

# **Proposal for a Certificate Program in Theatre and Performance**

*IU School of Liberal Arts  
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis*

## **Overview**

This document sets forth the basic features of an undergraduate Certificate in Theatre and Performance for the Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis campus (IUPUI). It follows the format of the Indiana University Application Form for Certificate Programs and is accompanied by a more detailed discussion of curriculum and administration than is called for in the standard form.

**Campus**—Indianapolis.

**Proposed Degree**—Certificate in Theatre and Performance.

**Projected Date of Implementation**—August 2006.

## **I. Major Objectives and Features of the Certificate Program**

The goals of the Certificate are fivefold: 1) To develop competencies in the analysis, creation and production of performance texts, with a particular focus on small group and solo performance in the urban context. Students will be exposed to numerous cultural and theoretical perspectives from which to engage current scholarship in the field of Theatre and Performance. 2) To develop student skills in all aspects of Theatre and Performance including oral interpretation, acting, directing, script analysis, educational theatre, literary analysis, creative production, arts management and professional and community theatre with special emphasis on solo and small group performance. 3) To give students a broad, interdisciplinary background in the field of Theatre and Performance and the role performance serves in society. 4) To allow Communication Studies majors an opportunity to earn an emphasis in Theatre and Performance. 5) To create opportunities for students to interact with artists and practitioners in the Indianapolis Arts community.

The Certificate is designed to supplement an undergraduate student's major field of study and will be awarded after the student has completed 18 hours of coursework, consisting of a required Theatre and Performance Core of two basic courses, a choice of three additional courses from a list of Theatre and Performance Electives (see attached list of suggested Electives) and a three credit hour Independent Creative Project under the direction of the Director of the Certificate Program in Theatre and Performance.

## **II. Campus Need for Certificate Program**

The Certificate Program in Theatre and Performance will serve both student interest and community needs. Programs at IUPUI such as Communication, Education, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Geography, Cultural Studies (such as Women's Studies and Afro-American Studies) and English have all encountered an increasingly significant

number of students with strong interest in learning about the creation of performance texts, ethnography and professional and amateur theatre. Many of these programs have already sponsored internships in local arts organizations in Indianapolis such as the Indiana Repertory Theatre. Further, the Department of Communication Studies at IUPUI has housed the Theatre curriculum and seen the number of students interested in Performance Studies and Theatre continue to increase with the popularity of the University Forensics Team. This Certificate seeks to provide an opportunity for interested students to engage the creation, analysis and production of performance texts in a context that is unlike any other program in the State of Indiana. The focus on solo and small group performance is an area that IUPUI is uniquely situated to engage. Additionally, the rise of performance of poetry, slam poetry, one-person dramatic showcases as well as visual performance art in Indianapolis has led to a newly informed student who seeks to engage her community through performance. This Certificate Program in Theatre and Performance will allow undergraduate students to do that as well as prepare them for further scholarship in Performance Studies and Theatre.

### **III. Student Population to be Served**

This Certificate will serve students from a wide variety of disciplines across several schools at IUPUI. Undergraduate students from Communication Studies, English, Education, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, History, Cultural studies (including Women's Studies and Afro-American Studies) and Urban Studies have already expressed interest in the Certificate. These students would combine a Theatre and Performance Certificate with a major in one of these disciplines. Participation in this certificate program would also make the student more employable in his or her field of study. For example, an English Education major receiving a certificate from this program will acquire the necessary skills to teach Drama courses and coach the Speech and Debate team. Anthropology majors receiving a certificate from this program can also work in museum theatre programs. It can also be expected that many local performance artists in the Indianapolis community as well in the region would be attracted to the courses in the Certificate Program. Graduate students with an interest in performance ethnography may also be attracted to some of the Certificate courses for a performance outlet.

### **IV. Relevance to Campus Mission**

The Certificate Program's emphasis on solo and small group performance fits well into the IUPUI mission of developing programs that embody a city-based blend of intellectual rigor and occupational practice. The cornerstone of the certificate program is an Independent Creative Project. Students, in collaboration with local artists and practitioners, will have the opportunity to create a faculty-guided capstone performance comprised of conversational narratives, performance ethnographies, and theatrical presentations that focus on social, political and historical relevance, thus providing an excellent example of academic programming that works in conjunction with IUPUI's emphasis on civic engagement and celebrating artistic and cultural diversity.

