

## **Proposal Program Revision**

**Theater & Film Major**  
School of Contemporary Arts

### **Mission**

The mission of Ramapo's proposed BA program in Theater & Film is to provide students with an innovative and collaborative education that fosters creativity and critical thinking in the art of storytelling. Our program focuses on interdisciplinary, intercultural, international, and experiential learning, providing opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the history, theory, and culture of theater, film, and performance, and to integrate those pursuits into practical, hands-on, project-based work in the context of the Liberal Arts.

Through our program, students will develop a deep understanding of the art, history, theory, and craft of theater and film, including the artistic, technical, and narrative elements that bring stories to life. They will have opportunities to gain practical experience in writing, directing, producing, acting, and technical production, expanding their world view and deepening their content knowledge as they collaborate with fellow students, faculty, and professional guest artists in a supportive and dynamic learning environment.

Our goal is to prepare students to be innovative collaborative storytellers in the contemporary professional theater, film, and emerging media environments, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and creative vision necessary to produce compelling and meaningful work. We believe that by fostering a passion for storytelling and a commitment to collaboration and innovation, our graduates will make a positive impact on the always evolving and overlapping worlds of theater, film, and media.

### **Objectives for Theater & Film Major**

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater & Film provides students with a comprehensive understanding and experiential learning opportunities in both theater and film. The program is designed to immerse students in the art and craft of storytelling through the mediums of theater and film, with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary, international, and intercultural learning. Students will develop the necessary knowledge and skill to pursue a career in the interconnected fields of theater, film, and media while also fostering their unique artistic expression.

1. In our core curriculum students will develop a foundational understanding of both theater and film practice and theory through required courses in Script Analysis, Visual Imagination, Digital Filmmaking, Acting, Global Theater & Film History, Collaboration Practicum for Theater & Film, and World Cinema Movements.
2. With an emphasis on interdisciplinarity, students will have the opportunity to explore the intersections of theater and film with other disciplines such as music, visual arts, and literature,

providing a comprehensive approach to the study of theater and film. They will also have the ability to minor in one of these disciplines, or in any minor across the College.

3. Students will develop their creativity and unique artistic voices and visions through the production and creation of works for both stage and screen with close faculty mentorship. Students will be exposed to diverse perspectives and cultural contexts, enhancing their ability to create work that resonates with and reflects the diversity of our world.

4. Students will gain practical and professional experience through internships, networking opportunities, and collaborations with theater and film professionals. Students will be equipped with the skills and experiences to pursue careers in theater, film, and media, and will be prepared to pursue graduate studies.

The new BA in Theater & Film will share a core with the proposed Film major at Ramapo. The core, consisting of 5 fundamental courses will encourage collaboration between film and theater students early in their undergraduate careers and support interdisciplinary thinking and practice.

The proposed shared core for the two majors (Film major and Theater & Film major) courses are:

#### **Shared Core with Film Major**

- Collaboration Practicum – *revision of THEA 120 Theater Practicum being submitted to ARC Fall 2023*
- THEA 213 Visual Imagination – *applying script analysis to visual expression in the context of the Liberal Arts.*
- COMM 218 Fundamentals of Digital Filmmaking – *experiential hands-on learning*
- THEA 220 Introduction to Acting – *applying text analysis, critical thinking, and close observation practices to creative collaboration and storytelling practices*
- COMM 229 World Cinema Movements – *analyzing 20<sup>th</sup> Century films with international focus*

#### **In addition all Theater & Film students will complete the following Core courses:**

- Script Analysis – *new course being submitted to ARC Fall 2023*
- History of Global Theater & Performance – *revision of THEA 232: History of Theater to 1860 approved by ARC Fall 2023*
- History of Global Theater & Film – *revision of THEA 233: Development of Modern Theater approved by ARC Fall 2023*
- THEA 435 Advanced Projects – *senior projects course*
- THEA 460 Contemporary Theater & Theory – *senior level seminar*

The B.A. in Theater & Film major requirements and electives will draw from the current course offerings in the Theater Program and the Digital Filmmaking concentration of the Communication Arts major. We are adding one new course for the Core that will focus on script analysis as it applies to Theater & Film. Theater & Film students will have the option to select a concentration in Acting, Production/Design, and Theater Studies.

With the new concentrations being proposed within the Theater & Film major, students will have the opportunity to engage in a dynamic and interdisciplinary program. The major with concentrations will provide a comprehensive foundational education while offering opportunities for students' varying interests of film and theater making.

With a focus on interdisciplinary, intercultural, international and experiential learning, creative development, and professional preparation, graduates of this program will be well-equipped to pursue meaningful careers. The liberal arts foundation will provide students with a broad perspective, creative flexibility, and critical thinking skills as they progress in their careers, equipped to keep pace in the ever-changing environment of theater, film, and emerging media.

