

**TITLE****A Play in Four Dimensions****Length**

Variable

**Essential Skills**

All essential skills.

**Prerequisites**

None

**Course Description**

*A Play in Four Dimensions* provides an opportunity for participants to be involved in the collective creation of something for others to see, hear, and experience. The four dimensions refer, of course, to the four dimensions of personal development—heart (emotional), body (physical), mind (mental) and spirit (spiritual)—which can be expressed as a play incorporating any combination of words, music, dance, myths, legends, stories, etc. By engaging in *A Play in Four Dimensions*, participants will learn about both the benefits as well as the complexities of being integral parts of an artistic endeavour based on First Nations content.

The objective of this course is to give participants an exposure to the processes involved in staging theatrical events. Participants will:

1. Generate a list of potential productions.
2. Select one option and focus on its development.
3. Identify the skills and talents necessary for the production.
4. Match class members with the skills and talents necessary for the production.
5. Rehearse and plan a production date.

**Skill Statement**

**Create and produce a play based on First Nations content.**

**Implementing Environment****Skill Component 1: Generate a list of potential productions.****Performance Criteria**

- 1.1 Brainstorm ideas for a production.
- 1.2 Refine ideas for a production.
- 1.3 Discuss possibilities.
- 1.4 Include stories, legends and myths as possibilities.
- 1.5 Discuss the assets and liabilities of various ideas.

**Skill Component 2: Select one option and focus on its development.****Performance Criteria**

- 2.1 Review all the possibilities and select one option to develop into a production.
- 2.2 Use a mechanism like consensus for selection of the idea to develop for production.
- 2.3 Analyze the option to develop a vision for how the production will look.
- 2.4 Understand the form of the production (song, dance, acting, etc.).
- 2.5 Prepare a script that lays out the sequence of events in the production.

**Skill Component 3: Identify the skills and talents necessary for the production.****Performance Criteria**

- 3.1 Determine the tasks involved in the production (script, direction, singing, dancing, sets, props, lighting, acting, costumes, etc.)
- 3.2 Describe the tasks in terms of the skill and talents required to complete the tasks.

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**Skill Component 4: Match class members with the skills and talents necessary for the production.**

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**Performance Criteria**

- 4.1 Survey participants to identify the relevant skills and talents.
- 4.2 Demonstrate willingness to participate in the production.
- 4.3 Volunteer time and effort to the production.
- 4.4 Be prepared to modify the details of the production if circumstances change.

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**Skill Component 5: Rehearse and plan a production date.**

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**Performance Criteria**

- 5.1 Set up a rehearsal schedule.
- 5.2 Identify a date and location for the “public” performance of the production.
- 5.3 Promote attendance at the “public” performance.
- 5.4 Ensure that people taking on tasks do what has to be done (learn lines, acquire props, etc.).
- 5.5 Conduct rehearsals systematically so that all tasks are ready.
- 5.6 Plan run-throughs before the final performance.
- 5.7 Produce the final performance.
- 5.8 Review the final performance, including comments by both participants and spectators.

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**Course 10 Resources/Content**

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**1. *A Play in Four Dimensions* Backgrounder**



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# Notes

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*Never confuse a single defeat  
with a final defeat.*

F. Scott Fitzgerald

# Backgrounder

# A Play

# in Four Dimensions

*The more you understand, the more you will trust and the less you will fear.*

Ojibway

Course 10, *A Play in Four Dimensions* provides an opportunity for participants in the program to be involved in the collective creation of something for others to see, hear, and experience. The four dimensions refer, of course, to the four dimensions of personal development—heart (emotional), body (physical), mind (mental) and spirit (spiritual)—which can be expressed as a play incorporating any combination of words, music, dance, myths, legends, stories, etc. Taking part in creating *A Play in Four Dimensions* will reveal both the benefits as well as the complexities of being key parts of an artistic endeavour based on First Nations content.

The “play” in *A Play in Four Dimensions* can:

- be anything—a verbal piece with characters, a song, a poem, a dance, a personal story, a creation story, or almost anything else;
- involve everyone in the class;
- be as long as people want it to be;
- give everyone an opportunity to contribute whatever they’re particularly good at;
- involve actors, singers, people who can create costumes, build sets, work lighting, and anything or anyone else you can imagine: there are no rules, no limits;
- be an occasion for friends, relatives, Elders to see and experience the vision;
- give everyone an opportunity to be active and involved in a collective project;
- build in the four dimensions of heart (emotional), body (physical), mind (mental) and spirit (spiritual).

## A Play in Four Dimensions

*A lot of tribes don't have a word for "art" in their language because it is so much a part of their culture.*

Elder

It would be helpful to attend any kind of theatrical production and talk to people involved in the production to understand the range of skills, talent, abilities, knowledge and attitudes that are involved.

Use this set of activities as a guide in creating your own production.

### 1. Generate a list of potential productions.

- 1.1 Brainstorm ideas for a production.
- 1.2 Refine ideas for a production.
- 1.3 Discuss possibilities.
- 1.4 Include stories, legends and myths as possibilities.
- 1.5 Discuss the assets and liabilities of various ideas.

### 2. Select one option and focus on its development.

- 2.1 Review all the possibilities and select one option to develop into a production.
- 2.2 Use a mechanism like consensus for selection of the idea to develop for production.
- 2.3 Analyze the option to develop a vision for how the production will look.
- 2.4 Understand the form of the production (song, dance, acting, etc.).
- 2.5 Prepare a script that lays out the sequence of events in the production.

## A Play in Four Dimensions

*Insanity is doing the same thing  
over and over again and  
expecting different results.*  
Albert Einstein

### **3. Identify the skills and talents necessary for the production.**

- 3.1 Determine the tasks involved in the production (script, direction, singing, dancing, sets, props, lighting, acting, costumes, etc.)
- 3.2 Describe the tasks in terms of the skill and talents required to complete the tasks.

### **4. Match class members with the skills and talents necessary for the production.**

- 4.1 Survey participants to identify the relevant skills and talents.
- 4.2 Demonstrate willingness to participate in the production.
- 4.3 Volunteer time and effort to the production.
- 4.4 Be prepared to modify the details of the production if circumstances change.

## A Play in Four Dimensions

*The great man is he who does  
not lose his childlike heart.*

Mencius

### 5. Rehearse and plan a production date.

- 5.1 Set up a rehearsal schedule.
- 5.2 Identify a date and location for the “public” performance of the production.
- 5.3 Promote attendance at the “public” performance.
- 5.4 Ensure that people taking on tasks do what has to be done (learn lines, acquire props, etc.).
- 5.5 Conduct rehearsals systematically so that all tasks are ready.
- 5.6 Plan run-throughs before the final performance.
- 5.7 Produce the final performance.
- 5.8 Review the final performance, including comments by both participants and spectators.