DEPARTMENT MISSION:

The Department of Theatre serves as a unique and vital educational, artistic, and cultural center and resource for the university and region. The department’s mission is to prepare undergraduate and graduate theatre students for careers as theatre artists, craftsmen, and teachers through its curriculum and production program. The department also serves the liberal arts requirements of the university and provides a foundation for cross-cultural and multi-cultural understanding. The theatre, a traditional fine art, contributes to the understanding and quality of life in the region and state.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"Art.....teaches to convey a larger sense by simple symbols."

Emerson

"There seems to be a wide divergence of opinion today as to what the theatre really is. Some people say it is a laboratory, or a workshop, or it may be an art, or a plaything, or a corporation. But whatever it is, one thing is true about it. There is too much incompetence in it. The theatre demands of its craftsmen that they know their jobs. The theatre is a school. We shall never have done with studying and learning. In the theatre, as in life, we try first of all to free ourselves, as far as we can, from our own limitations. Then we can begin to practice 'this noble and magical art.' Then we may begin to dream."

Robert Edmund Jones

The amount of professional development which you experience at the University of Central Missouri starts first and most importantly with yourself. Self discipline is the basis of any artistic discipline. The theatre is a wonderful social activity and should never lose its thrill for you, but if you are in the theatre for social reasons, you should take a long hard look at the goals you have set for your life.

Artists are individuals who are dedicated to their craft, and in addition theatre artists are dedicated to a final group goal, the performance. Never accept a role or a position without consideration of the time and dedication demanded. When accepting a role or a position on a production you are joining a group of people who expect the same amount of effort and dedication from yourself as they themselves have given to the production.

This means more than being on time, never missing a rehearsal or a production meeting. It means you work on lines away from the theatre, you take care of your body by getting sleep and eating right, you come to shop call with a clear head so as not to endanger someone's life and the list goes on and on. Don't ever lose sight of your dreams. They may take a life time to unfold, but a good immediate goal for yourself would be to develop good work ethics and self and artistic discipline. If you gain nothing else at the University of Central Missouri you can leave here with this the first and most difficult tool of the theatre artist. A Code of Ethics is included in the Handbook.