

Programme Supervisor Performance Design: Set and Costume

Start Date	August 2024
Application Closing Date	Thursday, 21 March 2024

Scope of the Job

Responsible to:	Programme Leader Postgraduate Studies and Executive Director
Responsible for:	Set and Costume Design provision within postgraduate programmes; Supervising MFA Student Set and Costume Design students for productions; Set and Costume Design for SPAA productions (under consideration).
Works Closely with:	Programme Leaders: Production Arts, Acting, Musical Theatre, and Dance. Production Manager, Programme Supervisor Producing.

Job Purpose

The **Programme Supervisor Performance Design (Set and Costume)** position (equivalent to an Assistant Professor) at Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (SPAA) is a full-time role focused on teaching Set and Costume Design at the postgraduate level. The successful candidate will be expected to supervise postgraduate students in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programme (Theatre and Live Performance Creation: Set and Costume Design) and participate as a member of thesis supervisory committees.

The faculty member will mentor postgraduate students as necessary and teach a mix of skills in the postgraduate Set and Costume Design concentration classes (e.g., design foundation, history, and design genres/forms). Additionally, they may take on the roles for Set and Costume Design on SPAA productions (to be confirmed) and supervise MFA student designers working during SPAA productions.

The **Programme Supervisor Performance Design (Set and Costume)** has a key role in overseeing the dynamic and safe practice within the delivery of set and costume design-related teaching. This lead role requires a skill set where the candidate has extensive practical experience in their field, and a successful record of accomplishment in course management, leading assessment/feedback, budgeting and effectively leading a team. They will work collaboratively alongside the other departments within the Acting, Musical

Theatre, Dance and Production Arts programmes and the wider faculty at SPAA. The **Programme Supervisor Performance Design (Set and Costume)** reports directly to the Programme Leader Postgraduate Studies and may be responsible for providing Set and Costume Design to all programmes, in coordination with the Programme Leader Postgraduate Studies.

The successful candidate will also demonstrate the potential to meet SPAA's expectations for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, Teaching, and Service as defined in SPAA's Research and Scholarly Activities policy and Faculty Policies. Maintaining professional engagement at the local, national, and international levels will be encouraged.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Report directly to Programme Leader Postgraduate Studies, and ultimately the Executive Director, to ensure they are kept well-informed in their areas of responsibility.
- Implement the development and delivery of all Set and Costume Design courses within the postgraduate programme. Prioritising safe practice will be fundamental alongside developing and inspiring innovative teaching that connects with multidisciplinary training that remains dynamic and relevant to the industry.
- Organise and facilitate the faculty pertaining to all activities within the Set and Costume Design concentration classes.
- Collaborate with the postgraduate faculty to administer course assessments to deliver structured feedback that supports and enhances learning and development for Set and Costume courses.
- Assist the Programme Leader Postgraduate Studies with timetabling and scheduling for Set and Costume Design courses.
- Assist the Programme Leader Postgraduate Studies in the interview and selection process for hiring additional Designers for productions (as required).
- Assist the Programme Leader Postgraduate Studies in outreach and student recruitment efforts to ensure sustained high levels of enrolment.
- The **Programme Supervisor Performance Design (Set and Costume)** may take on additional teaching responsibilities related to the postgraduate programme, including managing curriculum documentation, course files, and course administration to adhere to the institution's quality assurance standards.

Key Interactions

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Sharjah, UAE

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Working as an integral part of the SPAA team, this role involves close collaboration with Programme Leaders, other Supervisors, and Lead Tutors to ensure the highest level of teaching and learning support is provided to students throughout their studies. This collective effort guarantees that courses are executed effectively and efficiently, benefiting students and the broader Sharjah arts community.

