

DANCE 328: Career Seminar

Fall 2017: Mondays 3 – 4:30

NFAC 130

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NFAC 140E

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Office Hours: M 11:30-12:30, W 9-10, Th 3:30-4:30 and by appointment

Dance Program Mission Statement

UWSP's dance program aspires to create a dynamic culture in which students are inspired to achieve full physical expression, technical and stylistic range, and anatomical efficiency. We are dedicated to artistic experimentation and contemporary inquiry that is culturally relevant and historically grounded, preparing students to communicate, contribute and lead as global citizen artists.

Course Description:

This course is a seminar class that invites you to explore the many options and opportunities you have to use your dance education moving forward into life "in the real world." The readings, activities and discussions are designed to provide you with the time and space to consider many directions that your professional career can take. Activities include preparing a professional resume and website, exploring advanced degrees in dance, identifying appealing locations and professional dance companies, writing a grant proposal, understanding the tax process for artists, considering your financial future, attending a professional audition and discussing your life as an entrepreneur and artist.

Goals:

To prepare students for a successful transition from university to a professional career in dance. To provide students with information, links, projects, activities and discussions that illuminate the breadth of the field.

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- create an action plan for the year following graduation
- create professional resumes for performance, teaching and choreography
- prepare a personal website
- evaluate the pros and cons of attending a professional dance audition
- examine and analyze two dance companies of interest
- research graduate schools
- propose a viable existence in a new location
- discuss entrepreneurship
- share their experience preparing a grant application
- prepare a post-graduation financial plan

Course Information:

Projects/Topics:

1. PREPARING MATERIALS & MEDIA PRESENCE

- Performance Resume
- Teaching & Choreography Resume
- Headshot
- Personal website (revisited in Dance 496)

2. ATTENDING PROFESSIONAL AUDITIONS

- Identify companies of interest
- Research audition opportunities
- Schedule and attend at least one professional audition by May 2018
- Resources – exploring and sharing online links
- Continuing to use networking sites – COFAC, Theatre & Dance Department
- Requesting References

3. RESEARCHING LOCATIONS

- Web of Connectivity – who do you know
- Dance Scene – amateur, pick up and professional companies
- Studios – where to study, where to teach
- Performances – what to see, ushering
- Housing – purchase, rent, sublet, share
- Cost of Living – housing, utilities, transportation, food, classes
- Day job opportunities – physical, mental & financial considerations

4. FURTHER EDUCATION

- Graduate School Research
- Summer Workshops, Festivals, Training Programs

5. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GRANT WRITING

- Discuss Entrepreneurship
- Preparing a grant application

6. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Financial Future – loans, savings
- Calculating the amount you need to make the next move
- Questions about Taxes
- Starting a Small Business - Non-Profit vs. Profit

Course Expectations:

Attendance

Consistent attendance and full participation in this seminar class are essential. You are expected to be on time and to stay for the entire class. If you will miss class you are required to notify me in advance by email or voicemail. One excused absence may be permitted. All other absences will be considered unexcused. Note: 2 times tardy = 1 absence. It is the Dance Program's policy that 3 absences will result in a failing grade.

Preparation

Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time. The more deeply you investigate each assignment, the better prepared you will feel to enter the professional world. Late assignments will affect your grade.

Participation

Consistent focused and enthusiastic participation (mental, verbal, written) includes: promptness, attentiveness, motivation, deep inquiry, positive attitude, commitment, and concentration. An active engagement in the class and an eagerness to explore fully post-graduation plans will make for a satisfying class experience.

Performance Viewing

Students are required to attend all Department of Theatre & Dance productions:

- *Student Body* (Studio Theatre) Directed by Stephen Trovillion Smith, October 13-15, 18-21
- *Spamalot*, (Jenkins Theatre) Directed by Mark Hanson, November 10-12, 15-18
- *Afterimages 2017* (Studio Theatre) December 7-10

Additional recommended Dance Performances:

- *Nutcracker Sweet* (Sentry Theatre) November 11th @ 7:30/12th @ 2:00
- *Dance for Hope* (Sentry Theatre) September 22nd @ 7:30/23rd @ 7:30

Email

You are responsible for the information sent to your UWSP email, and to check your UWSP email daily for class updates and announcements. Relevant information will also be posted on D2L, the Dance Program 136A bulletin board, and the Department of Theatre & Dance callboard (NFAC Courtyard, near the main Theatre & Dance office). Check SMOD and Face Book for additional performance listings and announcements.

Evaluation and Grading:

Participation and Excellent & Timely Completion of Assignments (100%)

You will get the most out of this seminar by fully investing in the projects and written assignments. These activities are designed to provide you with the time and space to consider the many options that your professional career can take. Consistent attendance in class provides the greatest opportunity for discussion and dialogue with your peers.

Final Exam Thursday, December 21st 5-7 pm