

DRAMA

Silas Cooper, Drama Division Chair, *Acting, Voice*

Amy Boyce Holtcamp, *Introduction to Theatre, Text Analysis, Directing, Creation & Collaboration*

Graham Burk, *Commedia dell'arte*

Darci Fulcher, *Le Coq Mime, Clowning*

Joesph Meisner, *Tai Chi, Viewpoints*

Diana Shortes, *Yoga*

Natsumi Sugiyama, *Suzuki Method*

Chaney Tullos, *Speech, Verse, Stage Management*

Keesha McKey (Dance), *Modern Dance*

Kevin Murphy (Musical Theater), *Vocal Music*

An Open Mind, a Brave Heart and a Willing Spirit.

It's never about you; it's always about the other person and the story.

Never treat anyone like a jerk.

In Drama we believe the above statements express the qualities and practices that are the basis for developing as an artist. We are working artists who approach our work in a professional manner; we expect the same approach to and respect for the work from our students. We see ourselves as older artists collaborating with younger artists. We are committed to providing students with a nurturing environment, a place where young artists feel secure in the knowledge that everyone is here to support one another. We celebrate the growth of our fellow ensemble members as much as we strive for personal growth. We are not result-oriented, nor are we looking to encourage young artists to live for applause; we would rather help them to develop a more refined sense of artistic taste. We want to provide them with tools that will ensure their success over a lifetime. Our intention is to place students in the top theatre programs nationally. We stress personal accountability in academics as well as arts training.

Admission, Placement, and Continued Enrollment

All students are admitted on a probationary basis for the first three weeks of classes. During this decision-making period, the parent, the student, and/or the faculty can decide whether it is in the student's best interest to continue at NOCCA. This decision may also be made at the end of the first or second semester. Reenrollment each year is at the discretion of the department based on student progress.

General Requirements and Guidelines

Daily Dress: Students are expected to wear "work" clothes daily: closely fitting black sweatpants or footless black tights, and black leotards with short or long sleeves (no tank tops or scoop backs), or plain black T-shirts. Shoes must be black dance slippers, jazz shoes, or gymnast footwear. Girls may wear black rehearsal dance skirts or black athletic shorts over their tights and leotards. Hair must be pulled back from the eyes for both men and women.

NOCCA Productions: All Drama Division students are required to attend all Drama presentations and productions throughout the year, including student-directed work, senior recitals, and other on-campus Drama Division work. Non-attendance at these performances will result in a loss of credit in accordance with the Enrollment Contract and Student Guide. Students must be in good academic standing in order to be eligible for casting.

Practicum and Program Extension: Students have the opportunity to participate in production rehearsals, workshops and other offerings. Some workshops are optional; others are mandatory. All Drama students are required to participate in Performance Fridays throughout the year.

Off-Campus Work: No student may consider or accept any outside performances engagements without first contacting and gaining permission in writing from the Drama faculty. This rule applies to engagements that begin rehearsing prior to the start of school, but that are in production after classes have begun. Although we do not discourage performing in local venues, these performances cannot conflict in any manner with NOCCA or its programs and curriculum. Furthermore, we don't allow students to engage in outside theatre or film training during the school year. We do, however, encourage students to pursue outside training during the summer.

Service Hours: Students will be called on to do service hours as part of the curriculum requirements. They should remember that in many professional theatres everyone is required to do such work (moving platforms and chairs, serving as hosts and hostesses, publicity, and other assignments). Therefore, NOCCA theatre students may expect to have demands made of them, which are not made of students in other disciplines

Coaching: Each student must attend one 30-minute coaching session with each full-time faculty member each school year.

College Preparation and Career Counseling

One of the primary goals in the Drama Division is to place students in top BFA and BA Theatre programs across the country on as much scholarship money as possible. To that end we stress the importance of discipline, responsibility and rigor in academics as well as in the arts from the very first day prospective students set foot on our campus. We continue to do so until they graduate and are successfully situated in their next level of training.

During a student's senior year, the main emphasis in the Drama division is preparation for National Unified Auditions, college applications, standardized test preparation, and maintaining or improving a student's overall GPA.

Time is devoted but not limited to the following areas: audition material selection and preparation, college essay composition, selection of target schools (nationally, regionally and locally), and mock interviews.

In addition, we make a concerted effort each year to host as many department chairs as possible from schools that have been good fits for NOCCA Drama students in previous years. Recent guests have included representatives from University of Minnesota, Ithaca College, Ball State

University, Santa Fe University of Art and Design, Northwestern State University, Dean College, NYU, SMU, and Savannah College of Art and Design

Curriculum/Course Descriptions

Students at all four levels study the following core subjects: Acting and Voice; Vocal Music; Speech/Stage Management; and Movement. Movement classes explore these techniques: Suzuki Training, Yoga, Tai Chi and Viewpoints, and Dance.

Level I students also study Introduction to Theatre.

Level II students also study Text Analysis.

Level III students also study Directing.

Level IV students also study Creation and Collaboration.

Extracurricular Course Offerings

Noncredit workshops are offered several times per year. Topics change based on students' needs, faculty interests, and guest artist specialties. Past workshops have included playwriting, clowning, mime, circus skills, voice work, stage combat, and devised theater.

Certificates

The Drama program awards certificates in the following three categories:

Certificate of Artistry is awarded to students who have demonstrated exceptional development in all areas of training over an extended period of time and have been excellent citizens and stewards of the program.

Certificate of Performance or Achievement is awarded to students who have demonstrated development in many areas of training over an extended period or who have demonstrated significant development in a limited amount of time.

Certificate of Recognition is awarded to students who have demonstrated a satisfactory amount of growth in the discipline over an extended period of time or have been enrolled for an extremely limited amount of time.

In all cases, the judgment by the core faculty regarding the awarding of certificates is final.