

Minnesota Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts

Artistic Presentation Guidelines

Due to be completed by April 30, 2010

The artistic presentations will be scheduled to take place at The Perpich Center for Arts Education during April.

Each presentation will be followed by an interview.

Artistic Recognition and Awards

The Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts grants recognition and awards to students who can show extraordinary accomplishment in one of the following specific areas of theater: acting, playwriting, design and technical theater, or directing. Students may also choose to pursue the Comprehensive Theater Arts award by demonstrating excellence in a variety of theatrical areas.

Basic Criteria

All students seeking this recognition must meet posted deadlines and submit required application forms, a portfolio that includes written work, documentation of learning experiences, letters of recommendation, and statement of academic qualification. Applicants will also perform or present a culminating artistic project exhibiting expertise in their chosen area of theater.

Only students whose work exemplifies superior achievement in theater arts will attain the designation of Scholar of Distinction in Theater Arts. A panel of evaluators will review and assess the quality of theatrical achievement.

Some students whose work shows high achievement in theater arts may receive honorable mention. These students will also receive written communication about their presentation.

All students who submit the required work will receive verification of their participation in the Scholars of Distinction program. They will also receive written feedback about their presentation.

Artistic Presentation Guidelines for Specific Theatrical Areas

Requirements for Acting:

Students will prepare an actor's showcase in which they present two contrasting monologues and perform in a two-person scene.

The two contrasting monologues must be one to two minutes long. The monologues must be from published plays, not from screenplays, novels, poetry, or original student work. One monologue must be from a classical play, pre-1900's, and the other contemporary, post 1900.

If actors wish to show expertise in musical theater, they may present a monologue from a classical play and a song from a modern musical. Students may perform songs without accompaniment, with recorded accompaniment, or with their own accompanist. The Scholars program does not provide accompanists.

Actors will also perform in a five-to-eight minute two-character scene from a play. The scene must be from a published play, not from screenplays, novels, poetry, or original student work. The second actor in the scene must be a student, who may or not be applying for the Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts.

A mentor or teacher may help with the process, attend rehearsals, and attend a performance of the showcase. The showcase must also be presented for evaluators. Actors must prearrange the performance place and time with project directors.

Actors should submit a written journal describing their artistic vision as well as a written analysis of each character they've chosen to portray. They should include research materials concerning the historical, cultural, and ethical framework of the plays. The written work should be word-processed and double-spaced.

As part of a follow-up interview, actors will be prepared to discuss their choices, the process they used to prepare the monologues and scenes, and the plays from which they selected their presentations. Actors may also be asked to reflect upon theatrical goals for the future.

Requirements for Directing:

Students will direct a 10-15 minute play or scene from a published play or musical. They will also direct or coach an actor preparing a monologue.

The scene and the monologue must each be from a full-length play, musical, or one act, and may not be from a screenplay, novel, short story, poetry, or original student work. The scene should have a minimum of two and no more than three actors.

A mentor or teacher may help with the directing process, attend rehearsals, and attend a performance of the play along with an audience. The play or scene and the monologue must be presented for evaluators as part of the artistic presentation at the Perpich Center.

Directors must submit a written journal of their artistic vision and an analysis of the play and monologue they've chosen. They should include research materials concerning the historical, cultural, and ethical framework of the material. They should include documentation of their process from play selection to auditions, rehearsals, and production. A personal evaluation of the final production should be submitted. All written work should be word-processed and double-spaced.

Directors must be prepared to discuss the play and the monologue, their process and their directorial choices with evaluators. They must be able to articulate their artistic vision in terms of acting, blocking, and design elements. They should also be prepared to reflect upon the showcase performance.

Requirements for Playwriting:

Students will write a 10-15 minute two-person play and also a 1-2 minute monologue or soliloquy. The two-person play should be submitted in written format by April 1, 2010 to the project directors.

The play must be original, reflect the voice of the playwright, and may not be a translation, adaptation, or screenplay. The script may be a one-act play or may be a scene from a larger work.