### Proposed Curriculum

#### **CORE (5) (Shared with Film Major)**

- THEA 120: Collaboration Practicum
- THEA 213: Visual Imagination
- COMM 218: Fundamentals of Digital Filmmaking
- THEA 220: Introduction to Acting (also fulfills Gen Ed Creativity & Culture)
- COMM 229: World Cinema Movements (also fulfills Gen Ed Global Awareness)

#### **Theater & Film Concentrations**

(*italics* are courses to be created or modified) (**Bold** are shared Core for all concentrations)

<b>ACTING</b>	<b>PRODUCTION/DESIGN</b>	<b>THEATER STUDIES</b>
<i>THEA 2xxx Script Analysis</i>	<i>THEA 2xxx Script Analysis</i>	<i>THEA 2xxx Script Analysis</i>
<i>THEA 232 History of Global Theater &amp; Performance</i>	<i>THEA 232 History of Global Theater &amp; Performance</i>	<i>THEA 232 History of Global Theater &amp; Performance</i>
<i>THEA 233 History of Global Theater &amp; Film</i>	<i>THEA 233 History of Theater &amp; Film</i>	<i>THEA 233 History of Global Theater &amp; Film</i>
THEA 239 Basic Directing	THEA 227 Stagecraft OR THEA 203 Craft of Costume	THEA 239 Basic Directing
THEA 260 Voice & Movement	THEA 226 Basic Lighting OR THEA 235 Costume Design OR THEA 229 Scene Design OR THEA 329 Stage Management OR COMM 338 Sound Design	THEA 245 Basic Playwriting
Physical Theater Class 1: THEA 145 Tango OR THEA 223 Basic Modern Dance OR THEA 315 Clowning & Comedy OR THEA 390 Stage Combat OR other course by approval	THEA 226 Basic Lighting OR THEA 235 Costume Design OR THEA 229 Scene Design OR THEA 329 Stage Management OR COMM 338 Sound Design	THEA 351 Advanced Directing OR THEA 227 Stagecraft OR THEA 203 Craft of Costume OR THEA 226 Basic Lighting OR THEA 329 Stage Management

ACTING	PRODUCTION/DESIGN	THEATER STUDIES
THEA 353 Acting for TV & Film	THEA 242 Producing the Play	200 or 300 level Art History course
THEA 312 Auditioning	THEA 226 Basic Lighting OR THEA 235 Costume Design OR THEA 229 Scene Design OR THEA 329 Stage Management OR COMM 338 Sound Design	300 level Film HTC (CA Core)
Physical Theater Class 2: THEA 145 Tango OR THEA 223 Basic Modern Dance OR THEA 315 Clowning & Comedy OR THEA 390 Stage Combat OR other course by approval	Specialty Tech Class 1 = THEA 227 Stagecraft, Advanced Stagecraft, THEA 203 Craft of Costume, THEA 310 Craft of Costume II, THEA 212 Scenic Art, THEA 330 Drafting for Theater & Film, THEA 130 Stage Makeup, COMM 206 Fundamentals of Audio, COMM 217 Digital Post Production, OR THEA 390 Topics	THEA 230 American Musical Theater (Gen Ed C&C) OR LITR 244 Shakespeare's Plays (Gen Ed C&C) OR LITR 246 Shakespeare on Film (Gen Ed GA)
THEA 321 Black Experience through Theater OR THEA 328 Contemporary Women's Playwrights OR THEA 365 Theater, Film and Culture in Modern Japan OR THEA 341 Fashion and Politics	Specialty Tech Class 2 = THEA 227 Stagecraft, THEA 203 Craft of Costume, THEA 310 Craft of Costume II, THEA 212 Scenic Art, THEA 330 Drafting for Theater & Film, THEA 130 Stage Makeup, COMM 206 Fundamentals of Audio, COMM 217 Digital Post Production, or THEA 390 Topics	THEA 321 Black Experience through Theater OR THEA 328 Contemporary Women's Playwrights OR THEA 365 Theater, Film and Culture in Modern Japan OR THEA 341 Fashion and Politics
THEA 326 Advanced Acting OR THEA 427 Scene Studies	THEA 321 Black Experience through Theater OR THEA 328 Contemporary Women's Playwrights OR THEA 365 Theater, Film and Culture in Modern Japan OR THEA 341 Fashion and Politics	THEA 321 Black Experience through Theater OR THEA 328 Contemporary Women's Playwrights OR THEA 365 Theater, Film and Culture in Modern Japan OR THEA 341 Fashion and Politics OR approved THEA or LITR course
<b>THEA 435 Advanced Projects/Showcase</b>	<b>THEA 435 Advanced Projects or Internship</b>	<b>THEA 435 Advanced Projects</b>
<b>THEA 460: Contemporary</b>	<b>THEA 460 Contemporary</b>	<b>THEA 460 Contemporary</b>

