PRODUCTION PROGRAMS

The production program of the Theatre Department is designed to provide students with the greatest possible variety of content and technique. The types of production opportunities are listed below:

Mainstage: These are faculty-directed productions which involve the greatest investment of time, personnel, and financial resources. Generally the department produces four of these productions annually. Each student generation, spanning four years, usually has the opportunity to see a full range of plays -- classics of various periods, musicals, comedies, tragedies, dramas, farces, etc. Different faculty directors demonstrate, through their varied approaches, the dramatic analysis and production synthesis that should contribute to the student's total theatre education. All Central students may audition for mainstage productions and design students who demonstrate strong abilities and skills are often given opportunities to design for these productions. Rehearsals generally run 4-6 weeks. The mainstage productions are presented in the Highlander Theatre.

Children's Theatre: Each season the department produces a world premiere children's theatre production. This script is chosen from the department's Theatre For Young Audiences National Playwriting Competition. This production is geared for a children's audience and area schools are invited to attend the production during special performances scheduled during the week for each group. Rehearsals generally run 3 weeks. The children's theatre production is faculty-directed and often student designed.

Studio Repertory Theatre: The Studio Theatre series of one-act plays are student-directed and designed as a part of the degree expectations of all majors in the department. Underclassmen usually can expect to be assigned as Technical Directors. Seniors are usually the Directors, working under faculty supervision, but carrying the responsibility for "chairing" the production group. These one-acts are grouped in sets of three or four and there are as many sets each year as there are student majors who need to have the experience. The plays are given two performances each and rehearsals generally run 2-3 weeks. Assignments of directors and technical directors are usually made in the spring of the year before the plays are presented, so students should be alert to the need to sign up well in advance, filling out the appropriate Studio Theatre forms and enrolling in the required courses. On and off stage experience is highly recommended before enrolling, by permission only, in Studio I & II.

Black Box Theatre: Located in Nickerson Hall in association with the Theatre SHIP (Special Housing Interest Program), the Black Box Theatre is an experimental performance space designed as a production alternative to the Mainstage, Children's Theatre, and Studio Repertory. Performances in the Black Box are coordinated and/or directed by students and faculty. Performances are generally one act productions or original student written works with a condensed rehearsal time of 2-3 weeks. Shows have a maximum length of 30 minutes. The Black Box is a place to be as innovative and creative as possible, experiment, and have fun. The same rules of royalties and copyright laws that apply to mainstage productions and studios, apply to the Black Box Theatre program. For additional information on Production Practices, see the Black Box Theatre Production Manual.
PRODUCTION PRACTICES

The following is a list of accepted production practices in the Theatre Department at the University of Central Missouri. The list is meant as a guide and is not totally inclusive of all production practices.

The Production Company consists of all members of the team. This includes the director, designers, actors, production staff members and all running and production crews. The members of the production company are dedicated to offering their artistic best every day throughout the entire production process. Each member should remember that they are but one of many individuals involved in the production. The goal of the production company is to collaborate, communicate, cooperate and complete the production with integrity, artistry and professionalism.

1. We practice professionalism at Central. We expect our student-artists to observe the courtesies due professionals.
2. The selection of the production company is based upon the number of persons needed for the crew, personnel available, and the ability of the personnel selected.
3. Casting is based upon individual skill level, the need to create an ensemble and the demands imposed by the script.
4. All members of the production team are expected to keep up with their responsibilities. Failure to meet these responsibilities could result in dismissal by the Director, Designer, Technical Director or the Department Chair.
5. If a student accepts multiple responsibilities in a production, they are expected to fulfill all obligations of each position.
6. Members of the production team should check the call boards at least twice a day.
7. Initial any posted notice so that others will know you have read it.
8. It is accepted practice in the Theatre that one is never absent or late to rehearsals, production staff meetings, costume fittings, crew calls, performances, and strikes.
9. Company members are expected to be on time all the time. You should never arrive for a 7 p.m. call at 7 p.m. Always arrive at least 15 minutes early.
10. Students selected as Assistant Directors and Stage Managers represent the director, designers, and technical director and speak for them in their absence. As a member of the company, you will be expected to cooperate fully with your peers who hold these positions of responsibility and authority.
11. Obey all smoking regulations.
12. Obey all green room regulations.
13. Obey all safety and emergency procedures.
14. Do not litter in the Highlander or BlackBox Theatres. Practice professionalism and clean up after yourself.
15. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages or illegal chemical substances are permitted in any area of the theatres, shops, or storage rooms. Violation of this regulation may result in immediate dismissal from the company.
16. Keep all entrances and exits clear.
17. Keep all fire extinguishers free of clutter.
18. When you use a tool, return it to its storage location when you are through with it. Tools and equipment can be lost or broken due to improper or careless storage.
19. Only use rehearsal props designated for your character. Never pick up or play with a prop that is not part of your character role or business. Return all props to their designated locations.
20. Take pride in the contributions you make to the Company, but recognize that others are deserving of respect too. In short, practice professionalism—no egos please.
21. Anticipate problems and take initiative. Make it your responsibility to find out what needs to be done and help do it. (i.e. When arriving at rehearsal do not wait to be instructed to warm up . . . simply warm up.)
22. Rehearsals are closed to all visitors. Only members of the production team, students within the department, and students working on classroom assignments are permitted at rehearsals. If you have questions about this, ask the director.
23. Company safety is of primary concern. Deliberate, pre-planned actions onstage and backstage will reduce the risk of injury to yourself and to others.
24. The stage manager is in charge of the production company during all performances.
25. Unless special arrangements have been made with the Technical Director, strike will begin immediately following the final performance. All company members are required to actively participate in strike. No one is excused from strike. Please inform any family members or friends that you are responsible to the Company to assist in strike.
26. Wear appropriate clothes and footwear to all shop calls, rehearsals and strikes.
27. Food and drink are not allowed in the theatre.
28. No eating, drinking, or smoking in costumes.
29. Help new members become familiar with the traditions and customs of the Central Theatre Department.
30. Stay rested, healthy, and alert.
31. Balance your production responsibilities with your classroom responsibilities. First and foremost you are a student of the theatre.