



For Excellence in Performing Arts Tuition

**VCE Dance Units 1 – 4
2010 Student Handbook**

Effective as of December 2009

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Welcome to HAPA!

Introduction

Haywood Academy of Performing Arts (HAPA) prides itself on offering a superior level of performing arts education.

Run by professional entertainers with over 50 years experience in the industry, HAPA is a family run Academy with the goal of fostering creativity, confidence and excellence in the Performing Arts.

Located in Airport West, Melbourne, HAPA has 3 fully equipped dance studios; is close to shops and transport and has a staff of experienced and qualified teachers.

HAPA offers classes in everything from Classical Ballet to Rock Band, ensuring all students are provided with the opportunity to learn everything they could possibly need for a career in the live performing arts industry.

This Handbook gives an overview of the VCE Dance program at HAPA. Further details on course and assessments involved can be found in the HAPA VCE Dance Course Outline, which students will receive once their enrolment is finalised.

Please note that enrolment in VCE Dance is separate from enrolment in any other HAPA class and must be completed with the course co-ordinator in person.

HAPA Administration Contact Details

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VCE Dance at HAPA

Dance is the language of movement. It is the realisation of the body's potential as an instrument of expression. Throughout history and in different cultures, people have explored the dancer's ability to communicate and give expression to social and personal experience. The study of dance provides the opportunity to explore the potential of movement as a medium of creative expression through diverse approaches.

The VCE Dance program at HAPA is designed to develop students' understanding and appreciation of dance as an art form that is based on the investigation and communication of ideas, themes and concepts. Through practical dance classes which focus on technical and artistic development and theoretical study and research, HAPA's VCE Dance program aims to guide VCE aged students to a greater understanding of dance as an art form and a scholastic endeavour.

Work Load/Contact Hours

VCE Dance is taught over 4 units of study. Within the standard secondary school system, units 1 and 2 are generally taught in year 11. Units 3 and 4 are taught in year 12. However, this is not mandatory. HAPA requires students wishing to undertake VCE Dance comply with the following prerequisites:

- Must be at least age 14 on or before the commencement of study
- Must have at least 3 years dance experience and/or training. Students who have previously studied dance at HAPA do not need to undertake an audition, however, if the student has never studied with HAPA they may be required to audition so that the course co-ordinator can be sure they are suitable to commence study.
- Students do not need to start at unit 1 but in some cases this may be advisable. This decision will be at the discretion of the course co-ordinator.

Credit Toward VCE ENTER Score & VCAL

At the successful completion of the units 3 and 4 sequence, your study score can contribute directly towards your ENTER as either one of your "primary" or best four subjects or as your 5th or 6th study.

It is not necessary to gain approval from your secondary school to undertake this course as your assessments will be submitted directly to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). However, as VCE can be quite a stressful time, we recommend discussing your workload with your schools VCE co-ordinator as their support will be highly beneficial.

HAPA does not specifically run this course as a VCAL/VCE VET course as certified courses are provided in other areas in the Academy. (see either the HAPA Full Time/Part Time Performing Arts Course or the ADV Jazz Program)

Course Structure

Unit 1

In this unit students explore the potential of the body as an instrument of expression. They learn about and develop technical and physical skills. Students discover the diverse range of expressive movement by exploring body actions, and commence the process of developing a personal movement vocabulary.

Knowledge of physiology, including care and maintenance of the body, is applied to the execution of body actions through the safe use of technical and physical skills. Students develop and perform movement studies and dances with unified compositions created through a range of movement creation processes. They discuss cultural influences on their own dance backgrounds, and on the expressive intentions and movement vocabulary in their own dances.

Areas of Study

1. Dance Perspectives
2. Choreography and Performance
3. Dance Technique and Performance
4. The Body: Physiology and Maintenance

Unit 2

This unit focuses on expanding students' personal movement vocabulary and choreographic skills through the exploration of the elements of movement; time, space (including shape) and energy and the study of form. Students apply their understanding of form and the expressive capacity of the elements of movement to the dance-making and performing processes involved in choreographing and performing their own dance works and dance works created by others.

Students are also introduced to pre-1930 dance tradition/s, style/s and/or works.

Students describe the movement vocabulary in their own and others' dances by identifying expressive body actions and ways the elements of movement have been manipulated. Students also analyse and discuss the communication of their own and other choreographers' intentions, through the structuring of form, and the choreographic and expressive use of the elements of movement.

Areas of Study

1. Dance Perspectives
2. Choreography, Performance and Dance-Making Analysis
3. Dance Technique, Performance and Dance Analysis

Unit 3

This unit focuses on choreography, rehearsal and performance of a solo dance work and involves the physical execution of a diverse range of body actions and use of technical and performance skills.

Students also learn a group dance work created by another choreographer. The dance-making and performance processes involved in choreographing, rehearsing and performing the solo dance work, and learning, rehearsing and performing the learnt group dance work are analysed.

