



**hand to hand**  
ACADEMY

C U A 5 0 2 2 0

# Diploma of Musical Theatre

COURSE GUIDE &  
AUDITION PACK





*Study With Hand To Hand Academy*

## **HANDS ON EXPERIENCE IN...**

### ***ACTING TECHNIQUES***

Students in the Diploma of Musical Theatre will develop a strong foundation in a range of acting techniques and methodologies.

Acting training covers both stage and screen contexts, giving students the practical skills to adapt their work across theatre, film, and television.

Dedicated units in voice and movement build their capacity to embody character with the whole being.

### ***DANCE AND MOVEMENT***

Our courses have a focus on physicality, health and stamina. Go beyond the basic dance moves and learn to fully inhabit the stage through complex dance routines that incorporate elements that set you apart, borrowing from acrobatics and physical theatre technique.

Our fully equipped circus training spaces and access to elite trainers across many disciplines from contemporary dance to circus arts makes your Diploma of Musical Theatre a truly unique experience.

## **HANDS ON EXPERIENCE IN...**

### ***VOCAL TRAINING***

A feature of the course is regular vocal training which covers vocal health, aural perception, singing technique and expression with a focus on learning different repertoire and scripts to expand vocal capacity.

### ***INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE***

At Hand to Hand Academy, we know that working in musical theatre is more than being performance ready, it's understanding how the industry works and how to navigate it.

Our students graduate with the following skills and knowledge:

- Understand and prepare for stage and screen auditions
- Understand how to work as a freelancer including professional expectations, contracts and legal obligations of the performer
- Understand what to expect in a professional rehearsal room including call sheets and logistics
- Gain experience in industry networking and meet contacts for your future career

## **HANDS ON EXPERIENCE IN...**

### ***STAGE AND SCREEN PRODUCTIONS***

A defining feature of studying with Hand to Hand Academy is the opportunity to apply classroom learning in real production contexts.

Throughout their studies, students take part in several in studio performances and at least one public stage production or showcase — stepping out of the rehearsal room and into the full experience of professional performance.

Working under the direction of industry practitioners, students discover how technique translates into engaging performances, how to collaborate within an ensemble, and how to sustain and improve a performance across a theatre season.

These productions are genuine learning environments where students develop the resilience, adaptability, and professional habits that can only be forged through doing. By the time they graduate, students have not just studied performance — they have lived it.



## **BUILD SKILLS FOR YOUR FUTURE...**

Trained performers find work across the performing arts and events industries and through the transferrable creative and expressive skills they gain!

Performers are employed in:

- Theatre and musical theatre productions
- Film and television
- Touring Circuses
- Children's entertainment
- Cabaret and burlesque
- TV commercials
- Digital Media
- Street Performance
- Presenting, hosting, MC-ing
- Radio Plays
- Voiceovers

Or in related fields such as:

- Teaching
- Broadcasting and podcasting
- Arts administration
- Film and video production
- TV production
- Corporate training and role play work
- Tour guides
- Public service

You can adapt your skills as a performer to many different fields - only limited by your imagination!



## ADDED COURSE BENEFITS...

We make sure you are equipped to get started. Diploma of Musical Theatre students receive the following career support package on graduation:

### **1** Showreel and Photography

You'll receive a copy of an edited showreel of any screen content produced in your classes and a selection of photographs and video from productions or coursework to add to your portfolio.

### **2** Career Coaching

You'll receive one free career coaching session to help you plan your next steps towards your career.

### **3** Exposure

You will receive exposure to the industry via your classes, productions, and Hand to Hand Academy events, partner events and exposure to the industry as a performer in our public facing productions.

### **4** Alumni Benefits

You'll receive ongoing support as an alumnus regarding any questions you might have about next steps; support for future work opportunities; we refer work to our past students through our entertainment agency and networks.

## Study With Hand To Hand Academy

### GRADUATE EXPERIENCES...

Rob Shiells is an award-winning actor and producer from Canberra, Australia, now based in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of our Diploma of Musical Theatre.