<b>ACTING</b>	<b>PRODUCTION/DESIGN</b>	<b>THEATER STUDIES</b>
<b>Theater &amp; Theory</b>	<b>Theater &amp; Theory</b>	<b>Theater &amp; Theory</b>
<b>THEA 021 and THEA 022 Running Crew (non-credit bearing)</b>	<b>THEA 021 and THEA 022: Running Crew (non-credit bearing)</b>	<b>THEA 021 and THEA 022: Running Crew (non-credit bearing)</b>

## **PROGRAM GOALS**

Upon completion of the B.A. in Theater & Film students will be able to:

- Evaluate and apply storytelling principles to analyze and create written and visual content for theater and film.
- Analyze and communicate the aesthetic, cultural, historical, and theoretical practices of theater and film
- Effectively manage the resources and logistics to generate collaborative theater and film projects
- Create theatrical and film work that embodies the students' unique voices and visions
- Collaborate effectively with others as members or leaders of creative endeavors

## **THEATER & FILM PROGRAM GOALS**

1. Prepare Theatre & Film majors to enter into the profession or continue their education in graduate school.
2. To provide a rigorous, well-rounded education for those students who go on to careers outside of theater & film.

## **THEATER & FILM PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Demonstrate broad understanding of theater and film history, literature, and theory in diverse settings.
2. Critically evaluate performances and films and their elements in written form.
3. Develop artistic and/or practical skills in their particular discipline
4. Apply creative thinking in analyzing visual, aural, and performance material.
5. Synthesize practical and creative skills employing professional standards in theatrical and film production
6. Develop oral communication skills

## **ASSESSMENT PLAN**

Assessment will be carried out using a combination of direct and indirect measures. We will aim for 80% meeting or exceeding expectations for a given learning outcome.

### **Direct measures will include:**

- Exams, quizzes, and written assignments assessed by theater and film professors who are not teaching the courses
- Produced projects (theater works and films) assessed by theater and film professors who are not teaching the courses.

**Indirect measures will include:**

- Student surveys either administered in class or through Qualtrics asking students about the coursework and how well they felt it has prepared them to meet the learning outcomes.

We will identify two learning outcomes and related courses to review in the major. For example:

Learning Outcome: 1

Courses to review: *THEA 232 History of Global Theater & Performance*, *COMM 229 World Cinema Movements*

Learning Outcome: 1 & 2

1-Demonstrate broad understanding of theater and film history, literature, and theory in diverse settings.

2 -Critically evaluate performances and films and their elements in written form.

By assessing student learning outcomes using a combination of direct and indirect measures, we can ensure that our Theater & Film program is preparing students to achieve the program goals and to become successful professionals in the theater and film industries.

**Relationship and Contribution of the Theater & Film Major to Institutional Strategic Plan**

The combined BA major in Theater and Film aligns with our institution's mission to provide students with a comprehensive liberal arts education that prepares them for lifelong learning and success in their chosen fields. The program emphasizes experiential, interdisciplinary, intercultural, and international learning, and encourages students to develop creativity, critical thinking and collaborative skills. The program also aligns with the institutional strategic plan to enhance the quality of our academic programs and to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Each of the courses includes intercultural and international content and approaches, and the faculty are committed to the exploration of diverse identities and cultures.

**GOAL 1 Academic Excellence & Student Success**

- Providing students with a rich and diverse curriculum that combines theory and practice in global theater and film.
- Offering opportunities for students to engage in hands-on learning, through productions, and internships.
- Encouraging students to develop their distinctive creative voices and to take risks in their work
- Providing opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration, by linking the theater and film programs.

**GOAL 2 Inclusive Community**

- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our productions and curriculum, by incorporating diverse perspectives and experiences.

- Fostering a supportive and inclusive community that values diversity, equity, and inclusion through the presentation of diverse works of theater and film and transparent and inclusive processes of casting, representation, and season selection.

### **GOAL 3 Agile Stewardship**

- Bringing the college and wider community together through attendance, participation, and enjoyment of the many theater and film productions and presentations on and off campus
- Creating efficiencies and opportunities by combining resources in Theater and Film
- Bringing recognition to the college through participation in both regional and national conferences and presentations
- Our productions and other activities that involve public outreach provide multiple opportunities to engage with alumni, business, non-profits, community organizations, and potential development sources to help support the mission of the program and the College.

The combined BA major in Theater & Film is designed to be a competitive and unique program that will further our institution's reputation as a premiere liberal arts college in the region. It will provide students with a comprehensive and integrated education that prepares them for success in a rapidly changing and evolving field. The program will also enhance the cultural life of our institution and our community, by producing innovative and thought-provoking productions that engage and challenge our audiences.

