Department Expectations

• All majors and minors are required to fulfill a company production assignment every semester.
• All majors and minors are expected to attend all of their scheduled classes and to arrive to these classes in a timely fashion.
• All majors and minors are expected to attend all rehearsals and work calls that they are scheduled to attend.
• Performance theater majors are required to audition for all theater shows being produced by the department. Dance majors are required to audition for all Dance Concerts. All minors and Collaborative theater majors are highly recommended to audition. Auditions are open to all HPU students.
• All majors and minors will attend all theater and dance productions presented by the department.
• All students are required to abide by the University Honor code.
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As the human soul is transformed through meaningful connection to the arts, students at High Point University can expect **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION** in their personal transformations. Our expert Theater and Dance faculty knows that we demand much of our students, as they explore vulnerability and hone their craft. As professional Artist-Mentors, we will “walk the walk” with each and every one of our students, as each becomes a **SELF-MOTIVATED, COURAGEOUS, and DECISIVE** professional.

Critical skills, refined in both the studio and in production, promote sustainable professional success in and beyond the discipline for our Company Members. Students engaging in the arts at High Point University find a community, defined by **MUTUAL RESPECT**, with a mission to foster agency, resiliency, adaptability, creativity, and integrity. Ours is a welcoming and supportive environment. We honor our professional obligation to help our students become **SUPERIOR COMMUNICATORS, MAKERS** and **DOERS**, those who know how to express their humanity, and how to **EMPATHIZE WITH THE WORLD** around them, regardless of their path ahead.

Our students awaken their potential, develop a personal artistic voice, and cultivate the life skills to compete effectively in a wide range of professions in which collaboration, deadline management, leadership, adaptability, and innovation are vital, including the arts, entertainment, media, law, education, business, and marketing. We encourage our students to become active global citizens.

Our graduates are the proficient artists, arts advocates, and powerful professionals of the future. Theater and Dance at High Point University ignites a passion to lead a **WELL-EXAMINED LIFE** and **CHANGE THE WORLD** for the better.
Safety Precautions

- Wear your mask in all Theater/Dance spaces and wash it frequently
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer every hour or after touching surfaces
- There are hand sanitizer stations at the entrances to all buildings
- Avoid clustering in small spaces such as doorways, restrooms, and in the hall
- All students in our Company must register for contact tracing through the HPU Health Hub
- Due to increased health risks, there will be no live singing in rehearsals or performances and musical theater work will be filmed as part of our adapted season
- We are regulating the number of people involved in student-work, and will be providing guidance on structuring your rehearsals, sanitation of your spaces, and other ways to keep everyone safe
- If you feel sick at all, please do not come to class or rehearsal and isolate yourself in your residence then contact Health Services at (336) 841-4683

Classes & Buildings

- There will be frequent cleaning of touch points, including between each class and you may be asked to wipe down your desk or materials that you used/touched
- Clear face shields and plexiglass partitions may be available for scene work and rehearsals
- We may cast understudies to allow for absences when someone is sick or in quarantine
- You will not be allowed to share materials or supplies with one another
- Classes may be held outdoors and in classroom spaces we will open doors and windows as much as we can for cross ventilation
- The Empty Space Theatre may have designated entrances and exits and during class changeover we may utilize fans to circulate the air from the previous class out
- The Dance Studio and Empty Space will have tape markings on the floor and at the barre to ensure proper social distancing
- Sizes in group activities will be adjusted and classrooms sectioned off when possible
- There will be no drop-in use of theater or dance spaces. All requests to use a space must be cleared in advance and proper safety and cleaning procedures must be followed.
Safety Precautions

Auditions

We are practicing social distancing and requiring masks for all auditions. There will be no live singing at the theater auditions. The dance auditions will have no group warmup and each dancer should come prepared to perform a 30-45 second solo.