## **V. Relationship to Existing I.U. Degree Programs**

The Theatre and Performance Certificate Program will be unique to the Indiana University System. Currently, there are no other programs in Performance and Theatre Studies in the State of Indiana that have a special emphasis on solo and small group performance. Further, IUPUI's greater proximity to arts institutions, organizations and professional and community theatres across the state provide an advantage in securing internships, performance spaces and funding opportunities given IUPUI's location in the heart of the capital city.

## **VI. New Resources Needed for the Certificate Program**

The Theatre and Performance Certificate will require the appointment of a Coordinator of the program from one of the participating departments and among participating faculty who will be responsible for the administration of the program as well as teaching some of the courses in it. This faculty member will be appointed by the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and be chosen from one of the cooperating departments in the Theatre and Performance Certificate Program. The Coordinator will receive release time from her or his Department to oversee and teach in the Certificate Program. Other courses will be taught by faculty in allied departments or by performance and theatre professionals from the Indianapolis area. When these courses are taught by Associate Faculty or are beyond the normal course offerings of a department, additional funds will be necessary to pay for them. The Certificate Program will also require an operating budget, office space and secretarial assistance.

## **VII. Innovative Features**

The Certificate program in Theatre and Performance will bring components of IUPUI together in a very broad, interdisciplinary program. The Program will be implemented in close coordination with the department of Communication Studies (that currently houses all the Theatre curriculum) as well as the School of Liberal Arts. The school has already shown an eagerness to initiate a Certificate program that celebrates diversity, civic engagement, and recaptures artistic expression both in and outside the classroom in an intellectually rigorous and challenging way. To ensure the success of such an interdisciplinary and university/community effort, a Theatre and Performance Certificate Committee will be formed and consist of both University and community representatives.

### **Theatre and Performance Certificate Curriculum**

The Undergraduate Program in Theatre and Performance consists of 18 credit hours of coursework, including a required Communication Studies Core of three courses. Each course must be passed with a grade of C or better in order to count toward the Certificate. **Electives must be approved by the Theatre and Performance Certificate Director prior to registration.**

**Communication Studies majors can participate in the certificate program. However, no more than 6 credit hours in the major may count toward the certificate.**

#### **Required core courses (9 credits):**

COMM T130	<b>Introduction to Theatre</b>	3cr.
COMM T437	<b>Creative Dramatics</b>	3cr.
COMM G300/G400	<b>Independent Creative Project</b>	3cr.

#### **Approved Electives (9 credits):\***

*\*Students will select the remaining 9 hours of electives in consultation with the Director of the Theatre and Performance Certificate. Courses may be selected from Communication Studies, English, Women's Studies, and/or other departments or programs to narrowly tailor the certificate to the individual student's interest based upon the Independent Creative Project Proposal.*

*At least six (6) credit hours of electives MUST be at the 300 level or above.*

**The following is a sample list of elective courses. Electives are approved in consultation with the Director of the certificate program.**

COMM T339	<b>Directing</b>	3cr.
COMM T104	<b>Voice &amp; Diction</b>	3cr.
COMM T337	<b>Theatre History I</b>	3cr.
COMM T338	<b>Theatre History II</b>	3cr.
COMM T133	<b>Acting I</b>	3cr.
COMM T333	<b>Acting II</b>	3cr.
COMM T431	<b>Playwriting</b>	3cr.
COMM G300	<b>Practicum in Debate and Forensics</b>	3cr.
COMM T205	<b>Oral Interpretation</b>	3cr.
COMM T305	<b>Advanced Oral Interpretation</b>	3cr.
ENG L205	<b>Introduction to Poetry</b>	3cr.
ENG L315	<b>Major Plays of Shakespeare</b>	3cr.
ENG L363	<b>American Drama</b>	3cr.
ENG L365	<b>Modern Drama: Continental</b>	3cr.
ENG L366	<b>Modern Drama: English, Irish, and American</b>	3cr.
WOST W105	<b>Introduction to Women's Studies</b>	3cr.
HIST A355	<b>African-American History</b>	3cr.
ANTH E404	<b>Field Methods in Ethnography</b>	3cr.