Students also develop an understanding of choreographic skills through an analysis of ways the expressive intention chosen by the choreographer of twentieth and/or twenty-first century solo dance works selected from the prescribed list of dance works is developed through the use of choreographic devices and arrangement of phrases and sections. Students analyse expressive use of movement vocabulary in the selected dance works, and cultural influences on the choreographers' choice of expressive intention, and technical and production aspects of the dance works.

Areas of Study

1. *Dance Perspectives*
 - **Learning Outcome 1:** Analyse cultural influences on, and the movement vocabulary and use of, related phrases, movement sections, formal structures and dance design to communicate the expressive intention in prescribed solo dance works. (see below)

Assessment (SAC): Assignment in the form of either a written report

2. *Choreography, Performance and Dance-Making Analysis*

- **Learning Outcome 2:** Choreograph, rehearse and perform a solo dance work using a personal movement vocabulary and technical, physical and performance skills to communicate their expressive intention, and analyse the processes used to choreograph, rehearse and perform the dance work.

Assessment (SAC): An annotated visual report

Assessment (Solo Performance 1 - Technique): To be choreographed by the student and performed for external assessment by VCAA assessors at the end of the year.

3. *Dance Technique, Performance and Dance Analysis*

- **Learning Outcome 3:** Learn, rehearse and perform a group dance work created by another choreographer, and analyse the processes involved in learning, rehearsing and performing the work.

Assessment (Learnt Group Performance): Performance of a learnt group dance work created by another choreographer

Unit 4

This unit focuses on choreography, rehearsal and performance of a unified solo dance work which has a beginning, development/s and resolution. When rehearsing and performing this work students focus on expressive and accurate execution of choreographic variations of spatial organisation and demonstration of performance skills. Students also document and analyse the dance-making and performance processes involved in the choreography, rehearsal and performance of the unified solo dance work.

Students understanding of choreographic skills is also developed and refined through an analysis of ways in which the choreographers' intention can be expressed through the manipulation of group structures and the elements of spatial organisation, including direction, level, eye/body focus and dimension, in group dance works by twentieth and/or twenty-first century choreographers. Cultural influences on choices made by choreographers in these works are also studied.

Areas of Study

1. *Dance Perspectives*

- **Learning Outcome 1:** Analyse cultural influences on, and the use of, group structures and the elements of spatial organisation to communicate the expressive intention in prescribed group dance works.

Assessment (SAC): Written essay

2. *Choreography, Performance and Dance-Making Analysis*

- **Learning Outcome 2:** Choreograph, rehearse and perform a solo dance work which has a unified composition and communicates an expressive intention through manipulation of the elements of spatial organisation, and analyse the processes used to choreograph, rehearse and perform the dance work.

Assessment (SAC): Annotated visual report

Assessment (Solo Performance 2 - Composition): To be choreographed by the student and performed for external assessment by VCAA assessors at the end of the year.

Prescribed Works to be Studied

Each work will be studied in regards to *Outcome 1; Dance Perspectives* in units 3 and 4 respectively.

These works are available to view on the HAPA YouTube Channel. This is accessible from www.haywoodproductions.com/vce. It is recommended that all students watch these works prior to the beginning of semester 1.

Unit 3 – Solo Works

Title: *An American in Paris*

Choreographer: Gene Kelly

Section of work to be studied: 'I Got Rhythm' from 'Never seen so many kids' to end of song

Publication: 'An American in Paris', DVD

Notes: male solo

Title: *Percussion 4*

Choreographer: Bob Fosse

Section of work to be studied: male solo following trio

Publication: 'Fosse: A Celebration of the choreography of Bob Fosse', DVD

Notes: male solo

Unit 4 – Group Works

Title: *West Side Story*

Choreographer: Jerome Robbins

Section of work to be studied: 'Cool' from 'Play it cool' to 'Pal'

Publication: 'West Side Story', VHS/DVD, Warner Home Video

Title: *Graeme Murphy's Nutcracker*

Choreographer: Graeme Murphy

Section of work to be studied: Snowflake scene, complete

Publication: 'Nutcracker', Graeme Murphy/Australian Ballet, VHS/DVD, ABC

Equipment, Uniform & Booklist

Uniform

Students must wear the standard HAPA Dance uniform to all VCE Dance classes on and off site.