Rehearsals

- The daily health screening app must be complete before attending rehearsal and you will be asked to show the green screen to the stage manager upon entry
- Table reads may be virtual
- You should bring your own marked water bottles and no food is allowed in our spaces
- Numbers of students in rehearsal spaces will be minimized by rehearsing scenes or sections
- We will not be sharing makeup, costumes, or wigs
- Costumes will be laundered after each rehearsal and picked up on a staggered schedule
- Technical needs will be met through standard safe practice procedures and a staggered schedule that ensures social distancing in all workspaces

Performances

- Our performances will primarily take place in the Pauline Theatre to allow for the greatest amount of social distance and ventilation
- We have applied social distancing guidelines to our greenroom spaces in order to spread performers across more rooms
- The first performance of each production will be reserved for members of the Department/Company to attend
- In lieu of a post-performance social gathering, we will ask all attendees to leave the space for a short break to allow us to circulate fresh air before we gather for a discussion of the work
- There will be no community patrons in attendance, and parents may attend if escorted from the gatehouse to the performance and back by the student
  - Please see the University restrictions on guests and visitors to campus during COVID-19
- We will record or live stream as many of our productions as possible so that you can share them with your friends and family who cannot be there
- We will require all patrons who attend to:
  - wear masks throughout the performances
  - follow a pre-marked pathway of entrance in and out of the theatre
- We will also:
  - Provide hand sanitizer in the lobby and restrooms
  - Use a digital brochure/program in lieu of printed materials
  - Sanitize all public areas prior to and after a performance—seats, rails, restrooms, back of house, and other high touch surfaces, using CDC-approved disinfectants
  - Sanitize all set pieces and props before and after the performances
Considerations for Dancers

- Masks are required at all times inside the Dance Studio and Empty Space Theatre
- We have taped out areas for movement that are at least 6 feet apart
- Activities that require direct contact including partnering, tactile cueing, direct floor work, or travelling across the floor will be adjusted to maximize your safety
- We will clean all dance spaces between each class and before the first use of the day
- Barres and floors will be cleaned immediately after use
- Dancers should try to enter and leave the studios with dance clothes under street clothes to limit the number of people in restrooms and dressing areas
- Dancers should avoid following right behind each other; it is safer to work next to each other.
  - If dancers travel directly behind each other, they are in the slipstream where droplets remain suspended.
Creative collaboration is only possible with mutual respect of our colleagues.

We value integrity & accountability. Hold yourself to a high standard and do what you’ve signed up to do.

We stress preparation, timeliness, & discipline. Take time outside of class and rehearsal so you come in fully prepared. In our company, 15 minutes early is on time. Take this time to focus and make sure you’re ready to work.

"Work ethic is everything. Even if your abilities are challenged and compared, work ethic makes up for what is lacking."
- Amanda Mayes, 2012

Professionalism

When we know and follow the traditions and etiquette of theater & dance, we become linked to a community of artists and crafts-people that extends from the beginnings of the craft to include ourselves and every other producing organization today.

The traditions of theater & dance are more than pleasantries and empty sayings. They are guidelines for the collaborative process. When practiced, these guidelines are often referred to as professionalism. The term professionalism acknowledges the concept that our work as artists depends upon each of us treating our fellow artists and crafts-people with courtesy and respect.

Respect the work of your fellow company members. Appreciate what each collaborator brings to the production. Accepting and acknowledging everyone’s contributions signals to ourselves and to our collaborators that what each of us we does as an artist is not only personally fulfilling but is also important, meaningful, and valuable to our society.
The Creative Process

Theater and Dance are creative endeavors. In order to create art that has beauty and meaning, you must take artistic risks.

You will not succeed immediately in this work. Be ready for meaningful failure. Take a deep breath, examine your choices, and try again.

Take pride in the completed product and appreciate the growth and work that you and your colleagues put forth.

"You will reap what you sow. Take advantage of every opportunity you can. Take risks. Stand up for yourself when necessary. Use your advisors knowledge and critique as a resource to your own advantage whenever possible. Don't forget to say Thank You at all the right times."

