

Hello Theatre Majors,

I hope your summer is going well and that you're finding things that bring you joy. I'd been waiting until we had heard from the Dean's office and had some specifics finalized and before sending this email. Thank you, so much, for your patience.

You are our top priority. We have had an active summer full of meetings figuring out ways to maintain our commitment to your education. Here's the latest update on what we have in store for the upcoming year. Things may continue to be in flux but we are dedicated to providing the best learning environment possible.

The entire Theatre faculty and staff have put in place a set of guidelines to govern what we are planning and how we intend to focus our work for this year:

- #1: The health and safety of our students, staff and faculty are of the first importance to us and will guide all of our actions.
- #2: We will work more deeply with all students on the specifics of process and craft through exploration, experimentation and research.
- #3: We will provide substantial learning experiences – regardless of current events – for all students studying in the performing arts.
- #4: We will engage in the design and production process with the educational and professional interest of all students in mind.
- #5: At this time when we cannot invite people into “our house” we will take this opportunity to send our Theatre beyond our walls, into the community.

Our teaching and learning will happen both in person and online and will be richer and more focused than in the past. Due to the fact that theatre offers a variety of classes there is not a one-size-fits-all plan of instruction. Faculty have submitted the specifics for their classes on the Wichita State University Covid-19 website. To find out the specifics [follow this link](#) and enter your course information: CRN, Course number, Course name, OR Instructor. Select “All Fields” in the drop down menu, or select specific fields to narrow your search. Seating capacity for classrooms across campus including Wilner have been adjusted to follow social distancing guidelines, and some classes have been moved to other rooms including the Auditorium. The rooms will be cleaned after each class. If classes are meeting in person students will be expected to wear masks while in class and in the buildings.

With regards to productions, the College of Fine Arts and School of Performing Arts have released the following statement:

“Due to the unprecedented circumstances caused by the spread of COVID-19, the School of Performing Arts, and the College of Fine Arts (CFA), has determined that it will be safer to focus on smaller more student driven creative work that can be presented virtually. We will return to larger productions when appropriate safety precautions for students, faculty, staff and audience members can be met. The CFA will maintain a website with additional updates as circumstances evolve.“

Your hands-on learning through productions will look different this year. However that has opened up our ability to explore and experiment with new avenues of production. We believe it will be exciting and offer new experiences. We have made slight adjustments to our theatre season to better enable working in our current environment.

We'll produce our playwriting competition winner *The Monty Hall Problem*. The show will release in October.

We'll shoot our theatre film, *Rule of 3*.

Stagestruck Audio Theatre will record and release the 3-episode series *Gumshoes*.

We are excited to announce that we will be presenting a brand new piece of theatre: *Our Spaces, Our Voices* which will be created by you.

We've postponed *She Kills Monsters* to the following year.

The full, newly adjusted School of Performing Arts season is posted on the [Wichita State University School of Performing Arts Current Season Page](#).

We hope to reach out to our design, technical and stage management students in the next few weeks to discuss your projects/assignments. I am sure there are questions. Please don't hesitate to contact us. We will do our best to answer them with the information we have at hand.

Auditions for the theatre season will be done through self-tape submission for projects except the audio show; for that it will be an audio submission. You can find specific information regarding these auditions [here](#). Callback information will be announced at a later date. If you have any questions regarding these auditions please don't hesitate to contact me.

We're excited by the possibilities of the upcoming year, and can't wait to see you all again. We'll continue to update you with any new information regarding classes or productions. If you have questions about anything for the upcoming year please reach out. In the meantime stay safe and be good to yourselves.

Onwards!

Sincerely,

Danette