

Student Directed Project Guidelines: (Pitch Deadline – **Apr. 30th** at midnight.)

The Fringe for Fall 2025 performance date is TBA. However, the deadline to pitch your project is Apr. 30 at midnight. There will be one evening a semester dedicated to student directed work. The form that this show will take is up to the student(s), with some rules for clarity and guidelines for show submission. The show can be a straight play, a musical, improv, or almost any form the student wishes. To qualify to *direct*, the student must have taken Directing I and made a B or better.

This production will focus on PERFORMANCE and DIRECTION to the exclusion of extensive design elements. A small and basic selection of set, props, and costumes will be made available to the student director, however anything grand or specific will be up to the director and creative staff to acquire. The lighting plot will be a simple lights up/lights down wash, if a specific lighting element is needed for successful performance of the show, the director should use his or her creative impulses to solve the problem. An ideal student directed project will require no complex costumes, no complex sets, and no complex lighting. This project will be taken on under the leadership of the student director with a limited amount of departmental support. All projects will be staged in the Lab Theatre.

The student director should arrange times for faculty mentoring throughout the production process. The student director will also be responsible for recruiting and securing all production help, this includes choreographer and MD/collaborative musician if the production is a musical or cabaret performance. The student director should also consider getting the word out about the production through “advertising.” This is an important point. Since we are an educational institution, we are not required to pay for rights to a production as long as we: don’t charge for tickets and don’t advertise it by name. This means that any flyers or posters made must feature an alternate name for the show.

Please note: Student directed projects do NOT take precedence over classes, capstones, or dept. productions. This is an extra-curricular activity to further your skills as a director and another opportunity for performers to hone their craft and get on-stage experience, as a result there will be no course credit given for these projects.

Shows that will be given the strongest consideration are:

- Simple to produce
- Small cast shows
- Student projects should be NO LONGER than 30 min.
- One acts that are done in conjunction with other one acts to make one evening of theatre featuring multiple directors will be strongly favored.

The preference is for directors to pitch three 30 min. shows for the faculty to choose one from, however directors may pitch only one project if they desire. Please note that the entire evening will be considered when selecting projects.

The faculty will evaluate the shows pitched and make decisions on which show will be produced. If multiple directors are applying and are not interested in collaborating on an evening of one-acts, decisions will be made between directors based on how well the shows fit with department season and ease of production.

Open auditions are required. You may post Audition Notices on the call board and the board in the green room. Directors are encouraged to host group auditions (for several shows) at one time. Please note that cast lists must be approved by the faculty before being posted.

Rehearsal space may be requested through the Department of Theatre and Dance office in accordance with departmental procedures. Rehearsal space must be left clean and free of production items. Seating may not be reconfigured in the Lab Theatre, you must use the space as is.

Rehearsals should be no longer than three hours on any given day. Breaks should be given at reasonable intervals. Directors should adequately prepare their actors for the performance. Actors should show up to rehearsals on time and ready to work. Once cast in a show, actors must commit to the production. Again, cast lists must be approved by faculty before being posted.

Immediately following the last performance, all participants in the production should participate in strike. This includes returning all dept. borrowed items. Any items that are left in the Lab theatre will preclude the director/actors from any future Student Season shows.

Post-Mortem Discussion: In the weeks following the close of the production, the director (or performer) should schedule a time with a faculty member to discuss the process and the product. The aim of such a discussion is to assess the students work as well as gather information to improve this process in the future.

Application process for potential student directors:

- Fill out the attached form
- Give a one-page description of each show/project you want to undertake including:
 - o A short synopsis
 - o Cast of Characters
 - o Technical requirements
 - o Why you want to do this show/concept.
- Turn in the paperwork to the faculty by Dec. 4th.