

Mon., Tue., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 2:30-7:10pm
(Additional hours to be announced.)

Andy Warshaw/Allen Fogelsanger

Technical Director: Philip Treviño

Lighting Designer: Nick Houfek

Costumes/Wardrobe: Armando Morales
Production Assistant: Kelly McCormack

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Projects is the production course for the Fall Semester, completing the term with performances in either or both the Great Hall and the Theresa Lang Theatre. While performing is the priority, exposure to all aspects of production will also be a component of Projects. The well-rounded dancer understands and respects the creative process including the technical as well as the promotional side of the theatre. In order to appropriately understand the dancer's contribution to the performance, he/she must be aware of all the "behind the scenes" work involved prior to getting on stage.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The mastery of artistry and performance can only be achieved after years of experience. This course may be taken up to four times to achieve the goal of the course. Success in this course means that students will have learned to:

1. Increase performance creativity and improvisational skills necessary to work with a wide variety of choreographers
2. Demonstrate development of professional skills, independent thinking and responsibility for information presented
3. Demonstrate an increased awareness of the relationship between the music and the choreography
4. Demonstrate and practice a commitment to personal growth as an artist
5. Develop critical thinking skills in interpreting and embodying the choreography
6. Incorporate learning strategies for working in a wide array of choreographic idioms
7. Increase knowledge of theatrical terminology and practices
8. Develop an increased awareness of the qualitative nuances and dynamic phrasing of movement sequences
9. Increase knowledge of partnering and spatial awareness individually and in groups
10. Demonstrate growth in performance skills: projection, confidence, focus, intent and commitment.

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors who take this course for one credit are expected to participate in all activities fully. The nature of any production requires a variety of expertise among its participants, with each and every member being a vital part of the whole. Just as in the professional theatre, expectations rise as expertise is gained. To fairly grade and recognize all students' achievements and growth, the following indicates the criteria for the varying levels of the course:

Projects I: This course addresses the needs of those students who are new to the Marymount Manhattan College Dance Department. The fundamentals of theatre etiquette, professionalism, performance qualities and the technical aspects of the theatre are taught throughout the rehearsal and lecture process. Upon the successful completion of Projects I, students are eligible to enroll in Production I in the Spring.

Projects II: Students who have passed both Projects I and Production I are expected to have achieved the requirements as stated above and must maintain those standards throughout Projects II, while working to attain a higher level of performance and technical abilities. As Projects II students have acquired the fundamentals taught in Projects I, they are expected to demonstrate initiative by 1) Acting as mentors for students in Projects I, II) Being self-sufficient in terms of professional demeanor and 3) Contributing actively to the rehearsal process. Reliability towards the entire Production is considered to be a part of attaining that higher level of professionalism. Those students who demonstrate a keen interest in choreography may have the option to become one of

the choreographers for the DAW production with permission from the faculty.

Projects III: By the time a student has reached this level, it is assumed that he/she will have taken both Comp I and Comp II. Therefore the student will not only continue to attain higher levels of performance and technical abilities but may also have the option to become a choreographer for the production. The combined experiences of all prior courses culminates in the students acting as choreographers or as dance captains/rehearsal assistants, stage managers, costume designers, lighting designers and or composers.

PERFORMANCES

Two series of performances will take place within the semester. One is the performance of *Dancers at Work*, which takes place in the Great Hall with three performances. The second series, *Fall Repertoire*, takes place in the Theresa Lang Theatre, which constitutes a week and half in the theatre prior to performance and four performances. **There is no guarantee that all students will perform in both productions.** Students must be prepared to assist in production crews as technicians for sets, costumes and lighting, as promotional assistants, or front of house staff for the concert or performance in which they are not participants. All students (except for seniors) enrolled in Projects/Production are responsible for STRIKE whether they are enrolled for credit or auditing the course. Students in this course must assume that being understudies, stage hands, assistant stage-managers, and/or rehearsal assistants is considered to be a part of the course and is graded accordingly.

CASTING

Casting has four criteria:

1. The choreographer's style and schedule.
2. The dancers' technical abilities and schedule.
3. Ability to absorb choreographic phrases quickly.
4. Performance experience.

Every effort will be made to cast each member of the class in at least one dance, either as first cast, second cast or understudies. **Understudies are required to learn parts fully and to be ready to replace a dancer at a moment's notice.**

REHEARSALS

Please see Rehearsal Etiquette as per the DANCER'S CONTRACT.

Guests and/or fellow dance students must ask permission to watch rehearsals in which they are not participating. **Boyfriends, girlfriends, etc. are not allowed in to watch the rehearsal.**

CLOSED WEEKENDS

Closed weekends refer to a rehearsal period in which students in projects must participate. These weekends are devoted solely to rehearsals and have been designated on the Dance Department's Calendar. Anyone who works on the weekend or is concerned about family functions will need to make arrangements to be free for rehearsal. The calendar is set far in advance to avoid problems. Anyone who chooses to skip these rehearsals may be replaced by an understudy.

TECHNICAL & PERFORMANCE WEEKS

During these weeks, the time demands of this course become quite rigorous. There is no performing art in which the aspiring artist is appropriately compensated financially (or in our case, for academic credits) for the amount of time invested in his/her work. Students are expected to meet the time demands by planning accordingly, as this kind of scheduling is very much a part of the professional experience.

COSTUMES

All students are required to be responsible for his/her costumes once Production moves into the theatre. This entails:

1. Be measured for costumes at the beginning of your first semester of performing in any Projects or Production performance, and every 4 semesters thereafter.
2. Attend all fittings on time when called.
3. Providing your own undergarments, tights, and shoes for dressed rehearsals and performances.
4. Checking your costume(s) prior to each rehearsal/performance to ensure nothing is missing.

