

## **The Industry – Teaching Nexus: Research informing the development of an innovative consultation method to engage strategic international advisory mechanisms for WAAPA**

To comply with governance obligations, the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) is required to establish an Industry Advisory Committee. Historically, the committee has comprised of members of the WA arts community and related industry practitioners, meeting three times per year. The Industry – Teaching Nexus research project aims to undertake a process of applied research to investigate whether the construction of a new industry advisory ‘system’ as a virtual ‘meeting place’ will enable a sustainable and more informative flow of national and international industry-related information aimed at ensuring that WAAPA remains at the forefront of best practice in its teaching, research and industry preparations.

The objective is to design an online interactive system that can capture the constant flow of information and target highly specialised comments from significant individuals and groups regardless of location. Additionally, the system will allow staff to be involved in the process, enabling documentation (in multiple modes) of creative research practices of performance and international debate over pedagogical approaches.

The concept involves making WAAPA’s benchmarking exercises within the national and international arena transparent to the public and, more significantly, encouraging staff to engage with best practice methods which are also responsive to industry requirements.

Many WAAPA activities constitute “collaborative work where values and practices from [the] academic environment and industry can be debated and developed in partnership” (Wareham, 2008). The project is currently piloting such activities in the consultation process to test the best means of capturing information and to develop a virtual prototype through iterative feedback. The research team will present initial challenges and opportunities.

Authors:

References:

Wareham, T. (2008). Creative graduates: Enhancing teaching-research links in the creative arts. Retrieved from <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/documents/subjects/palatine/Creative-Graduates-Enhancing-teaching-research-links-in-the-creative-arts.pdf>