Fall 2022 Student Lab Project Application

Applications Due Thur, March 24th at 5:00 pm

Season Selection Committee Meeting: Thur, April 7th

Season Announcement: Fri, April 15th at Company

Please submit completed applications to jdiresta@skidmore.edu

In Fall 2022, the Theater Department hopes to accommodate a variety of different types of student-led projects under the helm of a variety of different types of student artists. We aim to continue to prioritize student-driven work, artist self-determination, anti-racist practices, and individualized student-faculty mentorship. We are proceeding with the hope that in Fall 2022 live audiences will be possible, though they may still be limited, socially distanced, and masked.

Units of production will be broken down into rehearsal BLOCKS. A block will consist of five three-hour rehearsals, Sunday-Thursday night, 7-10 pm. Students will have the opportunity to apply for a rehearsal process that consists of one, two, or three blocks. New plays in development may request that their blocks be split over the course of the semester.

Students will have guaranteed access to their performance space only during the last block of their project’s rehearsal time. Every best effort will be made to accommodate student rehearsals, but during other weeks, students may be responsible for finding rehearsal space outside of JKB. We encourage you to book classroom rehearsal spaces in other buildings in advance.

Rehearsal processes will conclude with a public sharing; the nature of this sharing is at the discretion of the lead artist(s).

All projects are intended to be low-fi. Although minor technical elements may be employed, the focus is on process and storytelling. Unless a show is pitched as a project steeped in tech or design with a technician or designer as a lead-artist and approval from the relevant design faculty, shows should largely be lights-up/lights-down, with minimal scenic, costume, and sound elements. Students applying for a design role on a lab show should keep in mind that student design and tech roles for fall seminar productions are not assigned until late April/early May.

Lead artists will be required to identify a faculty advisor and register for a 1 or 3 credit independent study (depending on the scope of the project) with that advisor.

Application Process

1) Students may apply as individuals or as teams of two.

1. In team applications, the different roles of each team member should be clearly delineated. Students are encouraged to think creatively about these roles and how responsibilities will be allocated. Students might think about a producer doubling as a stage manager, or a director serving as a producer on a project helmed by a playwright or designer, or any other number of combinations.

2) Students will apply for space and time and will explain how they plan to use that space and time to grow as artists. This might include identifying a play that they wish to direct, explaining a devised process, delineating a process to develop a new play, or concocting other forms of collaborative performance making.

1. Students who are applying to direct extant texts should apply with two possible scripts.
	1. These scripts should present different casting opportunities, both in terms of cast size and demographics of race/ethnicity/gender.
	2. We encourage applicants to keep in mind the department’s continued commitment to the [Jubilee initiative.](https://howlround.com/welcome-jubilee)
	3. Extant plays may not exceed 70 minutes; this is a hard limit.
2. Students who are applying to direct extant texts should do an initial rights inquiry (availability, cost, etc) before submitting their applications. Please work with your faculty advisor, department chair, or season selection committee chair to learn more about rights inquiries. Students should not sign contracts, enter into agreements, or pay for rights; the department, as the producer, handles this part of the process.

3) The season selection committee, comprising faculty and students, will select projects to green-light, matching the number of projects to the number of available blocks.

4) Approved students will finalize their project specifications with their faculty advisor. This step will include finalizing rights for an extant script, finalizing the nature of a devised process, finishing a draft of a potential original play for workshop, or finalizing the nature of another type of project.

5) The committee will review the finalized titles, working with the department chair, technical director, and season selection committee to program the available blocks of the spring semester.

Student Application

Name:

Class Year:

Phone:

Email address:

Pronouns:

Questions for All Applicants

1) How many blocks are you applying for?[1] (Please circle): 1 2 3

2) Are you applying to direct an extant text? YES NO

If YES, please list two potential titles (with playwrights) below:

If YES, please offer a brief casting summary for each play. This should include a list of the number of roles and include requirements regarding race/ethnicity/gender/any other relevant casting needs.

3) Please speak to how you will use your allocated block(s) to further your training and artistry by sharing what you identify to be the primary artistic goals you will achieve with your block(s). This might be to direct an extant play, to workshop a play you have written, to lead a devised process, to create an installation, to lead a forum, to rehearse scenes, or any other number of relevant processes that meet you at your artistic moment. (300 Words)

4) Please identify the faculty member who has agreed to mentor your project:

5) How has your curricular work in the Skidmore Theater department prepared you for this project? What classes have you taken that speak to your goals? (Note: students are encouraged to apply for projects rooted in disciplines in which they have taken multiple courses; the committee will bear in mind that the Covid-19 pandemic precluded some intermediate/advanced study.) (150 Words)

6) Please list any known scheduling conflicts, such as evening classes, week/weekend commitments that leave you unavailable, work schedule, etc.

[1]Please note: this choice will determine scheduling and is therefore immutable once submitted.