5. Hanging your own costume(s) after it is worn.
6. Moving costumes accordingly for locking theatre after rehearsal/performance.
7. Immediately alerting the wardrobe mistress/master to any repairs needed. Going onstage with a torn costume or holes/runs in tights is unacceptable. The wardrobe mistress/master will decide how a repair is to be made. Please do not make repairs prior to discussing it with him/her. Depending on the extent of the damage, you may be asked to repair it yourself.
8. Returning costume(s) for check-in during the load-out.

Your costume(s) are to be treated with respect, as they ultimately do not belong to you and will most likely be worn by someone else. This includes being aware of personal hygiene.

GRADING PROCEDURES

In consideration with the breakdown for the different levels of Projects I, II and III, the following guideline specifies what the professors will be looking for to evaluate each student:

1. **Audition Process**
 - A. Appearance
 - B. Concentration
 - C. Projection/Performance Quality
 - D. Ability to learn phrases
2. **Rehearsal Process**
 - A. Attendance
 - B. Concentration
 - C. Dancing Full-Out at all times, unless specifically told to mark
 - D. Retention of material from one rehearsal to the next
 - E. Ability to take direction listen and make changes quickly without a negative or unsolicited comment
 - F. Contributing to choreographic process
 - G. Cooperation with other dancers
3. **Technical Process**
 - A. Musicality and Rhythm
 - B. Ability to interpret choreographic ideas through technique
 - C. Stamina
 - D. Focus
 - E. Strength
 - F. Quality of movement
4. **Performance Process**
 - A. Appearance
 1. Make-up
 2. Hair
 3. Costume
 4. General presentation of self
 - B. Qualities
 1. Theatre Etiquette
 2. Performance abilities
 - C. Attendance & Participation
 1. Attendance at Warm-ups
 - a. Lateness
 2. Participation in Strike/Load-Out
 3. Participation in Front of House Responsibilities.

Finally, it is expected that you will cooperate in the class and in the performance as members of a team. Everyone

must work hard and must root for each other. Healthy competition amongst peers is only healthy when it inspires you to improve, to want to learn and to develop a keen sense of awareness and curiosity. Unhealthy competition such as petty jealousy is destructive not only to the person(s) it is directed toward but also destructive to yourself and the rehearsal process. In short, it is a waste of time and energy. If you feel there is an unhealthy atmosphere in your rehearsals, please speak to one of the instructors before the problem gets out of hand. Additionally, please keep your eyes and ears open so that you may be available to help in whatever activity is going on at the moment ☒ that's how you will learn.

IN CASE OF INJURY

Students who are injured during the semester will be held responsible to fulfill their credit. Students will have opportunities to assist choreographers, work with Front of House staff, and/or assist with the technical aspects of a performance.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

MMC fosters an academic community where students and faculty work together to create a learning experience that imparts knowledge and forms character. To achieve this, the College requires all members of the community to adhere to the policy of Academic Honesty that can be found in the Student Handbook, the College Catalogue and on the College website.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

1. Be on time.
2. Leave personal issues outside of the rehearsal room.
3. Cheer each other on.
4. Practice all new choreographic material within 24 hours of rehearsal.
5. Teach someone else what you have learned each week.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

The Dance Department relies on the integrity and professionalism of the dancers within its charge. It is your responsibility to perpetuate an environment that provides a worthy atmosphere in which to work.

DANCER'S/CHOREOGRAPHER'S CONTRACT

Below is a list of expectations that reflect the professional considerations applied to the dancer. Success in the theatre is wholly dependent on the collaborative effort and to ensure mutual understanding of what those collaborative efforts entail, a contract is always a part of the professional dancer's experience. This particular contract is meant to instill in each dancer the attributes that professional companies look for in hiring a dancer. Although these items will not appear in a "real" contract, it is universally understood that these are a part of a dancer's "professionalism," and it is meant to serve as a reminder of the discipline, commitment and dedication required to become and remain a dancer. Each student is expected to sign both copies of the contract, keeping one for reference and returning the other to the faculty.

GUIDELINES

All dancers will:

1. Attend all rehearsals on time. Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the grade i.e. C becomes C-. If rehearsal is missed, phone the Dance Office immediately, and it is understood by all parties that if rehearsal is missed, it is the prerogative of the choreographer or faculty to replace the dancer immediately and permanently.
2. Dress appropriately and be prepared for each rehearsal. This means that hair will be pulled back and out of the way so that turning does not become impaired or that you swipe your neighbor with braids, etc. Leotards, tights, unitards are standard and baggy clothing is unacceptable. Appropriate shoes and props that are necessary for you to complete the rehearsal work required is the dancer's sole responsibility. If shoes and props are not brought to the rehearsal, the dancer will not be allowed to participate.
3. Participate in all rehearsals with commitment, concentration and full energy whether the dancer is being used at the moment or not. Failure to comply with the above will result in a dismissal from rehearsal. Extra-curricular activities that disrupt the rehearsal process i.e. talking on the sidelines will end with the same result. If a dancer is an understudy, he/she is expected to remain alert at all times, participating behind the dancers as much as is possible.
4. Choreographers will be responsible for the care and maintenance of costumes, cassette tapes required for rehearsals and performances and will be prepared for each rehearsal.
5. Address all participants, faculty and peers, with respect and good manners.

AGREEMENT

I have read the above Course Description, Contract and Grading Procedures and understand and agree to all the criteria as described therein. I hereby agree to participate in Projects Class Fall 2014.

Signature

Date

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