Studio Lab Application Policies and Procedures\*

The Skidmore Theater department accommodates a variety of different types of student-led projects under the helm of a variety of different types of student artists. We aim to prioritize student-driven work, artist self-determination, anti-racist practices, and individualized student-faculty mentorship.

\*\*NOTE: All students leading lab productions will be required to register for TH249 Workshop Productions and will be required to attend a ‘staging intimacy and violence’ workshop.\*\*

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 the 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 focused on 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 mid to late November.

Students are expected to review, understand, and follow departmental policies:

* Studio Lab Space Policies
* Studio Use General Rules
* Stage combat, Prop Weapons, and Violence
* Intimacy Policies
* Staging Sexual Content and/or Nudity

All documents are available here: https://theater.skidmore.edu/department-policies-and-protocols/

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 led 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.

*(\*Updated March 2023)*