

University of Florida
School of Theatre and Dance
THE 4959: BFA Senior Project – Trevor Spence

Meeting Times: To Arrange

BFA Acting Coordinator: Susan Schuld and Tiza Garland

BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator: Prof. Tony Mata

BFA Design/Production Coordinators: Stan Kaye, Mihai Ciupe, Jennifer Dasher

Instructor: Susan Schuld

Office Hours: Varies with Instructor of Record

Credits: 2

Prerequisites: Senior BFA student, Approval of Project Advisor or BFA Faculty Coordinator

Course Description:

Final project presented in public performance demonstrating expertise in declared area of specialization.

Completion of a paper that details the performance or design/production project and/or preparation of a role(s) undertaken in a realized production with advisor's consent in the student's final academic year.

Purpose Of Course:

The Senior Project in the BFA is designed as a capstone project for the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, Musical Theatre, or BFA Design/Production tracks. Students enroll in THE 4959, usually during their senior year.

Description of Projects:

The Senior Project shall consist of a significant piece of work that will demonstrate the students' expertise in both the academic and practical fields of the theatre, resulting in a document of substantial length (usually 10-20 pages).

The Senior BFA student will select a final project in his/her major area of interest.

- BFA Acting and Musical Theatre students will use roles won through the SoTD block auditions. If not cast in a SoTD main stage play, students may elect to use a role from a Florida Players or Hippodrome production. Only under extenuating circumstances and on a case-by-case basis may students develop a project of sufficient scale and scope in a Studio Showcase.
- Design/Production students may elect to use projects in design or assistant design/ technical direction on SoTD productions. Off-campus projects are discouraged, as shop and personnel support is often unpredictable.

Objectives:

In this course students will:

1. Identify and refine a creative research topic for investigation;
2. Develop an appropriate methodology for researching and responding to the

- needs of their role/assignment in the production;
- 3. Conduct a review of pertinent literature and research that supports this performance/production project;
- 4. Demonstrate the knowledge acquired through research and creative process in a paper that documents the findings, methodology and implications of the production assignment.

Trevor Spence Senior Project Outline: Table of Contents, Acknowledgements

- I. Introduction:
 - a. Why I chose this role
 - b. Specific challenges this role presents
 - c. A brief summary of how my training has prepared me for this role
- II. Play Analysis:
 - a. Overall structure of King Tide
 - b. Performance style: absurdism and naturalism
 - c. Themes to explore
 - d. Throughout: Exploration of creative blocks and solutions relating to Play Analysis
- III. Scene Study:
 - a. Roger's overall function within the structure and themes of King Tide
 - b. Super-objective
 - c. Scene-by-scene exploration of Essential Actions, obstacles, and tactics
 - d. Throughout: Exploration of creative blocks and solutions relating to Scene Study
- IV. Movement:
 - a. Laban Work for each scene
 - b. Exploration of costume development and how it affected Roger's movement palette
 - c. Throughout: Exploration of creative blocks and solutions relating to Movement
- V. Voice:
 - a. Value of vocal warmups
 - b. Use of Alba Emoting
 - c. Throughout: Exploration of creative blocks and solutions relating to Voice
- VI. Analysis of Performance:
 - a. Tech Rehearsal before performance/what can I control?
 - b. Brief analysis of my work during Zoom presentation (Overall positives, specific successes, and specific challenges for future work)
- VII. Conclusion:
 - a. Key Takeaways from my work in King Tide
 - b. Key Takeaways from my four years in BFA Acting program

Coordinator/Instructor of Record:

The Undergraduate BFA Acting Coordinators are Susan Schuld and Tiza Garland, BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator is Tony Mata, and the BFA Design Coordinators are Mihai Ciupe (Scenic), Stacey Galloway/Jennifer Dasher (Costumes,) and Stan Kaye (Lighting).

All BFA Senior Project proposals must be approved by the appropriate coordinator.

However, every student is free to choose an alternate faculty member as the Project Advisor.

Scheduled Meeting Times:

Meetings are to be arranged between the BFA Student and the Project Advisor.

The student is responsible for keeping the Project Advisor up-to-date on his/her progress.

Prior to starting the project, BFA students must clarify with their Project Advisor all the expectations for the BFA Senior Project including draft deadlines and submission dates.

REQUIREMENTS

Senior Project Proposal Form:

A BFA Senior Project Proposal Form is required that describes a rationale for the project, goals or questions that guide its development, a proposal of related literature, methodology, discussion, and conclusions. The form is to be submitted to the SoTD Academic Advisor and the project Faculty Advisor.

Basic Requirement/Expectations:

The student will:

1. Provide a written proposal to his/her Academic Advisor and senior Project Advisor that must be approved prior to the start of his/her project, no later than two weeks into the semester;
2. Keep a complete journal and record of research, sketches, drawings, budget, and promptbooks, as appropriate to the project.
3. Clarify the approach and topics to be addressed in the paper (create a paper outline);
4. Consult with his/her Project Advisor on a regular basis to discuss the status of the creative project;
5. In consultation with the project advisor, establish meeting times and deadlines for drafts and final submission of the paper;
6. Submit the paper for review according to predetermined deadlines. In order to guarantee sufficient time for grading, the submission date will usually be no later than one week before the final day of classes.

The Project Advisor will attend rehearsals or performances, shop sessions, production meetings, fittings, etc. - within reason - upon the student's request.

Grading:

The project grade is assessed by the Project Advisor, based primarily on the quality of the written work submitted. Credit toward graduation is granted only if the student's work results in the grade of "B" or better.

Academic Honesty Policy:

UF students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner while pursuing their studies. They are expected to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Policy, which defines an academic honesty offense as "the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage." In the context of this course, this includes conducting original research and properly citing sources for any materials (both printed and online) used in writing the supporting research paper. *Submitting work that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade.*

For more information on the UF Academic Honor Code see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

University Counseling Services:

Contact information:

Counseling and Wellness Center

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Course Fees:

Information about associate course fees can be found at <https://one.ufl.edu/soc/2188>