1. The title of the module:

**Business of Being a Performer (CA204)**

2. The School which will be responsible for management of the module:

**Circus Space Degree Programme**

3. The Start Date of the Module

*This revised version will run from: Autumn Term 2010 (Original Specification: 2005)*

4. The cohort of students (onwards) to which the module will be applicable:

**2009-2011**

5. The number of students expected to take the module:

**15 - 19**

6. Modules to be withdrawn on the introduction of this proposed module and consultation with other relevant Schools and Faculties regarding the withdrawal:

**N/A**

7. The level of the module (e.g. Certificate [C], Intermediate [I], Honours [H] or Postgraduate [M])

**Intermediate [I]**

8. The number of credits which the module represents

**15**

9. Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)

**The module will be delivered over the three terms of the year, though assessed during the Summer term**

10. Prerequisite and co-requisite modules:

**None**

11. The programmes of study to which the module contributes:

**Foundation Degree in Circus Arts**
12. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes and, as appropriate, their relationship to programme learning outcomes**

*The following outcomes are all specific to the programme outcomes:*

**The student will develop:**

The ability to assess the requirements and standards of a particular area of circus performance (traditional touring, cabaret, street performance, etc) with a view to gaining entry into that domain.

An ability to collect and categorise information to a given format and apply critical reasoning and analysis (with limited guidance from tutors).

An ability to evaluate their practice and apply their understanding of learning as a life-long approach in order to progress, technically and creatively in a career as a circus performer.

13. **The intended generic learning outcomes and, as appropriate, their relationship to programme learning outcomes**

*The following outcomes are all specific to the programme outcomes:*

**The student will be able to demonstrate:**

The ability to use a range of communication skills to respond to the needs of employer demand.

14. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module requires the students to focus on particular aspects of performances relating closely to, but looking beyond the confines of, their specific area of vocational circus practice. After a series of lectures and face-to-face discussions led by relevant professionals with extensive knowledge of a range of circus topics, they will personally evaluate their position within the world of professional circus.

The students will then conduct independent research in an area of circus performance relevant to their future aspirations promoting their development as enquiring and reflective practitioners. They should aim to present a personal portfolio containing all the material required to demonstrate their professional competence in their specialist field (risk assessments, promotional material etc).
15. **Indicative Reading List**

N/A

16. **Learning and Teaching Methods, including the nature and number of contact hours and the total study hours which will be expected of students, and how these relate to achievement of the intended learning outcomes**

The module is comprised of approximately 200 hours of study across the three terms of the year. Approximately 45 hours will be led by Visiting Lecturers from a variety of backgrounds pertaining to the professional aspects of the circus performer (circus proprietors, agents, specialists in funding organisations or insurance matters, as well as professional performers from a range of performing contexts).

Learning and Teaching methods to be used will be:

- Lectures and seminars
- Visiting Lecturer led discussions
- Independent study work leading to the presentation of a Professional Portfolio for assessment

17. **Assessment methods and how these relate to testing achievement of the intended learning outcomes**

A minimum attendance rate of 80% is required. Failure to achieve a minimum of 80% in this module will result in a Fail (F-). A summative assessment of a professional portfolio will be made by at least two markers, one from the course and the second a professional with experience in circus-related performance. The relevance of this professional portfolio should reflect the standards required by the area of circus for which it is required.

All elements for assessment must be submitted. Details on late or non-submission can be found in Section 4 of the Student Handbook.

Retrieval:

The student will be permitted to resubmit the portfolio on one further occasion within the same academic year. Retrieved Modules will be capped at the pass mark (D-). There is one opportunity for retrieval.

18. **Implications for learning resources, including staff, library, IT and space**

None
19. The Collaborative Partner (Circus Space) recognises and has embedded the expectations of current disability equality legislation, and supports students with a declared disability or special educational need in its teaching. Within this module we will make reasonable adjustments wherever necessary, including additional or substitute materials, teaching modes or assessment methods for students who have declared and discussed their learning support needs. Arrangements for students with declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with Collaborative Partner’s disability/dyslexia support service, and specialist support will be provided where needed.

Module Specification Template
Last updated September 2011