The monologue or soliloquy should stand alone with its own beginning, middle, and end. It must be original, reflect the voice of the playwright, and may not be a translation or adaptation. It may be an audition piece, the beginning of a one-person play, or a soliloquy meant to be a part of a larger work.

Both the monologue and the play should be written for the stage in standard format. The script must include a title, list of characters, dialogue and stage directions. Playwrights should also include a two-sentence play synopsis.

On the day of their artistic presentation, playwrights must submit a journal with a description of their artistic vision and a discussion of the themes and content of the play and monologue they've written. They should discuss their inspiration for characters, and acknowledge sources and reference materials they've used. All written work should be word-processed and double-spaced.

During their artistic presentation, playwrights will present their monologue for evaluators. In the interview, they may be asked to discuss their playwriting process,

artistic vision and goals, and the themes and content of the play and/or monologue with evaluators.

Requirements for Design and Technical Theater:

Students must submit a design in one primary field with no more than one supporting area. The design fields are scenic design, costumes, lights, and sound. The design should be developed for a particular theater and for a specific play. Designers should reveal a clear understanding of the play they have chosen to design through written and visual journals, analyses, and interviews.

- Scenic designers will create a model of a set for a specific play. The model will be in color and will be presented in conjunction with rendering/sketches, floor plans, side and front elevations of the set. The model, floor plans and elevations will all be drawn to scale. A script analysis should show how the design reinforces the themes and ideas treated in the play.
- Costume designers will create a costume plot for specific characters in a specific play. The plot will include sketches, color renderings, and fabric swatches for each costume. There should be a script analysis that indicates character, period, class, status, and gender. The style and atmosphere of the play should be supported by the costume design.
- Lighting designs will include a fully marked script analysis and cue sheet. There should be documentation of performance requirements for lighting design in space: schematic layout, equipment list, acting areas, lighting positions. The design will include a detailed lighting plot to inch scale and a inch scale lighting section (side elevation, set masking, and lighting instruments). Instrument schedule including: channels, circuits, type of light, function and color. Color choices should be keyed off a color medium sample book.
- Sound designs include detailed cue sheets and marked script analysis. There should be documentation of performance requirements for sound design in space: schematic layout, equipment list, sound positions. There should be a sound cue schedule including cue number, aural or visual cue from play, equipment, type of sound, level, channels, and notes. The design will be submitted on tapes or compact discs. A student may integrate live on-stage sound with recorded sound and describe how these sounds were achieved.

All designers must submit research materials and documentation in journal form. These materials should include a written description of the student's artistic vision as well as an analysis of the play or characters. The research should be a coherently compiled collection of notes and research. It may include a visual journal including photos of source ideas and visual metaphors. Students must also be prepared to discuss their vision, their design process and choices in a follow-up interview.

Requirements for the Comprehensive Theater Award

Students will demonstrate participation, dedication, commitment, and diversity in a range of theater arts. The portfolio will document this diversity, and the artistic showcase will reveal depth of knowledge and expertise in several areas of theater. The student may perform, direct, write a scene or monologue, and share knowledge of design and technical theater. A student pursuing the comprehensive award will tailor the presentation to show theater expertise that crosses the footlights.

A mentor or teacher may help with the preparation process, and attend a performance of the showcase. The showcase must also be presented for evaluators. Applicants must prearrange the performance place and time with project directors.

Comprehensive theater applicants should submit a written journal describing their artistic vision as well as a written analysis of the elements they've chosen to showcase. They should include research materials concerning the historical, cultural, and ethical aspects of their areas of expertise. The written work should be word-processed and double-spaced.

As part of a follow-up interview with evaluators, applicants will be prepared to discuss their choices, the process they used to prepare the showcase, and plays from which they selected their presentations. Applicants may also be asked to reflect upon their theatrical goals for the future.

Applicants seeking this award should consult with project directors for more information and support.

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