

HONORS IN THE PROFESSIONAL ACTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Acting and Musical Theatre Emphases

The Acting and Musical Theatre Faculty of the Department of the Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures wishes to afford especially talented students the opportunity to graduate with a B.F.A. with Honors from the Professional Actor Training Program. The following criteria are suggested:

I. Statement of Purpose

The Honors Program in Acting provides the superior student with an opportunity to demonstrate excellence and receive special recognition by the creation and execution of a theatre piece that requires full integration of their creative skills on a high level.

II. Eligibility

The applicant must possess an overall grade point average of 3.25 in all subjects, a grade point of 3.5 in the major, and be of senior standing.

III. Application Procedure

The Honors Program in Acting is:

- a. Open to all B.F.A actors in the Professional Actor Training Program who meet the eligibility requirements. The faculty advisor for each individual honors project will be chosen by the Head of the Acting or Musical Theatre Emphases in consultation with the applicant.
- b. Formal application is to be made to the Head of the Acting or Musical Theatre Emphases, who will choose the project director.
- c. All applications must be completed by the end of the fall semester of the senior year.

IV. Description of Project

Students may choose from a range of options for the Honors Project. The fundamental requirement is that the student works to successfully integrate the full range of interpretive, technical and artistic skills they've acquired during their four years of study at Wright State University. This project is an opportunity to synthesize the many strands of training and to articulate a personal artistic aesthetic and point of view.

Option One – One Person Show

The applicant is to write, direct and act one potentially publishable and professionally producible theatre piece. The project is to follow the existing Senior Monodrama Guidelines, with the clear understanding that the project must be original in every detail and not merely a compilation of another's work. (The script should be copyrightable.) The applicant must create the script, and furthermore, must implement innovative production techniques in the execution.

The script must be presented, in the format approved by the Professional Actor Training Program, for pre-production approval by the project director and the Acting

Faculty. The specific subject and treatment will be determined by the applicant and the director of the project.

Once the script is approved, work may go forward towards production.

Option Two – Cabaret Performance (Musical or non-musical)

Students may choose to create a Cabaret musical or non-musical performance incorporating songs, monologues, original material and that written by others from diverse sources. This should reflect a clear dramatic perspective and demonstrate the ability to integrate multiple sources into a cohesive, fully prepared theatrical event. Students may utilize musicians as part of the performance, or accompany themselves, as desired.

Students will submit a proposal, overview, and a preliminary list of songs/scenes.

Option Three – Original Play or Musical

Students may choose to write and present an original play or musical. This may be fully produced (scenic elements, costumes, lighting, etc.), or may be presented as a reading, with little or no technical support. The focus of the project is on the quality of writing and the student's ability to revise and refine his work. The culminating performance should reflect a clearly developed script and score.

Approval of the project is no guarantee that the student will be awarded Honors recognition. The finished project will be evaluated as outlined below.

V. Evaluation

Once proper approval is granted for the project, a panel is to be assembled for the purpose of evaluating the project, and making the final determination of its worth.

The Evaluation Panel will consist of the Department Chairman, the Acting Faculty, and at least two recognized theatre experts, who are to be invited to participate by the student after approval of the Acting Faculty. All expenses for transportation, lodging, and production are the responsibility of the applicant. The final grade will be determined by the Evaluation Panel and assigned by the Head of the Professional Actor Training Program.

The student must receive no less than a grade of "A" in TH 4470 and TH 4480 which must be taken in the student's senior year. No Honors Project may be considered completed until the close of the spring semester of the senior year.

A copy of the final script and a video tape of at least one performance are to be deposited with the Department of Theatre Arts. The script is to be prepared according to the format approved by the Professional Actor Training Program and the script should be in a form suitable for admission to an agent.

After the script has been performed, the Honors Program applicant must submit a detailed history of the project which should include, selection of subject matter for the piece; writing process; diary of the production rehearsals; and critique of final project. This paper must be submitted to the Head of the Professional Actor Training Program and will be evaluated by the Acting Faculty. In order for Honors credit to be considered, this history must be approved and accepted.

If, in the judgment of the Evaluation Panel and the Head of the Professional Actor Training Program, the student earns Honors, The Chairman of the Department of Theatre Arts shall notify the University Honors Office in writing, and the notification will become a part of the student's permanent record.