

## **Senior Capstone Project TDF 492 Description and Proposal Format**

All senior Theatre Majors must plan and carry out an independent study project related to a particular area of interest within theatre. Capstone projects should build on the individual student's prior knowledge acquired through course work or significant experiential learning. They are intended to be carefully planned artistic and/or scholarly projects that synthesize past knowledge.

All seniors will have both a capstone project and a public presentation (15 minutes) about the project. The Capstone course also includes a two-part paper. Part one is a reflection on the student's capstone project and five pages in length; part two is a reflection on his/her four years as a theatre major and also five pages in length. This 10 page paper will count as 40% of the Capstone grade, with the remaining 60% being the project itself and the 15-minute presentation on the project. All senior majors should attend one another's capstones and attendance will be taken. We will strongly encourage all majors, not just seniors, to attend.

A capstone experience is not an opportunity for a student to try something for the first time, but is an opportunity to synthesize knowledge and skills previously gained. Capstones that have a performance focus may take one of two routes:

1. A performance project to be presented by TDF near the end of the semester as part of a weeklong showcase of student creative work. This option might include a one-person show, or a collection of scene work with partners.
2. Directing or designing one or more elements of a fully staged independent student production to be presented by TDF as part of the annual production season. Special notes:
  - a. An additional application needed for this option.
  - b. Only small cast plays with manageable production values will be given consideration for independent student production.
  - c. Several students may participate in the same project. For example, a fully realized, student-directed and designed production in the Bowab Studio Theatre might serve as the capstone experience for two or more students. However, each student must write up a separate proposal that reflects his or her specific learning activities and objectives within the production and receive individual approval by the TDF faculty.
  - d. Final decisions regarding Independent Student Productions will need to wait until after the main stage season selection process is completed. Students taking this option will submit a brief statement of their proposals in March along with everyone else, but a final decision regarding these proposals will not be made until after the main stage season is selected.

Other capstone experiences may include but are not limited to:

- Writing an original play
- Researching an aspect of theatre history, literature, criticism or theory and producing a major research paper or essay.
- Design planning and documentation for an unrealized, paper production.
- Creating and implementing a curriculum for children's theatre.

Stage management will not be accepted as capstone proposal. Stage management is not considered an experience which lends itself to synthesizing past knowledge into a creative or scholarly project. Also, acting a major role in a main stage or laboratory production does not lend itself to the capstone experience process because the assignment of roles is not under the control of individual students and therefore cannot be planned in advance.

### **Faculty Review and Response**

- The TDF faculty will review all capstone project proposals.
- A proposal must receive written approval by the TDF faculty in order to be authorized as a capstone experience.
- The student project leader or director will be informed of the status of the proposal no later than one week after a determination has been made by members of the TDF faculty.
- Approved projects will be:
  - Assigned a faculty advisor or liaison if one has not already been identified.
  - Provided with specific information concerning the use of rehearsal and performance facilities for the project.
  - Provided with information concerning the availability of existing department resources for use on the project, and the procedures and timetables for their acquisition and return of materials and equipment.
  - Provided with specific information related to departmental funding for the project.

### **Proposal Format**

*For all those proposing to direct an independent student production, please use the application form that has been provided to all theatre majors. It is available online on the TDF website.*

*All other students should respond to the ten points listed below and submit your proposal to the Chair of the Department of Theatre, Dance & Film.*

1. Project Title.

2. Project type:

- Curriculum development
- Designing

- Directing
- Dramaturgy
- Playwriting
- Research paper
- Other

3. Semester in which project will be completed: fall or spring.
4. Brief description of project.
5. Learning objectives.
6. General time line.
7. Resources required (facilities, funding, number of people etc.).
8. What do you hope to learn from this project, and why does it excite you?
9. How will this project build upon and synthesize knowledge and skills you have already acquired within the major?
10. How will you know if you have succeeded at this project?