- Cody Russell, 2011

Performance Etiquette

• Arrive early to all rehearsals, production meetings, work calls, and performances.
• Come to each rehearsal and work call prepared and focused on the task at hand, and dressed in proper rehearsal attire.
• Be courteous. Say “please” before requests and “thank you” after.
• All personnel should acknowledge the stage managers calls with a polite “thank you.”
• Conscientiously meet all production deadlines.
• When creating a role, know your lines thoroughly when you are supposed to be “off book.”
• Actors should be unfailingly courteous to ALL production personnel. Crew members are colleagues and collaborators, not “assistants.”
• Allow for quiet time before the performance and rehearsal. This helps us prepare and focus for the work ahead.
• Limit your socializing to appropriate times - prior to and after rehearsals and during rehearsal breaks.
• Be prepared to take notes, as once direction and choreography is given it is the student’s responsibility to know the material.
• Actors should arrive at costume fittings on time.
You are an active artist involved in creative work. You will encounter many questions and challenges in classes and rehearsals.

These are good problems! Much of your growth is involved in how you approach these problems.

Investigate the problems. Do your research. Ask questions.

We encourage you to think critically and with great curiosity and interest.

"Don't be afraid to try new things, believe in yourself and dive into the things that make you uncomfortable because you are in a supportive environment!"

- Kelsey Swann, 2014

Preparation

One of your primary responsibilities is to be prepared for your classes, rehearsals, work calls, and performances. Your faculty supervisor will help you determine what you can do beforehand to be fully prepared.

Actors and Dancers: You should have rehearsal clothes and shoes that are appropriate for the work and that allow freedom of movement. You should also have jackets, hats, skirts, and shoes from your own wardrobe that you can use as rehearsal clothing, when needed for the character. You should acquire a theatrical make-up kit as well.

Technicians: You should acquire a crescent wrench, a multi-tool, a tiny tape measure, and other materials as instructed by your area supervisor.
We seek to create work that makes strong connections to other disciplines of study, and to deeply explore High Point University’s rich liberal arts tradition.

Theater and Dance reflect and comment on the world around us. Our work is enriched by greater awareness of the society in which we live.

"No one else in the world gets the privilege of being you, and that is your advantage. Believe in what you know you can do, learn everything from everyone, and never doubt yourself, doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will."

- Jordan "Teddy" Dallam, 2018
Student Work

We are invested in your growth as theater and dance artists, and we encourage you to pursue independent creative projects.

The Empty Space and Dance Studio are available for multiple windows during the year for the presentation of student work, according to the guidelines and rules listed on this page.

Proposals for student work are available on the website and should be emailed to Jay Putnam at jputnam@highpoint.edu.

The following rules must be observed:
1. The space must have been signed out for use.
2. You may not continue to use the space if someone else has signed up for that time.
3. You must leave the space in the same condition or better.
4. No trash or other materials are to be left in the space.
5. Only general work lights can be used.
6. The use of HPU props or show props is not allowed.
7. The use of HPU costumes or show costumes is not allowed.
8. Only the acting blocks are available for use to define scenic elements. (Except in HFAC 208)
9. The sound system is not available for use.
10. In the event of an outside event in the Pauline Theatre, you will be asked to leave.
11. No more than a 2-hour block can be requested per day.
12. The Fly System in Pauline is absolutely NOT available.

Guidelines for the use of The Pauline Theatre, The Empty Space Theatre, and the Acting and Dance Studios

Calendars are posted on the doors of the spaces that are appropriate for use. The Pauline Theatre must be requested through the Facility Manager and should only be used when other spaces are not available. Due to the nature of the Pauline, you may be asked to leave at any point during your rehearsal. As stated below, there will be no space reservation available for the performance venues (Pauline and the Empty Space) between the Load In and Strike of each show. Students are eligible to use these spaces for the following: rehearse directing scenes, rehearse class scenes, rehearse monologues, rehearse dance compositions, and workshop scenes. These spaces are prioritized for classes, for rehearsals, for our main theater/dance season, and for outside events. All other available times can be requested.