His screen credits include a featured role in Spielberg's *The Fabelmans*, Rob in *Orange Justice*, Julian Buchwald in AMC+'s upcoming series *Smugshot* (Sept 2025), and Will in the multi-award-winning short *The Betrayal*.

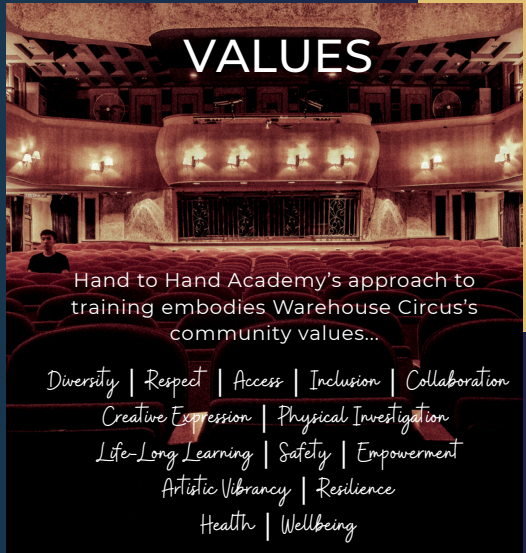


Nadia completed a Certificate IV in Acting and Advanced Diploma in Performance. She is now studying a Bachelor of Stage and Screen (Acting) at APAC, with advanced standing, thanks to her qualifications from Hand to Hand Academy. *"The course prepared me for the reality of the industry...it has given me a skill set where I know what I need to do to prepare my self to work."*

# ABOUT US

Hand to Hand Academy (RTO Number 40859) is Canberra's only accredited training provider dedicated to performing arts training. We are a subsidiary of Warehouse Circus - Canberra's circus school and the driving force behind the Capital Performing Arts Warehouse (CPAW) - a centre for arts training, experimentation, collaboration and exchange in the Canberra region.

Our Canberra training takes place in Chifley, ACT at CPAW HQ, within the Chifley Health and Wellbeing Hub. This venue features the Warehouse Circus training space with aerial rig, a smaller acting and film studio room, a student library and multi-purpose meeting space good for study, meetings, practicing lines and vocal classes.



The wider hub also contains a community gym, a range of other health services and communal spaces such as kitchens and meeting spaces that students can use. Student Lockers are also available. We are a short walk from the Chifley shops, buses and the Woden town centre.

We stage productions at professional venues such as the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, the Street Theatre and other locations including as part of festivals and events, ensuring students get hands on experience in working theatres and as part of larger events.

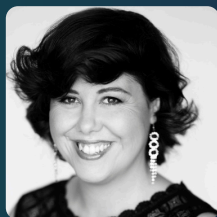
We also offer satellite courses in Brisbane at various locations in partnership with existing arts training and performance venues. See our website for current locations in Brisbane!



# MEET THE TEAM



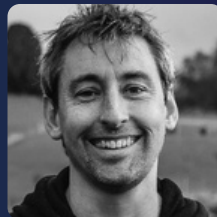
Aleshia Johnson  
CEO



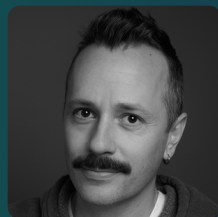
Goldele Rayment  
Director of Training  
Operations and  
Compliance



Ben Martin-  
Davidson  
Business Manager



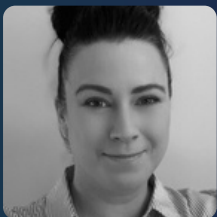
Tom Davis  
Marketing Manager/  
CPAW Artistic Director



Idris Stanbury  
Student Liaison/  
Teaching Artist



Annabel Carberry  
Instructional Designer  
Circus Teaching Artist



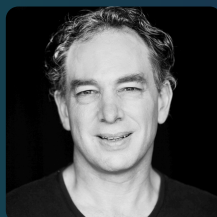
Nicole Calvert  
Instructional Designer  
(Safety)/ Working  
Safely at Heights Tutor