Knowledge and Experience

Essential:

- Terminal Degree (MFA or PhD) or demonstrate and verify equivalent industry or professional experience, or additional qualifications in professional performing arts education.
- Significant professional theatre experience as a Set and Costume Designer (8 - 10 years minimum).
- Must be trained in specialist knowledge of Set and Costume Design, (including current design software suites).
- Previous experience with providing feedback.
- Knowledge and insight into student performance evaluation.
- Experience with research and scholarly activity, including practice as research.
- Capable of working autonomously and as an integral part of a diverse, multinational team, while exhibiting the emotional intelligence necessary for such environments.
- Ability to work on a flexible schedule, which may include evening and weekend work.
- Excellent organisational, verbal, and written communication skills.
- Ability to work with Office365 Suite (especially Excel).
- Flexible approach to curriculum development and andragogy to suit the Academy's dynamic needs, and cultural considerations, and to enhance collaborative education delivery.
- Must be willing to relocate to the UAE.

Desirable:

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- Direct industry experience; connections within the theatre and live performance industry for outreach and collaborative purposes.
- Documented success teaching Performance Design: Set and Costume (or similar course content), and related courses at a post-secondary institution and/or mentoring design students and emerging designers.
- Documented success in Set and Costume Design (e.g., industry awards). Clear understanding of schemes of work and preparing classwork while adhering to course and marking systems.
- Experience working within a multinational, multilingual educational environment.
- Ability to adapt to a wide range of age groups.
- Experience writing and delivering courses for postgraduate education.
- Experience with educational software (e.g., Moodle, Blackboard).
- Experience with additional performance design areas (i.e., Lighting, Sound, Projection).
- Ability to work with students from varying cultural backgrounds and abilities.
- Energetic, driven, creative and dependable.
- Openness to adapting and developing teaching and creative practices.
- Second or third language.

Core Competencies

Delivery through:

- Decision-making and solving problems with the Programme Leader Postgraduate Studies
- Building teams and communication with students
- Facilitating change: curriculum development, community culture of creativity and innovation.
- Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities.

Development through:

- Resilience
- Driving results

Context

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Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (SPAA) is an independent Academy established by His Highness, Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammed Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah, to address a growing demand in the UAE and MENA region for formal quality education and professional training in the performing arts sector. SPAA is the only performing arts conservatoire in the MENA region, offering quality undergraduate and graduate degree programmes taught in English. The purpose-built Academy comprises one 432 seat theatre, two fully equipped studio performance spaces, TV/recording studios, twelve sprung rehearsal studios, 12 singing tutorial spaces, resource library, gymnasium, and cafe.

Sharjah Performing Arts Academy specialises in training graduates for work in the international professional performing arts industry. The faculty working at SPAA are highly experienced practitioners within their respective fields. The focus of the Academy is practical rather than academic. The central value for a SPAA graduate is arming them with the highest levels of practical skills for their field and giving them the tools to be able to successfully generate their own work or practice.

Complexity

Sharjah Performing Arts Academy is a complex performing arts institution. Effective coordination between programmes and courses is a high priority to ensure that resources are appropriately shared and quality in teaching and learning is maintained.

Additional Information

The *Staff Handbook* is a significant resource for all employees. It sets out the expectations and important conditions of your employment.

- The post holder must accept responsibility for ensuring that SPAA policies and procedures relating to Health and Safety in the workplace are always adhered to.
- The post holder must respect the confidentiality of data.
- This is a full-time post based at **Sharjah Performing Arts Academy**, University City, Sharjah, UAE.
- This job description is a guide to the nature of the work required of the **Programme Supervisor Performance Design (Set and Costume)**. It is not wholly comprehensive or restrictive and may be reviewed with the post holder and line manager as required and in line with the growth of the Academy.
- The *Staff Handbook* will be sent to you via email.

Academy President

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi

Member Of The Supreme Council & Ruler Of Sharjah



- **Sharjah Performing Arts Academy** offers a highly competitive salary, residency visa, full medical Insurance cover, living/schooling allowances, and annual flight to country of residence.
- **Note:** due to licensing requirements and safeguarding policies, any individual offered a position will be required to submit a background check/DBS/Police check.

This job description is not an exclusive or exhaustive list of all job functions that an employee in this position may be asked to perform from time to time.

To apply: Please send a maximum two (2) page **cover letter** that addresses the full scope of the job requirements, evidence of research, scholarship and creative activity, portfolio of design work, statement of teaching philosophy, statement of creative activity/research interests, and your most current **CV** to careers@spaa.ae

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