

## **SOLO PERFORMANCE THESIS**

The Thesis in Solo Performance is composed of the development process, the final performances, and a Casebook.

### **1. Development and Production Processes**

Students in the Senior Thesis in Solo Performance have a semester to develop the multi-disciplinary solo work; many have a subject or theme already in mind or are developing material they have begun to explore in the Acting II Devised & Solo or other classes. Bi-weekly class time is scheduled for thesis students to meet both as a group and individually with the Solo Thesis Adviser throughout the spring semester.

The Solo Thesis production will have design/technical meetings and a brief period of technical rehearsals prior to the two performances scheduled during the Senior Thesis Festival, typically the weekend before the final class day.

### **2. Casebook**

The Casebook is a chance to document and analyze the development of your work, and to engage critically with it over the course of the semester. The Casebook is composed of two parts, **(a) the final script/score** and **(b) a weekly journal entry documenting your creative process**.

#### **a. Performance Script/Score**

Submit a clean copy of the final script/score. The “score” refers to graphic representations of non-textual aspects of the final performance.

#### **b. Process Documentation and Analysis**

As part of the Casebook, submit a typed journal documenting and assessing your weekly research, reflections, developmental processes and discoveries. This activity should be undertaken in weekly units: the first entry should be written within the first two weeks of the beginning of the semester, with weekly entries thereafter through the final performance. Your final entry should be after the last performance, so that there will be 12-13 entries in total. Each entry should reflect on some dimension of the process of researching, developing and performing your work. Some questions you might consider as prompts:

- What are some key questions pursued in your project?
- What contextual and material research are you engaging in? This might include readings, viewings, meetings, field trips, hunting and gathering of the materials you’re using.
- What weekly creative processes are you engaging in this work?

- What acting and self-directing techniques are you engaging with? How does your acting inter-relate with the creation of your project, and vice versa?
- What conceptual and formal choices are you engaging in the exploration of this work?
- What are the relevant challenges in transforming your ideas and materials into a multi-disciplinary solo theater work?
- Is there a point of view, or many different perspectives within the work, and how do you engage them?
- What is the nature of the relationship between your work and the audience?

In addition to written journal entries, your documentation of research and of process should also include all non-textual materials you create or source as part of the creative process. You are encouraged to include drawings, scores, links to, or embedded sound files, visual research, images, video files that are part of your conceptualization of the project, and comment on it as part of a week's entry. These links are another way of conceptualizing and representing your thinking.

Research done on historical, social, political, cultural, and aesthetic context could be taken up here as well. The Casebook journal enables you to think through your training and your work reflectively and analytically. Although the journal is informal, it is a public record of your thinking; the style can be casual, but the journal should be written with the understanding that it addresses an audience.

**Length:** One entry per week beginning the second week of the semester; final entry after the performance. Text for each entry should amount to 2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font.

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## **Deadline**

The completed Casebook is due, without exception, by noon, on the Tuesday following the final performance.

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## **Evaluation**

Your Senior Thesis in Solo Performance will be evaluated by the Solo Performance Thesis Adviser and a second reader/viewer, who will consult on the final grade. The grade is given holistically, taking into account the specific qualities of the final performance in Thesis Festival, the script/score as well as the depth, detail, and complexity of thinking that went into documenting and assessing the challenges of confronting and developing your original solo work. While the final performance is weighted more heavily in deciding the grade, the overall process of development and the Casebook are given significant weight in the final grade as well.