Morgan Hain  
Digital Media  
Manager



Nathan Rutups  
Teaching Artist



James Scott  
Teaching Artist



Jen Seyderhelm  
Teaching Artist



Jack Coleman  
Teaching Artist



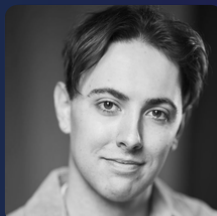
Charles Allen  
Teaching Artist



Sherri Smith  
Teaching Artist



Luz Stanton  
Teaching Artist



Daniel Kirkby  
Teaching Artist

*Plus many other tutors working professionally across the sector*

## **CUA50220 DIPLOMA OF MUSICAL THEATRE**

### ***COURSE OVERVIEW***

The Diploma of Musical Theatre is an intensive, 12-month full-time course (or 2-year part-time equivalent) designed to immerse students in the practical skills required for a career in musical theatre, cabaret, and the broader performing arts industry.

This industry-driven program provides rigorous training to hone technical excellence, versatility, and performance endurance, preparing students to work directly as professionals.

Students completing the Diploma of Musical Theatre will:

- Perform in at least one public production (usually in the final weeks of your course).
- Gain a foundational understanding of artform and industry
- Deliver real emotion and tell great stories
- Learn multiple techniques to deliver strong musical theatre performances
- Build stamina and resilience while prioritising self-care in professional performance environments
- Increase industry readiness and prepare for a future career in performing arts
- Participate in industry engagement and networking opportunities





## *EXAMPLE UNITS*

You will complete 16 units of competency to achieve your Diploma of Musical Theatre. Units are scheduled at the outset of your course to best meet the needs of the cohort. You can expect an even spread of acting, singing and dance/movement training, however there may be room to focus more heavily in one area if desired. Units may be cross-assessed to maximise practical training time.

- CUAIND412 Provide freelance services
- CUAPRF513 Prepare for and perform in competitive environments
- CUAPRF511 Refine performance techniques
- CUAMPF417 Develop vocal techniques
- CUAWHS511 Maintain a high level of fitness for performance
- CUAPRF514 Refine musical theatre techniques
- CUAACT411 Use acting techniques in performance
- CUAPRF418 Perform solo in a musical theatre context
- CUAPRF419 Perform in a musical theatre ensemble
- CUAVOS413 Develop vocal techniques for musical theatre
- NATI1017004 Manage health with a view to performance
- CUAMUP511 Apply theatrical make-up and hairstyles
- CUAPRF420 Develop on-camera performance skills
- CUACHR511 Create and perform complex dance pieces
- CUACIR401 Develop acrobatic techniques for theatrical performances
- CUAMLT511 Refine aural perception and memory skills





## ***CHOOSE HOW TO STUDY...***

The Diploma of Musical Theatre is typically offered full-time across one year but part-time study options may be considered where possible to deliver alongside existing performance projects and offerings.

Delivery structure is subject to change based on cohort size and planned performance outcomes, but generally speaking you can expect to have face-to-face training three days per week across four terms, with the main performance outcome being at the end of term 4 each year.

### ***STUDY OPTIONS:***

Full-time (1 year):

- Average of 20 contact hours per week (across 3 days)
- Up to 10 hours of additional self-directed time (script work/physical training/assessments). Self-directed time is supported with access to rehearsal rooms.

Part-time (2 years - by negotiation):

- Study load will vary based on your individual study plan.
- Typically year one will focus on skill development and theory units, while year two will involve participation towards a major performance project.
- Part-time students will be required to complete within two years unless an extension is granted, and must prepare to be available for all production related rehearsals and theatre dates in their second year of study.

## EXAMPLE WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30am - 11:30am				
Studio Access/Self Directed learning				
Open Door Student Questions/Help	Studio Access/Self Directed learning	Studio Access/Self Directed learning	Studio Access/Self Directed learning	Studio Access/Self Directed learning
	Singing Technique	Tutor supported self-directed learning/ Fitness training	Industry/other Units	
	Movement/Dance	Specialisation/ Project Rehearsal	Voice/singing/Project Rehearsal	
	Acting Technique	Project Rehearsal	Movement/Dance	
11:30am - 1:30pm				
1:30pm - 3:30pm				
4pm - 5:30pm				
6:30pm - 9:30pm				

Example Timetable based on current offerings. Typical class times 1:30pm - 9:30pm Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday (subject to change based on cohort sizes), with additional times provided to meet outcomes of individual training plans including access to training space and/or studio space for conditioning, rehearsal and self-preparation activities. Note, additional hours may be required in production weeks. Theatre production schedules will be published in advance to ensure adequate notice for students.

