

The Thesis in Performance: Solo Performance is comprised of the development process, the final performance, and a Casebook.

## **1. Development and Rehearsal Processes**

Students in the Senior Thesis in Performance: Solo Performance have a semester to develop the solo performance piece; many have a subject or theme already in mind or are developing material they have begun to explore in the Solo Performance class. There will be weekly time scheduled for Senior Thesis in Performance: Solo Performance, so that all thesis students have studio space available and a time to meet both as a group and individually with the Solo Performance Thesis Adviser throughout the spring semester.

The Solo Performance Thesis performances will have a technical and a dress rehearsal prior to the two performances, scheduled during the second weekend of 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 comprised of two parts, **(a) the script/score** and **(b) a journal** documenting your work in developing the performance and rehearsing for it.

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

Submit a clean copy of the final script/score.

### **b. Process Documentation and Analysis: The Writing and Reading Process**

As part of the Casebook, submit a typed journal documenting and assessing your work on the performance script/score in the thesis semester. 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:

- What is the subject of your project?
- What is the relevant research you need to do? This might include readings, viewings, meetings, or field trips.
- What are the primary materials and mediums for your project?
- What is drawing you to those materials?
- What conceptual and formal choices are you engaging in this work?

- What developmental processes are you engaging in this work?
- What are the relevant challenges in transforming your ideas and materials into a solo performance work?
- Is there a point of view in the work, and how do you identify it?
- What is the nature of the relationship with the audience you want to propose?
- How is the performance script/score and developmental process working that relationship out?

At least two or three of the entries should address your research and document the work you have done to engage the research in the process of creating the project. Documentation of research and of process should include graphic scoring of non-textual materials, i.e., your work with movement, objects, sound, and use of space and time.

You are encouraged to include all the forms of research that you engage in your process. For instance, you could link to or embed a sound file, or you could include (or link to) visual research (images, video files) that is part of your conceptualization of the project, and comment on it as part of a week's entry. You might link to a video as a 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 Process Documentation and Analysis section of the Casebook 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 Performance: 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 staged reading, the specific quality of the script, and the depth, detail, and complexity of thinking that went into documenting and assessing the challenges of confronting and developing your performance 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.