

Student Newsletter

Brought to you by
the Students' Union
& Student Voice

End of Year Issue
2025



The final hurdle!

You have all been working so hard so far this year and your tremendous efforts have not gone unnoticed by those around you! As we approach the end of the academic year, take some time to reflect on the amazing year you've had at UCEN and all that you have learnt.

In this edition of the Student Newsletter, we'll guide you through some of what your Students' Union, Student Voice and YOU have been up to this year!

As you may already know, our current SU team will soon be stepping down as our two-year terms come to an end. But this means you'll get to know a new team September onwards!

It's been great getting to know so many of you this academic year and wish you all the best of luck on your upcoming final exams, assessments, events and performances. Finish the year off proudly and then have an amazing summer!

SU team x

In this newsletter you can expect:

Spring Roundup

Permanent Swap Shop

Celebrating students and courses

SU Farewell

Events Roundup

Spring Roundup



We enjoyed some lovely food with lantern making at our Iftar event to celebrate Ramadan.

For World Book Day a lot of you took part in our book giveaway! We hope you like whatever you opened!



Sal held one of his famous lunchtime quizzes with some cool prizes!



Our Easter Egg Hunt was a big hit once again! It was great to see so many of you taking part...and so quickly too! We hope you had fun and congrats again to the winners!



You popped by our Recruitment Fair to learn more about our SU roles and got some freebies!



Have you been nominated for the Student Awards? Nominations are in now, check your emails!



Permanent Swap Shop

Have you checked out our newest addition to the UCEN library space yet? **Our permanent SWAP SHOP is open!**

This space promotes recycling and eco-consciousness, allowing you to 'shop' for something 'new to you', in return for something you no longer want or need.

If you've got something you don't want anymore and would like to swap it for something else, bring it to the swap shop, have a look and SWAP!



What can I bring to swap?

- Clothes (no socks/underwear)
- Books
- Accessories
- Games/DVDs
- As long as it's clean and in good condition, bring it along!

Unsure if you can swap something? Ask our SU team!

Just want to donate?

If you have items you want to give for the shop and don't want anything in return, give it to the SU team!



Where is the Swap Shop?

Round the corner in the UCEN library by the vending machine!

When can I bring items to swap?

Anytime! It's a permanent shop so you can pop by whenever you want!



This space is brought to you by the SU and library teams and will be monitored and maintained daily.

Please only swap **an item for an item** so it remains fair and enough opportunity for everyone to enjoy.

Celebrating Courses

The next few pages are showcasing some exciting events coming up, along with celebrating other ventures that courses have held throughout the year!

Theatre & Performance - 3rd Years



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TAP 3rd years present their **unTaPped '25 festival!**

This festival is a celebration of fresh voices, innovative storytelling, and boundary-pushing performances, offering a platform for emerging artists to challenge conventions and reimagine the possibilities of live theatre. From thought-provoking new writing to immersive experiences, unTaPped '25 highlights the creativity and versatility of its graduating cohort.

Audiences can expect an eclectic mix of performances that reflect contemporary themes, personal narratives, and experimental forms, all crafted with passion and originality.

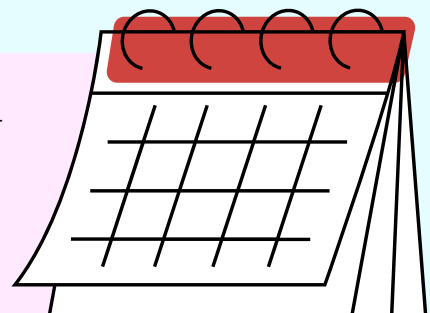
unTaPped '25 isn't just a festival - it's a launchpad for the next generation of theatre-makers!

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Follow their Instagram [@tap_third_years](#), TikTok [@tap_arden](#) and Bluesky [@taparden.bsky.social](#) for all their updates and information on the festival.

SAVE THE DATES! - 16.05.25 and 17.05.25
LOCATION - The Lowry!



Here is a bit about a performance TAP 3rd years held earlier on this academic year!



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PUNK IS DEAD!

Punk is Dead was our professional collaboration piece with the company **Ugly Bucket Theatre**. TaP 3rd years and Ugly Bucket collaborated to create a show that explored clowning, comedy, and the question of whether punk is truly dead.

