Annual Report on Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment  
School of Theatre, College of Fine Arts, Boston University

Program: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre 
Program Contact and Title: Roger Meeker, Assistant Professor 
College/School Contact and Title: Jim Petosa, Director 

Introduction 
The School of Theatre in the College of Fine Arts at Boston University was established in 1954 as one of the country’s leading institutions for the study of acting, stage management, design, production, and all aspects of the theatrical profession. In recent years, the School of Theatre has evolved into an energetic place that values the notion of “the new conservatory.”

From that idea, several core School of Theatre values emerge:

We believe in the artistic possibilities of collaboration that involve faculty, students, alumni, and guest artists in potent explorations of the art form that encourage working together as the best means for achieving artistic growth.

We believe that artists must be provided with a rigorous curriculum that allows mastery of the skills of their particular area of interest, be it in acting, directing, playwriting, dramaturgy, design, production, or management.

We believe that every member of our community is a part of the artistic home that we create together. In that home, we nurture an appreciation of challenge, a conviction for the value of everyone’s potential, and a belief in the need for intellectual growth as a core part of developing artistic growth.

We believe that the School can serve the profession by interacting with it and providing a laboratory for the development of new work or new approaches to existing work. Like our colleagues in the sciences, our role as stewards within an excellent research institution is to be on the forefront of exploring new possibilities for the theatre. Our academic programs and several special initiatives have developed over the last decade, enabling us to put these core values into practice.

Jim Petosa, Director 

Learning Objectives and Outcomes 
1. Develop an understanding of theatre and the profession through course work and participation in productions of a wide variety of theatrical styles and genre 
2. Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental theatre skills including collaboration and creative problem solving
3. Become proficient in a specific concentration within our School
4. Gain an understanding of Art, its history, and its place in society
5. Preparation for entry into the individual’s chosen area of the professional theatre world

Curriculum

All freshmen are admitted into the freshman core curriculum for either Performance or Design & Production.

The freshman core is designed to provide an appropriate context for faculty evaluations of each student’s strengths, interests, and potential for success in the upper years of training. At the end of the freshman year, each student declares a major. This decision is reviewed by members of the School of Theatre faculty before a student is officially enrolled in his or her major. The Program of Study varies by major and concentration.

Major: Acting

Major Contact and Title: Paula Langton, Associate Professor
Program Contact and Title: Roger Meeker, Assistant Professor
College/School Contact and Title: Jim Petosa, Director

Introduction

The acting program prepares talented and committed students for careers in the professional world of theatre and the related media of film and television. The program curriculum stresses the development of imagination, intellect, physical and vocal skills, technique, and professional behavior. This allows students to create a wide range of roles in performances of varying styles.

During each year of the Bachelor of Fine Arts program, courses in acting, movement, voice and speech, and dramatic literature follow a carefully integrated sequence of class exercises and related public performance. The committed students who pursue an acting degree at Boston University discover who they are, what they do well, and what they are capable of doing. They learn to be believable actors and to work productively under the stress of the theatrical profession and, most importantly, they learn to integrate performance skills with personal sensibility.

Learning Objectives & Outcomes

1. The curriculum offers a variety of approaches and techniques that stimulate creativity
even as they re-approach familiar ideas from unexpected angles.

2. The regular diet of voice, movement & acting classes semester after semester reinforces the holistic integration of an artist’s expressive resources.

3. Community among students is encouraged by focusing consistently on ensemble-based teaching, by prioritizing class feedback, by mixing together all of our student populations in a variety of production projects.

4. Community between students and faculty is encouraged by our many layers of mentoring, by the end-of-semester conferences for each student with their teaching faculty, by faculty-student casting together in BCAP projects.

5. Creative risk-taking is encouraged by mixing together studio classes and production opportunities, by urging all students to take a semester abroad, by varying the faculty a student encounters from semester to semester, etc.

6. The curriculum offers a variety of approaches and techniques that stimulate creativity even as they re-approach familiar ideas from unexpected angles.