

Artistic Producing Mentorship Program

Developer/Advisor:

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GOALS:

- To help third- and fourth-year students develop the skills needed to choose and shape projects as artistic producer
- To provide the opportunity for first- and second-year students to receive feedback on their work in various levels of development from their more experienced peers
- To create a pipeline of performance, allowing participating students to guide and shepherd projects from the nascent stage to more fully produced performances

STAGE ONE:

Students participating in the program will be given tools to provide feedback for projects presented in 408.

- They will be guided in how to note works that are still in the discovery stage
- All students in the program will meet weekly to discuss the effectiveness of the notes and how they are received
- A faculty member will observe 1-2 notes sessions for each participating student to give direct feedback

If needed, participating students may be asked to continue noting performances in 408 to hone their skills, rather than moving on to the next stage. In this case, more direct faculty mentoring may be helpful.

STAGE TWO:

Each artistic producing student will choose two of the 408 projects they noted to shepherd to the next stage: a performance in a larger TTS performance space.

- Artistic producing students will develop a framework (with the guidance of a faculty member) for developing the projects in collaboration with the artists, including production meetings, branding, and audience development
- Students will work toward creating a balance of structure and freedom for the projects they are producing
- Students will develop a framework for postmortem with the artists

After the performances, students will have a meeting with the creative staff of the projects, listening to feedback but also outlining clear goals and any changes needed in order for them to move forward with the project.

STAGE THREE:

Each artistic producing student will choose one of the projects to produce for a run as part of the Annoyance residency.

- Students will guide their teams in developing a comprehensive marketing/PR strategy their performances, with an eye toward a general audience beyond the DePaul student body
- Students will support the creative artists to help them fully realize their production based on agreed upon artistic goals
- Students and artists will do a final postmortem with a faculty member to evaluate the process and establish takeaways, both for the project going forward and for the artistic producing student regarding their own process.

Ultimately, participating students will have had the experience of guiding a project from its nascent form all the way through a near-professional production, and will leave with an awareness of the pitfalls and challenges in such a collaborative effort. They will also have developed a sense of their own taste and the kinds of projects they'd like to champion. In addition, younger students will have had the experience of following through on an artistic project, nurtured along the way and given support by their artistic producer.