The show was wacky, weird, and wild, and we had the best 5 weeks working with Ugly Bucket.

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Since performing in October, we've had the chance to perform again, at the opening of the Longmore Theatre at the Arden and have been offered the exciting opportunity to perform at an event in memory of Vivienne Westwood at the Go Green awards.

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Makeup Artistry and Special Effects – BA Years



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Makeup and SFX 3rd years recently presented their exhibition **Beyond the Brushstroke!**

It was a fantastic end to these students journey through makeup here at UCEN Manchester, truly bringing their work to life in a carefully curated space. MUA and SFX BA student's showcased their best work they had created throughout the year!

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3D Game Art and VFX

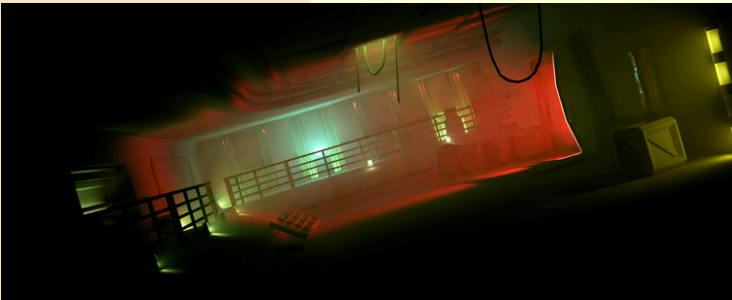
Meiyo Academy

From February to May, 3D Game Art and VFX students participated in the Meiyo Academy pilot, an industry-led initiative by **Andy Morrin** from **Meiyo** and **Dan McCabe** from **Cloud Imperium Games**. This programme enhanced their employability through real-world challenges, professional guidance, and skills development.

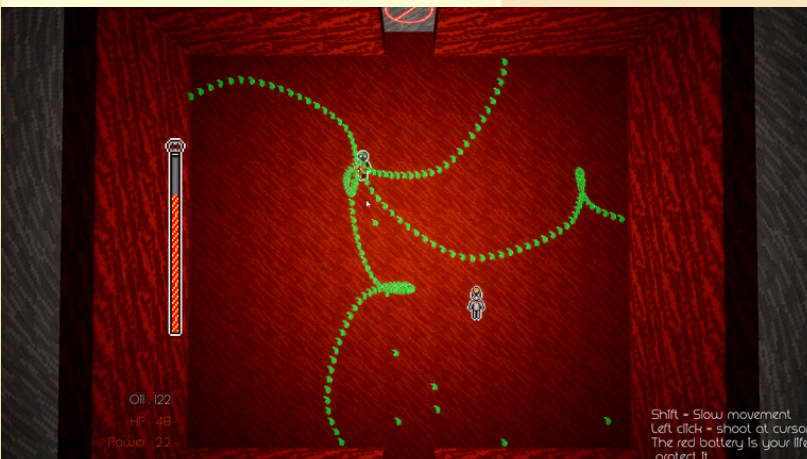


Lion Sculpt by Nick Fletcher
BA (Hons) 3D Game Art & VFX, Year 2
Instagram: [@nickseven2005](https://www.instagram.com/nickseven2005)

Sci-Fi Interior by Owen Swan
BA (Hons) 3D Game Art & VFX, Year 1



Luna Drill game by Wain Nisbet
BA (Hons) 3D Game Art & VFX
Artstation: www.artstation.com/wainnisbet



Living Room Render by Farah Jordan
BA (Hons) 3D Game Art & VFX, Year 1
Instagram: [@fjordan04](https://www.instagram.com/fjordan04)



3D Environment by Jack Heyes
BA (Hons) 3D Game Art & VFX, Year 2

Follow their course
Instagram:
[@ucen.ani.3d.games.vfx](https://www.instagram.com/ucen.ani.3d.games.vfx)

