

Applied Learning (Senior Secondary Level)

2016-18 Cohort

Learning and Teaching

Subject Title : **Introduction to Cantonese Opera**
Area of Studies : **Creative Studies**
Course Provider : **The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts**

In Introduction to Cantonese Opera, student-centered learning and teaching activities are designed to enable students to understand fundamental theories and concepts, develop their generic skills, and address their career aspirations in Cantonese opera.

Different modes of activities are employed to provide students with a systematic understanding about the context (e.g. studio teaching and workshops on fundamental technique, contextual studies and Cantonese opera production) and eye-opening opportunities to experience the complexity of the context (e.g. visits to performances, field trips, rehearsals and performances in the Academy's School of Chinese Opera, and meeting with artists, professionals and staff of community Cantonese opera companies provide students with insight into the Chinese opera profession).

Students acquire an understanding of the requirements, fundamental knowledge and skills essential for further learning within the area through learning-by-practising opportunities in an authentic or near-authentic environment (e.g. utilising fundamental singing, speech, acting and fencing technique to create a character and the image, understanding the technical aspect of a stage production and performing on stage).

Students are also encouraged to develop and apply conceptual, practical and reflective skills to demonstrate innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. written review to reflect and appraise a Cantonese opera production with personal opinions so as to demonstrate the ability to evaluate the content and presentation of a production, and make recommendations for improving the production arrangement and developing a new Cantonese opera production). Students are given opportunities to integrate the knowledge and skills acquired and consolidate their learning (e.g. the intensive day-camp which lasts for more than 10 days provides students an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the excitement of Cantonese opera as a profession, students not only have a chance to practise with singing, speech, acting and fencing technique, but will also be guided to work collaboratively to create and rehearse performances pieces, and to perform at a professional performing venue).

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Curriculum Pillars of Applied Learning in Context – Introduction to Cantonese Opera

Upon completion of the subject, students should be able to:

- apply the basic performance technique of Cantonese opera performance including singing, speech, acting and fencing and understand its underlying principles;
- cultivate self-confidence and self-esteem through self-expression in Cantonese opera rehearsal process;
- analyse different characters and their characteristics in singing and speech through performing and appreciating Cantonese opera repertoires to demonstrate analytical skills, critical responses and thinking skills;
- describe Cantonese opera from historical, cultural, literary and personal perspectives;
- develop interpersonal skills and team building skills upon acquiring organisation skills and communication skills in group activities;
- understand the workplace requirements and demonstrate positive value, professional attitude and work ethics through Cantonese opera activities, including front-stage and backstage practices; and
- develop self-understanding for further studies and career development in the related field.

Through the specific contexts related to the subject, students have different learning opportunities, for example:

1. Career-related Competencies

- observe the work ethics in performing arts;
- understand the trend and features of the local Cantonese opera industry;
- recognise the roles of performers and backstage team in a Cantonese opera production;
- demonstrate fundamental techniques in singing, speech, acting and fencing;
- appreciate Cantonese opera performance and appraise it with knowledge and understanding;
- employ various concepts and terminology used in the Cantonese opera industry through visits to troupe, professional performances, meet-the-artists and participation in the rehearsals and performance in a theatre production; and
- identify the possible further study and career pathways and develop a personal roadmap to articulate to different levels of qualifications in performing arts.

2. Foundation Skills

- communicate through bodily movements, singing and acting by performing sequences of movements and repertoires;
- demonstrate effective communication skills by verbally describing and appraising Cantonese opera repertoires;
- employ effective communication skills in group discussion and project presentation; and
- apply information technology skills in researching Cantonese opera production design and collecting information for Cantonese opera performance reviews.

3. Thinking Skills

- apply the knowledge and performing skills in Cantonese opera to different characters and roles interpretation;
- apply problem-solving skills, decision-making skills and creative thinking skills to scripts analysis and characters interpretation in class presentation and final performance;
- recognise how Cantonese opera elements work in the art form through analysing characters and structures of different plays or selected scenes; and
- apply analytical skills in repertoire analysis, performance review and project presentation.

4. People Skills

- demonstrate interpersonal, collaborative and team working skills through division of labour in scene work and the final presentation;
- demonstrate self-reflection skills through feedback from teachers and classmates in various learning activities, especially rehearsals, performances and the process of producing a Cantonese opera production; and
- demonstrate self-management skills through the preparation of assessment tasks (e.g. Cantonese opera reviews), rehearsals, performances and the process of producing a Cantonese opera production.

5. Values & Attitudes

- observe work ethics related to the Cantonese opera field and demonstrate enthusiasm in the industry through application;
- demonstrate positive attitude and willingness to learn by keeping abreast of the latest trend in Cantonese opera;
- understand plagiarism or illegal copying of play scripts or performance reviews are inimical to creativity; and
- demonstrate self-confidence in performance and be receptive to advice or criticisms.