The new major draws on the strengths and expertise of current faculty and staff, maximizing our present facilities and resources to deliver an innovative interdisciplinary program. We expect to attract students interested in theater, film, and also those whose interests intersect the two disciplines. Historically we have had many students who combined these fields on their own through the Contemporary Arts Contract Major, and others who have majored in one and minored in the other. The new B.A. in Theater & Film will allow these students a clear curricular path, while attracting prospective students who see the connections between these fields and are interested in pursuing this combined track. The new Theater & Film major is a reflection of the contemporary theater and media landscape, which is filled with creative storytellers who have combined studies of theater and film on their paths to career success.

As the program grows, we envision:

- Maintaining and/or modifying our facilities and equipment to support the production needs of the program.
- Providing further opportunities for students to participate in national and international theater and film festivals and conferences, broadening their perspectives and experiences.
- Employing faculty and staff who recognize and represent the values diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## **Comparable Theater & Film programs**

In general, the majority of the programs that combine the two fields of Theater & Film are BFA programs. Of the BA programs that combine the two areas, we identified five that have a comparable vision (listed below.)

By adopting this new and innovative mission and curriculum for a Ramapo Theater & Film program, we would be at the cutting edge of this trend, positioning us very well for recruitment. By combining the strengths of our theater and film programs we would create a program that is unique, special and very much in demand by students who recognize the evolving interconnectedness of film, theater, and emerging media.

Below are listed the top programs and their mission statements that are structured as BAs with a Liberal Arts core.

### **Northeastern University - BA in Media and Screen Studies and Theater**

*“This major is designed for students who want to combine a knowledge of the art of theatre with the theories and conceptual frameworks of media and film studies. It offers both classroom and experiential learning in areas of acting, directing, writing, and design with related studies in screenwriting, media technology, and media production. Students develop a personalized technique for the practices of making theatre, film (documentary and fiction), and television as engaged citizens and creative artists.”*

### **Indiana University B.A. in Applied Theatre, Film, and Television**

*“We are the disciplinary home for theatre as both theory and practice and combine the strengths of the film and media studies curriculum in the School of Liberal Arts, its numerous production courses, along with relevant and exciting media and theatre-related work.”*

### **University of Alaska Fairbanks BA in Film & Performing Arts**

*“Film and performing arts is the study of the history, theory and technologies of cinema new media and theatre.”*

### **St Joseph’s University (Philadelphia) BA in Theatre and Film Major**

*“The theatre and film major at Saint Joseph's University nurtures creative expression and technical proficiency while fostering intellectual curiosity and cultural awareness. Students declare a concentration in film/TV, musical theatre or theatre.”*

### **Pepperdine BA in Theater and Screen Arts**

*“The theatre and screen arts major is a hybrid major that combines courses within the Fine Arts Division and the Communications Division. The theatre and screen arts major with an emphasis in acting is ideal for those students who desire to study both acting as well as the behind-the-camera techniques of film and media production such as screen producing, editing, and screen directing. The theatre and screen arts major with an emphasis in directing is ideal for students who want to combine stage directing skills with the behind-the-camera techniques listed above”*



**COPLAC** At present none of the COPLAC institutions offer the combined Theater and Film program we envision. Of the nine schools only Eastern Connecticut State University lists a major in “Theatre Performance & Media Studies.” Upon investigating their program, we discovered they do not incorporate Film study in any meaningful way.

### **Student Demand**

We have seen many theater students over the years combining the areas of theater and film using the contract major. Some of the best and brightest theater and film students have crafted this approach. As career opportunities in media expand, and jobs in traditional theater become more rarified, we feel strongly that by providing our students with a strong foundation in both areas, guided by the value of the liberal arts, we can prepare them with the skills and knowledge that will most effectively empower them as they enter the field as actors, designers or technicians.

### **Employment**

Entry level positions in Theater & Film include the following:

Actor \$23.48/hr

Employment of actors is projected to grow 8 percent from 2021 to 2031, faster than the average for all occupations

Stage Director \$79,000/yr

Stage Designer (Scenic, Lighting, Costumes, Sound) \$62,960/yr

Art Designer (Film) 100,890/yr

Director (Film) 101,950/yr

Costume Designer \$62,960/yr

\*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics <https://data.bls.gov/search/query/results?q=>

### **Anticipated Enrollment**

We anticipate the program will launch with 10-15 majors and reach a level of 90 majors in five years, with an optimal enrollment of 130 to be reached soon after that.

### **Additional resources needed for first five years**

No significant resources will be needed outside of hiring adjuncts until we reach 90 majors, at which point we would need additional full-time faculty.