Equipment

Students will need to bring the following with them to every class:

- Required stationary (see booklist below)
- Prescribed text books
- Laptop/Notebook computer (this is in no way essential but is permissible)
- Required and appropriate footwear/dancewear
- Personal towel
- Water bottle
- Any props or costume items that may be required for dance pieces you are working on

Booklist & Stationary

All Students will need the following stationary for each unit of study (1-4), which can be purchased at stores such as Office Works or Kmart:

- 1 A4 ring binder
- A4 loose leaf paper
- A4 Subject dividers
- A4 Plastic pockets
- 1 small notebook/journal (preferably hardback. Approx A5)
- Pens / Biro
- Grey lead pencils
- Several coloured highlighters
- 1 USB Flash Drive (minimum 2G)

The following textbook will need to be purchased and will be used throughout all 4 Units of study:

- Ashley, Linda; *Essential Guide to Dance* Third Edition; Hodder Education; ISBN: 978 0 340 96 838 3

The textbook can be purchased/ordered from Academic and General Bookstore. (\$64.99 at Academic and General)

A *Course Reader* with selected readings from a variety of sources will be provided in PDF format. The *Course Reader* is available in printed format but will incur an additional charge.

Contact Hours

The VCAA recommends at least 50 hours of scheduled classroom instruction per unit, which includes dance classes. Each unit should take a semester (2 standard school terms) This would mean the VCAA's minimum recommend weekly contact hours are 2.5.

However, in order to meet with HAPA's mission statement of achieving and providing excellence in performing arts, the contact requirement for VCE dance at HAPA is a minimum 5 hours per week, double the minimum VCAA recommendation. This 5 hours includes:

- 1 Theory Class (1.5hrs duration)
- 1 Practical Course work class (1.5hrs duration)
- 1 open jazz class (1hr duration)
- 1 dance performance elective (choose from contemporary; classical ballet; hip hop or Cabaret)

However, it is recommend that students participate in as many different styles of dance to increase their movement vocabulary, skill development, technique, flexibility, strength and overall dance fitness.

The Theory, Practical Course Work and Open Jazz classes will take place on Thursday evenings from 5pm to 9pm. VCE Dance students will participate in the HAPA Open Jazz Class during this time to enhance and expand their jazz movement vocabulary. Please note, this class is open to the public and is not exclusively for VCE students. The Theory and Practical Course Work classes are only for VCE Dance students.

Elective Dance Class

Students must choose one of the following elective classes to participate in as part of their VCE Dance study:

- Grade 6 Ballet (Monday 4pm-5pm)
- Advanced Contemporary (Monday 7pm-8pm)
- Intermediate Cecchetti Ballet (Monday 8pm-9pm)
- Cabaret/Broadway (Wednesday 5pm-6pm)
- Advanced Hip Hop (Wednesday 7pm-8pm)

Whilst students are encouraged to participate in as many different dance styles as possible, only 1 of the above elective classes will be part of the VCE course work.

All classes in the Elective Dance Class list are part of the standard HAPA timetable and are not specifically VCE Dance. However, wherever a VCE student has chosen the class as their elective, the class teacher will ensure the group dance piece is choreographed with the assessment criteria and key learning outcomes in mind. The VCE course co-ordinator will also audit the class on a semi-regular basis to ensure the learning outcomes are being covered.

SAC#3 – Learnt Dance Work, will be learnt and rehearsed in the students' nominated elective class. The assessed performance of the work will take place at the HAPA mid year production, which in 2010 will be *Super Star*. The written component Assessment Task #1, will be worked on in the VCE Dance Theory class.

When enrolling in the VCE Dance Program, students will be asked to nominate one class from the Elective Dane Class list. This can not be changed throughout the course except in the following circumstances:

- If injury prevents the student from performing to their full potential in the nominated style.
- If the student is cast in a Feature or Soloist Role in *Super Star* that inhibits them from performing with the class in the production
- In some circumstances, HAPA administration may need to modify the class in some way, eg changed time, teacher, age group/standard. If any such situation is deemed to be disruptive to the students learning they may change electives.

Fees

The VCE Dance program is charged separately from regular HAPA classes, as it is organised and administered as a separate program.

Costs are as follows:

- **Standard Program** - 5 hour VCE Dance program (Units 1-4)
\$200 per Term (4 payments per year)
OR
\$700 full year upfront payment
- **Soloist Program*** – Standard Program plus a weekly 30min private lesson each term
\$250 per Term (4 payments per year)
OR
\$900 full year upfront payment
- **Unlimited Program** – Soloist Program* plus Unlimited HAPA Classes
\$750 per Term (4 payments per year)
OR
\$2800 per year upfront payment

* The private lesson in any VCE Dance package is for the sole purpose of working on the students VCE Dance Solo piece/s. If the student wishes to undertake solos for competitions as well they will need to extend the private lesson to 45mins. This would incur an extra charge of \$30 per term.

There will also be additional costs for the following:

- Standard HAPA enrolment or re-enrolment fee.
- Costume for SAC #3 Learnt Dance Work, to be used in the assessed performance as part of HAPA's mid year production *Super Star*.
- Entry fee for VCE Dance competitions. Details will be provided as they become available.
- Any props or costume items the student wishes to use in their solo works must be paid for by the student. However, HAPA has an extensive costume wardrobe and collection of props which will be made available to students free of charge.