Itch.io Game Jam

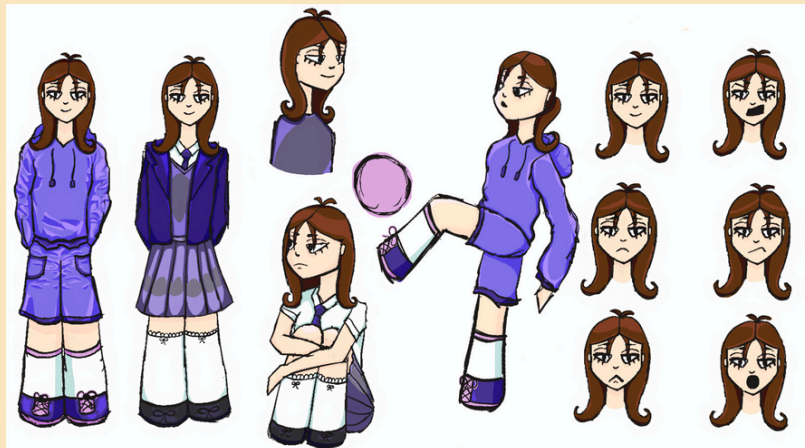
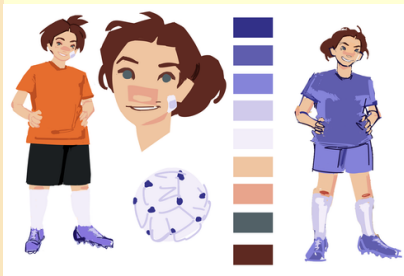
3D Game Art and VFX Technician **Josh Probert** and second-year student **Wain Nisbet** participated in the **Boss Rush Jam 2025**, a game development challenge on **itch.io** with the theme **"Spin."**

Wain's game **Luna Drill** features a corporate battle over alien oil with 12 bullet-hell bosses, while Josh's Spinbot uses a spinning mechanic for attack and defense, inspired by Tron and TimeSplitters VR.

Animation Industry HND



Our Goal Concept Art by Megan Lalor
HND The Animation Industry, Year 1



Our Goal Concept Art by Shoshi Hossain
HND The Animation Industry, Year 1
Instagram: [@_shoshi.art_](https://www.instagram.com/_shoshi.art_)

Our Goal Concept Art by Hannah Bond
HND The Animation Industry, Year 1



Our Goal Concept Art by Aimee Bennett
HND The Animation Industry, Year 1
Instagram: [@aimee_art24](https://www.instagram.com/aimee_art24)



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Our Goal CIC

Animation Industry HND students collaborated with Our Goal CIC to create animations promoting female participation in sport, successfully translating founder **Ella Williams'** story into vibrant visuals.

The project provided valuable real-world experience, with students inspired by the challenge and praised by both their lecturers and Ella for their creativity and impact.

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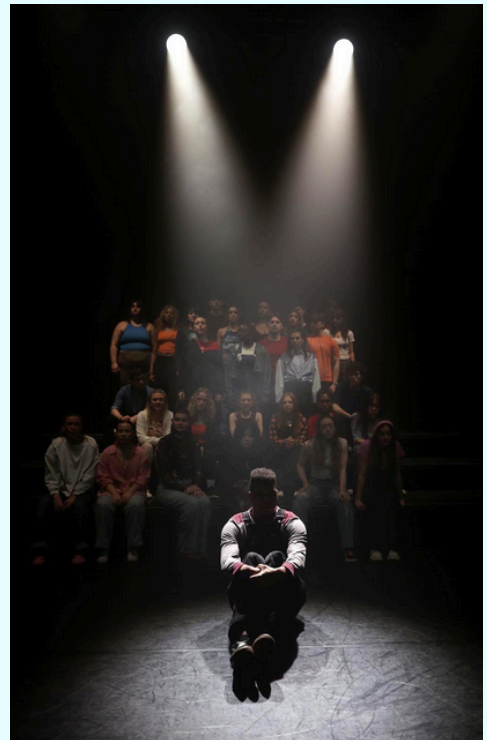
Arden Actors - Graduating class



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Back in December we performed **Brand New Ancients** by Kae Tempest, and had the pleasure of being **Directed by Bryony Shanahan**.

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This is a piece that united us as a company, and we are looking into performing again once we have graduated as it is a piece we can all say we are proud of and would love to showcase even more.

We are very lucky to have tutors who are supportive and encouraging of this as they push us to stay connected and keep creating together.

