theatre Studies Exams are useful to model questions on, keeping in mind they should relate to the performance the students saw from the VCE Theatre Studies Playlist (published annually by the VCAA)

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