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Fall 9-1-2022

THTR 595.01: Professional Theatre Performance

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Recommended Citation

Sweeney, Bernadette, "THTR 595.01: Professional Theatre Performance" (2022). *University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025*. 396.

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THTR 505 PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE 9 credits

Day and Time Dependent on Production

BERNADETTE SWEENEY

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**Office Hours: Thursday 10-12, Friday 11-12 and
By Appointment**

Aim

The purpose of this course is to engage the student with the authentic experience of professional performance practice.

Outcomes

At the end of the production you must be able to demonstrate that you:

- Can implement theories, techniques and strategies into practice;
- Can make use of specific theatrical terminology
- Can identify problem areas and analyze outcomes or solutions for future work;
- Can describe your own creative approach to professional performance practice
- Have gained an enhanced sense of professionalism and ensemble.

Assessment

Your professional performance experience will be evaluated based on three areas:

- Experiential learning and enhanced professionalism
- Assessment of extended craft
- Written reflection of the rehearsal process and the final product

Attendance, Professionalism, and Promptness

You will present evidence of your work and engagement with the process, including having been on time for all rehearsals, performances publicity events and if necessary, costume fittings. If you fail to meet these expectations, it will be reflected in your grade for the course.

Faculty Assessment of Craft

In the area of craft, you will be evaluated based on your current standing in the program and prerequisite skill level and course work. You are responsible for preparing for the work, investigating necessary given circumstances (style, period, culture, and character background), and must come prepared with specific directing/acting choices that you will pursue in consultation with the artistic associates (vocal coach, movement coach, choreographer, music director etc). You will take all notes from the director/associates, implement them in rehearsals, and respond appropriately during the technical and dress rehearsals.

Where appropriate, you will perform all runs of the play presented for the general public audiences, (including any student matinees) attend all talkbacks and school responses, and meet with faculty after the run of the show for personal feedback and notes after the production has closed. You will maintain the consistency of the production as rehearsed, making no changes unless they are implemented with the

supervision of the director or stage manager. Your performance will be evaluated based on the following rubric:

- A **Superb work.** The student transcended directing/acting craft past the point of intellectual preparation
- B **Good work.** The student had the directing/acting skills necessary to participate in the production, but was not yet living truly in the moment
- C **Fair work.** The student struggled with the fundamentals of directing/acting and it was evident that more effort is needed to truly master the craft
- D **Poor work.** The student was not or had prepared fully for the work and it was a painful experience for the actor, scene partners, and audience
- F **Failure.** The student demonstrated no relevant preparation

Rehearsal and Performance Reflection (THTR 595)

You are expected to keep an informal rehearsal and performance journal for the production that you will write in at least once a week and write a final reflection on the process as a whole. General criteria for this paper will be assigned by your director or advisor.

Assessment

Attendance, Promptness, and Professionalism, evidence of craft and reflection 100%

Electronic Communication

Please check your email, phone, and the Callboard (both real and virtual) frequently throughout the day. Be sure you have the stage manager's mobile number on-hand at all times.

Silence your cell phone in rehearsal. Stage management will have their phone on vibrate in case an emergency text message should be sent by the university. If your device rings accidentally during rehearsal, please silence it as QUICKLY AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.

If you have some down time and accessing the web becomes necessary be sure that your work is not distracting to the process and that you remain aware of the progress of the production at all times. Your director and their associates reserves the right to rescind this policy if needed.

Rehearsal Clothes [for actors]

Wear clothes that you can move in to rehearsal, while also being mindful of the needs of the production and your character. All students should have a "rehearsal kit" with appropriate character shoes, a formal jacket, and a full-length skirt. The costume shop will provide only specialty items and accessories necessary for the production such as corsets, boots, etc as they become available. Be prepared to work barefoot. If you must wear socks, please use those that have slip resistant padding on the bottom.

Sacred Space

In order to foster an appropriate environment for rehearsal, you must treat all rehearsal spaces and performance venues as a sacred. Remove all street shoes before rehearsing in our spaces and store

personal belongings neatly in the areas designated by stage management. Be mindful of any rehearsal furniture or props designated for the production that may already be in the space and treat them with respect. If you arrive early, use that time for reflection, meditation, stretching, warming-up, and running lines. When rehearsal has ended, help stage management to restore the room if requested and retrieve all belongs that you brought with you before leaving.

Proedure/Policy

You are expected to abide by the following School of Theatre & Dance regulations. Eating, drinking, or gum chewing are not permitted during class. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Please let me know in writing if you have a medical exception to this policy. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom. Late work is not accepted; this includes late or unprepared performances. Students are encouraged to wear appropriate movement attire to class. There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes, as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

Please stay in communication with your faculty advisor and know that we are here to help. You can call in anytime to our office hours (posted on office doors) or email us to set up an appointment. All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the [School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook](#).

Wellness Statement

The School of Theatre & Dance recognizes that theatre and performance content and processes can provoke; therefore, during the course of a class or rehearsal, students can choose to remove themselves from activities should they feel a threat to their well-being. Please communicate with your instructor and/or stage manager as soon as you can, prior to or after leaving.

Personal considerations such as health, wellness and/or other issues can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in the university setting. For helpful resources, please contact the Curry Health Center Counseling department at 406-243-4711 or schedule an online appointment through the health portal: www.umt.edu/hportal. For a crisis or for after-hours care, you can contact: the emergency rooms at St. Patrick Hospital or Community Medical Center; the National Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255; or the Crisis Text line: text MT to 741-741. For University of Montana financial aid: phone: (406) 243-5373 or email faid@mso.umt.edu

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Accessibility

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. Students registered with [Office For Disability Equity](#) (ODE) may request reasonable accessibility modifications by contacting me directly.