## HOW TO APPLY...

Applications are via a video audition and interview. You can submit an audition at any time but each intake will have a closing date to ensure your application can be processed in time to begin classes. After you complete the below steps, you will be notified of the outcome of your application as soon as possible.

1

### **Read the Audition Information**

Read the Audition Information at the end of this course guide. Check the upcoming intakes and audition closing dates for auditions on our website and ensure you submit your application prior to the deadline for the intake you are hoping for. Late applications may be considered but this is not guaranteed.

2

### **Prepare for your Audition**

There are three parts to your audition:

- Perform a song
- Perform a monologue
- Perform a movement sequence

Follow the audition instructions carefully. Choose your pieces and practice until you are comfortable to perform them for a camera. This will involve learning a short script, learning part of a song and learning a short choreographed sequence.

3

### **Record and Send your Audition**

Use your phone or other device to film your audition. This does not need to be high quality but you should be fully in shot and spoken words in particular should be audible.

4

### **Attend an Interview**

After we receive your audition piece, we will contact you to arrange a time for an interview. We'll ask you about your hopes and dreams as a performer and gain an understanding of your goals for completing the course. We'll answer any questions you have about course logistics and use the information you provide to inform your individual study pathway.

# AUDITION INFORMATION

Once you're ready to apply, you will need to prepare your audition.

## **What needs to be in my audition?**

Your audition should provide examples of you performing across the key areas of acting, singing and movement/dance.

- Perform a short monologue from a musical theatre show
- Sing an excerpt from a musical theatre song
- Perform a short choreographed sequence demonstrating your current physical skills

The three elements of your audition can be from the same musical or unrelated to each other and can overlap or be performed separately. We need to see each area demonstrated clearly which might be easier for you to tackle them separately.

You are aiming to show us your potential for musical theatre performance and your capacity to succeed in the course. We do not expect you to already be a polished performer in every area - that is what your study is for!

Your audition needs to be solo, but you are welcome to use video from previous solo performances you have done within the last year or use your phone to film your performance at home or in another suitable space.

Audition elements should be clearly audible and visible. Auditions which are hard to hear or that contain vocal additions such as effects, may be requested to be re-submitted and subject to a further application fee for reassessment.

## **How long should my audition be?**

Each element should run for about 1.5 to 3 minutes, with your total audition video running between 5 to 8 minutes. You are welcome to edit the sections together or perform them live, one after another.

## **How long will it take me to prepare my audition?**

Select your monologue and your song: 2 hours

Plan your choreographed movement piece - this can be self-devised or taken from an existing choreographed work: 1 hour

Memorise your audition content and rehearse it until you can perform it comfortably: Up to 4 hours.

TOTAL TIME: 7 hours

If it is taking you longer, perhaps the chosen pieces are too hard or long for the audition purpose. You might like to spread this time out across a few days.

## Audition tips

- Memorise your content. We do not want to see you reading off your screen or notes.
- Think about the story you're telling or what you're trying to communicate. How will you express this on your face, in your voice, in your body?
- Find the key moment in your performance. Maybe there's a turning point? Think about structure and expression.
- Practice! ... until you are ready to record.

## How to send your video to us

- Fill out the online course application form:  
<https://forms.gle/gQoYzBx86p1Lh3R66>
- Pay your \$50 application fee via direct deposit:



