

Jean-Marc Cafa` Completes MEd in Teaching and Learning for the Arts in Higher Education

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Jean-Marc Cafa`, a local performing arts professional, has recently completed his MEd in Teaching and Learning for the Arts in Higher Education at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The programme, delivered over a three-year period, is primarily concerned with helping arts education professionals engage in a process of three types of active enquiry: Teaching Practice Enquiry, Arts Practice Enquiry, and Professional Enquiry. Jean-Marc's studies and research were sponsored by the Tertiary Education Support Scheme (TESS).

Jean-Marc has been a significant contributor to the Maltese performing arts scene and has been involved in arts education and direction locally and overseas. He established Studio 18 in 2013, for which he has served as Creative Director for the past decade. His directing credits include a range of productions such as Loveplay, Her Naked Skin, #babydaddy, Limbo, Inez Kienet Perf, Dear Pete, Ma' Kuragg, and Il-Giddieb Ghomru Twil, among others. He has also served as Artistic Director for SOPA (Drama Troupe) and oversaw youth programmes run by Spazju Kreattiv.

Jean-Marc's MEd focused on the development of arts educational leadership, and his area of focus was a critical investigation of the role of educational leadership in supporting Maltese theatre practitioners transitioning into leadership for actor learning and development. The project reviewed various sources of literature and synthesised optimal leadership approaches to support local leaders in the field. The concluding section of this evaluation outlines the limitations of the project and suggests a promising roadmap for leadership development in Malta's provision of actor learning and development.

Jean-Marc's work contributes to Arts Council Malta Strategy 2025's priority of pedagogical practices. Through ongoing collaborations with key players in education, the strategy aims to nurture a generation of Maltese artists who are both culturally literate and knowledgeable. This supports the need for visionary leaders to establish robust organisational structures and cultures, as well as relevant learning and teaching strategies.

In conclusion, Jean-Marc's completion of the MEd in Teaching and Learning for the Arts in Higher Education is a significant achievement for the Maltese performing arts sector. His work in the field of arts educational leadership will contribute to the development of the sector and support the growth of Maltese theatre practitioners transitioning into arts education.