

DART 4F56 in 2009/10

DART 4F56

Advanced Studies in Theatre

Collaborative work in one or more theatre productions.

Lectures, seminar/lab, 5 hours per week; additional production time as required.

Restriction: approval to year 4 and permission of the instructor.

Prerequisite: DART 3F50

Co-requisite for Theatre stream students: DART 4F90.

Note: materials fee required.

456 has taken numerous forms over the years, but whether producing existing scripts or devising new works, it has always a class where students operate as a theatre company of collaborating artists. DART 4F56 is a completely separate, autonomous production class and has a performance/production outcome in the second semester. Note that in the second term, schedules will become very busy: Students should plan carefully so as to successfully realize their 4F56 show, which opens just six school weeks after the second Mainstage is struck on **February 14, 2010**. The projected performance dates for the final outcome are **March 31st** and **April 1st**. This course requires an enormous amount of rehearsal outside of class time, especially in the second term in order to achieve a polished new creation. Students should expect evening and weekend rehearsals in the weeks before opening. Throughout the course, expect to work outside class 3- 5 hours weekly in a regular week, 8 to 10 hours in an intense week and 10-15 hours in a tech/opening week.

This year there are a large number of 4th years who are cast in the mainstages. Consideration will be extended during the opening week of each main stage and depending on how many people are in a mainstage and also in 456, class may be re-structured that week. You will be expected to contribute and organize your time so as to make up for lost time in availability and contribution to the group. In planning your courses, please bear in mind these intense periods of work.

It is expected that those registering for the class will leave their schedules open and available. If you are cast in a mainstage, no other extra-curricular performance outcomes will be permitted.

The work of this course is entirely collaborative. All students will be involved in every aspect of their group creation: performance, research, script creation, design, direction as well as stage managing and crewing each other's shows. The work is

rigorous and demanding, sometimes requiring the participants to present new work every two weeks. The student's capacity to work within a group setting with commitment, passion, generosity, and the desire to create original work with risk and depth of investigation are essential requirements for this course.

This course will be taught by **Danielle Wilson**. The first term will focus on introducing techniques for the devising of original theatre in a collaborative setting. Through classroom exercises and the creation, rehearsal and presentation of small group performance projects, the participants will explore the essential questions and investigative tools of the theatre practitioner. In the second term, students will create and perform their own piece(s) for a public showcase in both Black and Studio at the end of the winter term.

How to apply

The restrictions for entry into this course include "approval to year 4 and permission of the instructor." Students continue into year 4 if they have satisfactorily completed their studies as outlined in the University Calendar. The permission of the instructor will be granted upon a satisfactory letter from the student requesting permission to take the course. Copies of this letter must be sent to **Danielle Wilson by June 8th, 2009. (dwilson@brocku.ca) or by mail to Georgann Watson, Administrative Assistant, Department of Dramatic Arts, Brock University 500 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines, L2S 3A1.**

Contents of the Letter of Request

Students are asked to write a letter in the form of a personal "manifesto". This should be a statement about the theatre you want to create, for whom you want to create it, and why. Indicate how you intend that participation in the 4F56 course will help you to realize these goals. Declare your intentions and motives for wanting to participate in the course.

Please include in your 1 to 2 page letter (single spaced) the following items:

- The specific nature of your personal goals, including a focus on what you want to study in 4F56 and why. Statements like "because I love acting/stage managing, I am good at it and I want to build my resume" are not sufficient.
- Detailed description of the direction you intend to pursue in this course (e.g. "I want to develop a more fluid physicality and vocal presence"; "I want to develop improvisation skills"; "I want to improve my work within a group dynamic", "I want to develop my own 'personal voice' in the theatre etc.

Also, state the **reason** for your pursuit of this direction e.g. "because I've discovered that a strong physical presence is important as an actor, because I've discovered I'm afraid to contribute in class or I'm afraid my ideas won't have value; because I have started to undo years of vocal restriction; because I believe that

improvisational give and take underlies all theatre; because I'm discovering what type of theatre excites me" etc.

- The nature of your commitment to theatre practice and to the intellectual curiosity necessary for its successful pursuit (e.g. what skills, experiences and interests do you hope to research and investigate).
- Given that the nature of the work is entirely ensemble in its nature: An honest assessment of what you have to bring to an ensemble situation and how you hope to improve your ensemble work.
- Your "Theatre Manifesto"- what kind of theatre you most want to do and why you want to do it.

It is important that you take the time to carefully craft a satisfactory letter. It may be used by the instructor over the course of the year to assist both the student and the instructor to evaluate the progress of the student.

First assignment

Everyone is expected to **attend the first class with a 3 to 4 minute solo performance** piece. Detailed instructions will follow with notice of acceptance into the class .

Acceptance into this class is based on audition, recommendation of 3rd year instructors, particularly 3F50, 3P53 if you have taken it, and the reflective, artistic awareness and goals expressed by the letter.

All the best to our students making an application. I look forward to working with you next academic year.

Danielle Wilson