Account name : Hand to Hand Academy

Account number: 603094

BSB: 032-713

## Please list your name as the reference so we can track your payment.

*Please note we cannot progress your application until payment is received.*

- Send us your files via We Transfer. To do this:
  - **Change the filename** on your audition file to your own name, e.g. JoBlogs.mp4
  - **Go to [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com)** You do not need to set up an account. If a pop-up asks you to set up an account, just click "Skip".
  - **A box will appear** that says, "Add files". Click this and upload your file.
  - **In the "Email to" section**, put the email addresses:  
info@handtohandacademy.edu.au
  - **Put your own email** in the space provided.
  - **In the message section**, just put "Hi, this is my application for the Diploma of Musical Theatre Course", and add your name and phone number so it's easy for us to contact you.
  - **Click "Transfer"** and wait for the file to upload. Sometimes this will take a few minutes, depending on how big your file is. WeTransfer will notify you when this is finished.
  - **Send us an email saying you've sent the files** - that way we can keep an eye out for it. You can email us here: info@handtohandacademy.edu.au
- You're done! Once your audition has been reviewed, we will email the address provided to schedule an interview.
- You will be advised of the outcome of your audition shortly after your interview, with a formal offer for study forwarded once your particular course timing is confirmed.
- If you've got questions email info@handtohandacademy.edu.au or call (02)6260 3959.

# Diploma OF MUSICAL THEATRE



COURSE CODE [CUA50220](#)

## Hone your skills for on stage

One-year intensive training in acting technique, singing, movement and dance to prepare you for solo and ensemble performance in musical theatre productions.

**Qualification** [CUA50220 Diploma of Musical Theatre](#)

Students who do not complete the whole course are eligible for a Statement of Attainment for units completed successfully.

**Locations** ACT

**Course Length** 1 year full-time (3 days per week), option to apply to study 2 years part-time

**Entry/Prerequisite** Audition and interview. Must be 17 or older and have completed Year 12.

**Payment plans** Yes, weekly fortnightly or monthly

**Austudy/Abstudy approved** Yes

**Fees:** \$17,488

## Core Units

All students will complete six core units of competency:

- CUAIND412 Provide freelance services
- CUAMPF417 Develop vocal techniques
- CUAPRF511 Refine performance techniques
- CUAPRF513 Prepare for and perform in competitive environments
- CUAPRF514 Refine musical theatre techniques
- CUAWHS511 Maintain a high level of fitness for performance

## Elective Units

You will complete ten additional units of competency selected by Hand to Hand Academy at the outset of your course. We endeavour to select a spread of electives that cover skill development in the core areas of voice/singing, acting, movement/dance as well as offering a suite of additional units covering industry readiness, devising, production and other skills and knowledge.

### Acting Units:

- CUAACT411 Use acting techniques in performance
- CUAPRF420 Develop on-camera performance skills

### Production Units

- CUAPRF418 Perform solo in a musical theatre context
- CUAPRF419 Perform in a musical theatre ensemble

### Singing Units:

- CUAVOS413 Develop vocal techniques for musical theatre
- CUAMLT511 Refine aural perception and memory skills

### Industry Readiness Units:

- NATI1017004 Manage health with a view to performance
- CUAMUP511 Apply theatrical make-up and hairstyles

### Movement/Dance Units

- CUACHR511 Create and perform complex dance pieces
- CUACIR401 Develop acrobatic techniques for theatrical performances

*Units may be replaced with other approved units of competency for this course to suit the planned delivery structure and teaching staff. Units may be cross-assessed within a project or class to maximise skill and technique development time and hands on performance experience.*

# Fees

Planning for your tuition fees is an important part of being a student. Austudy, Abstudy or Youth Allowance are available through Centrelink for this course, to eligible applicants.

Here's a guide to fee payment though the course. Check website for any changes to student fees.

## Payment Plan

If you choose an in-house payment plan with Hand to Hand Academy, your payments are as follows:

	Total Course Fee	Deposit	Balance remaining	Monthly payments	Fortnightly
Full-time student (1 year)	\$17,488	\$500	\$16,988	12 x \$1416 + \$5.50 set-up charge	25 x \$679.50 + \$5.50 set-up charge
Part-time students (2 years)				20 x \$849.40 + \$5.50 set-up charge	40 x \$424.70 + \$5.50 set-up charge

Note: As an RTO, we are unable to take more than \$1,500 in fees in advance of tuition taking place.



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**[www.cpaw.au/handtohand](http://www.cpaw.au/handtohand)**

**Ph. (02) 6260 3959**

**RTO 40859**

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