"Always do every assignment, but also do your own thing. Create new works, challenge yourself, continue learning."
- Brandon Browning, 2013

Alpha Psi Omega is a national theatre honor society focusing on the educational achievements of collegiate theatre makers. The Upsilon Xi cast at High Point University is dedicated to making our theatre community as inspiring and enjoyable as it can be, as well as raising funds to benefit our national philanthropy, Broadway Cares.

For more information, contact Sydney Wyatt at swyatt@highpoint.edu
You must commit everything you have to this craft. Approach the work will full tenacity, your art, your craft is something that lives and breathes through every day of your life. Hold tight to the message, the connection, and the empathy that each piece of theatre creates. The work is more important than you are. Fail. Fail again. And again. **From failure comes growth and once you no longer fear the unknown, you can embrace it.** This is not an easy major, but it offers a lot. Use every aspect of it – if you are a performance major, take advantage and learn everything about technical theatre that you can and vice versa. Ask to do things out of your comfort zone. Learn costuming, how to construct and build sets, lighting design, and aim to to be involved in shows outside of main stage productions. Take advantage of everything that you can because when you are applying for jobs in the real world, **you will stand out, especially if you can be a jack of all trades.** Everything you become involved in will help you grow. I guarantee you, you will learn a tremendous amount and be better because of it. I sure did.

- Nina Yasick, 2016

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You are enough. Don’t try to be anyone other than yourself. You are enough. There is a director out there just waiting for YOU to walk into their audition room. Be true to yourself and you will be true to whatever character you are playing. **You are enough.**

- Courtney Feiman, 2014

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Always remain true to you and your dream. **The magic won’t instantly appear without the hard work and effort.** Use all the tools around you including your peers and faculty. And remember, you are the author of your own story.

- Danielle Criss, 2016

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Use all of the resources available to you.

**You play an extremely large part in shaping your education during your time here.**

Participate in every opportunity presented to you in order to tailor your education to your personal goals.

- Lauren Engler, 2013

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Do the work. If you feel like you’re giving it your all, see if you can push it farther. Enjoy every learning opportunity and try everything. Find a balance with your life outside theatre. But when you’re feeling lost, think back to why you’re doing this.

**Because you love it and couldn’t do anything else.**

- Ceili Lang, 2018

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Have fun! But seriously, don’t look at it as work all the time. **You are there to learn but also to enjoy yourself and the art that you are making.** Try as many different production jobs as possible, you never know which one will open an important door for you in the future and will give you a leg up in the professional world when you graduate.

- William Allison, 2014

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Never shy away from an assignment you initially may think is a bad idea. **You learn the real stuff being pushed in a new direction and in the moment it may not seem like it, but those skills can land you a job.** There are other really satisfying jobs in theatre aside from being on stage. Aside from even performance or production, there are a variety of administration jobs that require creativity, passion of the art, and a fun personality (and that are a little more stable than acting!). Do your research on the possibilities and try as many things as you can while you’re in a safe learning environment!

- Bryelle Dafeldecker, 2013

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Take advantage of every opportunity you have during your four years at HPU.

You never know where one decision might take you, and how that one decision can benefit you in the future.

- Camara McLaughlin, 2010
The Empty Space Theatre is in McInnis, the building between Slane Student Center and the Roberts Reflecting Pool. Enter on the side facing the reflecting pool. This building also contains:

- The McInnis Dance Studio, on the right when you enter the building.
- The Costume Shop, below the Empty Space Theatre. Enter at the bottom of the steps on the exterior of the building.

- The Scene Shop is located in the building on Mall Loop Rd. It is between the Courtyard Marriott and Target.

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