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We also recently had our industry showcase in March, directed by the wonderful **Rupert Hill**.

It was filled with two and half minute pieces, either monologues or duologues, and we all had an opportunity to showcase our strengths and introduce ourselves in the industry.

We are truly blessed to have so much support and love towards each other and cannot wait to begin rehearsals after Easter for our final end of year show!

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Farewell from your Students' Union team of 23/25!

Our two year term is coming to an end in July! We have loved being your Students' Union team so we wanted to say a proper farewell!

"After two years, my time with the Students Union has finally come to an end. The 31st July (which co-incidentally is also my brother's birthday... he's always ruining my special days!) is going to be my final day as your President. I've had an absolute blast with so many of you, from running our well-loved quizzes, helping you start your very own societies, to painting beautiful, snail shaped pots at Freshers! I've loved getting to know you and working alongside you to shape the student experience at UCEN Manchester. From here on, I hope to get back into the world of film and TV, so if you catch my name in any credits, you can say "WOW, THAT'S SAL! I KNOW HIM!". You can keep in touch and check out my work via socials - [@films_by_sal](#). I wish all of you the absolute best, whether that be a new adventure as you leave UCEN Manchester, or continuing on to the next level of your degree. You've all been an amazing part of my time here and I hope you continue doing whatever makes you happy." - **Sal, SU President**

"It's been a pleasure to serve in this role over the past two years. I've loved meeting so many of you, and I truly hope I've made a positive impact on your student experience. Balancing this role alongside my studies and health hasn't always been easy, but it's been incredibly rewarding. I've grown so much, learning to navigate new challenges and come to terms with my disability—experiences that have shaped me in ways I never expected. Saying goodbye is never easy (especially for me!), so I'll simply say thank you—for the memories, the support, and for making this journey unforgettable. I'm not entirely sure what's next, but I'm looking forward to picking up a few things I'd set aside—like completing my Personal Trainer and Nutrition qualifications. Right now, I've been invited to speak at a school about women in sport and share my story, which I'm really excited about. My goal is to inspire the next generation and hopefully leave behind a legacy that lasts. I'd love to pursue a Master's in the future, but for now, I'm gaining experience and exploring the right path forward. You can keep up with what's next on my Sports & Exercise account - [@ts.training_fitness](#). This isn't the end, just the next chapter! - **Teri, Vice-President**

"I can't believe my time working here is nearly over, this has been such a fun job to have while studying here at UCEN! I have met so many lovely staff and students while in this role! I have made so many great memories here with all of you and my team, from Halloween BINGO, painting events, hot chocolate making, and our Easter egg hunt, along with many others! I'll also miss managing the SU Instagram, I've had the chance to stay creative by making content and highlighting all the amazing things you've been up to! What's next for me? Well, I'm graduating from UCEN with my foundation degree in Makeup Artistry and will continue pushing myself in this industry! I also plan to continue creating makeup content for myself - keep tabs on what I do on [@allthatjazzmakeupart](#). I wish everyone the very best in life, during and after UCEN!" - **Jasmine, Sports & Activities Officer**

Applications are in for our replacements and interviews will be held soon! We look forward to introducing you to your new Students' Union team of 25/27 very soon!

Remember to keep up to date with all things Students' Union on our Instagram!
@ucen_tmc_su





SU Events Spotlight!

Here's a recap of our events this academic year!



Don't forget to follow our Instagrams!

@ucen_tmc_su
@futureuucenmanchester

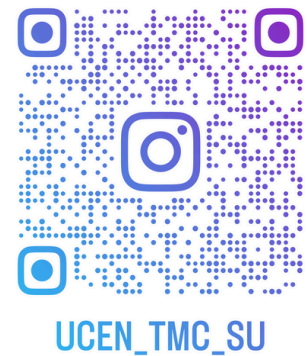


What are the Students' Union's FEATURE FRIDAYS?

Every Friday on our SU Instagram we share the endeavours of UCEN students on our stories!

Want your work or an event you're doing to be featured during the summer?

Simply tag us **@ucen_tmc_su** in your posts so we will see them, we love sharing what you all get up to!



Thank you for reading our newsletters
throughout the year!

*Students' Union &
Student Voice teams x*