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THTR 395.01: Practicum - Thinner than Water

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Practicum: Performance – THTR 395/595 – 1-3 Credits
Day and Time Dependent on Production

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Office Hours – Email to arrange

Aim

The purpose of these courses is to connect class work in theatre to the authentic experience of performing in a main-stage University of Montana theatre production.

Outcomes

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

- Implement theories, techniques and strategies into practice;
- Make use of specific theatrical terminology while acting on the stage;
- Identify problem areas and take such areas back to their professor and classes for future work;
- Listen and respond appropriately to notes given by the director;
- Describe their own creative approach to role; and,
- Gain a sense of professionalism and ensemble.

Assessment

Your performance will be evaluated based on three areas:

- Attendance, promptness, and professionalism;
- Director and faculty assessment of craft; and,
- Written reflection of the rehearsal process and the final product (THTR 595)

Attendance, Professionalism, and Promptness

You will attend every rehearsal for which you are called during the rehearsal period (see handbook for more information). You will arrive on time and ready to work. You will be mindful and courteous to all members of the cast and production team throughout the process. You will respond promptly to all communication from stage management and costume shop management. You will be present and on time for all publicity events and costume fittings. If you fail to meet these expectations, it will be reflected in your grade for the course.

Director and 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 role, investigating necessary given circumstances (style, period, culture, and character background), and must come prepared with specific acting choices that you will pursue in consultation with the director and their associates (vocal coach, movement coach,

choreographer, music director etc). You will take all notes from the director and their associates, implement them in rehearsals, and respond appropriately during the technical and dress rehearsals.

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 craft past the point of intellectual preparation and was truly living in the moment

B Good work. The student had the 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 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.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance, Promptness, and Professionalism	70%
Director and Faculty Assessment of Craft and Reflection	30%

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

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.

Procedure/Policy

You are expected to abide by the following School regulations. There is no eating, drinking, or gum chewing. Please let me know in writing if you have a medical exception to this policy. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre classes, as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class and rehearsals with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in classes, rehearsals, and performances 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.

Student Success and Conduct

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic perfor-

mance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

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. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.