SOLO PERFORMANCE THESIS GUIDELINES

Prerequisites: Courses: Principles of Acting; Solo Performance

Approval by: Solo Performance instructor

Deadline: Proposal is due to the Solo Performance Thesis Advisor no later than one week prior to the faculty meeting at which the proposal will be discussed.

Length: Project length will be determined by the structure of the work proposed, though the running time should be at least 20 minutes and no longer than 45 minutes. The solo piece should either be created specifically as a Thesis project, or (in the event that it is based on work created in the Solo Performance class) substantially revised/expanded from the original.

Budget: The Theatre Department can provide a maximum of $200 for a Solo Performance Thesis budget. Download the Thesis Budget Guidelines and Template for more information. The Budget Proposal must be submitted with your Thesis Proposal. It will be reviewed and finalized when your thesis project has been approved. Outside funding and fundraising is not permitted.

WRITTEN PROPOSAL

Candidates should initiate projects by contacting the Director of Graduate Thesis Projects to discuss their interest and the scope of their project.

Following this initial step, candidates should contact the Solo Performance Thesis Advisor in order to further discuss the project and outline a Solo Performance Thesis Proposal. Once this proposal is approved by the Advisor, it should be submitted to the faculty to read at least one week before the faculty meeting at which it will be discussed. Revisions may be requested by the faculty prior to approval.

Write and submit a proposal that includes the following criteria.

1. A prose description of the project, noting how various performance elements (text, movement, setting, props, audio/visual effects, etc.) may be used and giving a sense of the larger narrative structure.

2. The thought and intentions behind the project. What does the writer wish to explore with this piece and why?

3. A brief description of style and conventions, including approach to language, tone, the creation of character(s), etc. If the work has been inspired or significantly influenced by the work of an established performance artist, it would be helpful to note that here.

4. An outline of necessary dramaturgical research with bibliography.
5. If at the time of proposal the piece has already in process, the writer should briefly summarize its development to date – course work, major decisions or changes of direction, areas of research already explored, etc.

AFTER THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED

After the Solo Performance Thesis project is approved, it is up to the candidate and the Solo Performance Thesis Advisor to establish the development and final performance schedule.

It may be useful to note that, unlike many Artistic Thesis projects, the Solo Performance Thesis is not tied to an established production schedule. As a result, a Solo Performance Thesis project requires a great deal of discipline, careful time management, and independent work. Generally, the most successful projects involve a close working relationship between the candidate and Solo Performance Thesis Advisor. It is recommended, therefore, that new material be generated and discussed on an ongoing basis so that the Advisor can help the candidate navigate the project’s particular challenges and pitfalls.

THE SOLO PERFORMANCE THESIS PROJECT DEFENSE

When the Solo Performance Thesis Advisor determines that the solo project is ready to be seen by the student’s Project Committee, the student will provide copies of any performance text to committee members. At this time, the student will also prepare a performance of the project for the committee and any invited guests desired. The Theatre Department will attempt to fulfill reasonable technical requests for this performance, though any tech staff (light/sound operator, etc.) will be the responsibility of the candidate.

Following this performance, the student will meet with the committee to discuss the work completed and the potential future development of the project. The student will be asked to lead off this discussion with a 10 minute self-assessment. Be prepared to answer questions from the committee that will arise in response to this self-assessment and to the work presented.

The Committee votes Pass or Fail at the end of the Thesis Project defense, but may choose to wait a week before issuing the decision in order for one or more Committee members to write a response to be issued along with it. A response may also be written even if a Pass or Fail is issued at the conclusion of the Thesis Project defense.