

THTR 31: MANAGEMENT FOR THE THEATRE & STAGE

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Units:	4
Hours:	4 lecture per week (48 total per quarter)
Advisory:	Not open to students with credit in DRAM 71, THTR 71 or 71X.
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Non-GE
Transferable:	CSU/UC
Grade Type:	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

Description

An introduction to the process and techniques of theatre management. Presentations and models of the business and management side of a theatre production focusing specifically on the roles of the general manager, production manager, and stage manager.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- understand the role of the general manager, production manager and stage manager within the overall scope of a theatrical production or organization
- identify the basic skills and functions of a general manager, production manager, and theatrical stage manager
- analyze scripts for production requirements and relative costs
- develop a budget format for a theatrical production
- create a production schedule for a theatrical production
- develop a production prompt book for stage
- develop stage management forms used in the rehearsal process and performances
- understand the psychological role played by theatre managers in dealing with many different types of people, often from many diverse backgrounds

Course Content

- Assess the roles and contributions of a general manager, production manager, and stage manager in preparing the production of a play for performance.
- Identify the ways management contributes to the success of a theatrical performance.
- Analyze a script to identify cues for lighting, sound, scene shifts, properties, costume changes, and blocking.
- Review the practice and fundamentals of reading a ground plan of a set layout.
- Study the stage management techniques used in touring companies to bridge the cultural barriers between different societal production techniques.

Lab Content

Not applicable.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- Studio facilities with access to drafting tables, rehearsal rooms, and theatres.
- Online portions of the class will require weekly student access to an internet enabled computer capable of accessing the campus course delivery system.

Method(s) of Evaluation

- Class participation
- In-class assignments and activities
- Class projects
- Research presentation
- Final exam

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Cooperative learning exercises
- Self-paced
- Oral presentations
- Independent study
- Field trips

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Stern, Lawrence, and Jill Gold. Stage Management. 11th ed. New York: Routledge, 2016.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

A. Create a hypothetical prompt book for a production. The book should include:

- A floor plan showing blocking and staging notes referenced to the script, all blocking and staging
- A prop plot for the scenes
- A costume plot for the scenes

B. Read Ibsen's "Doll's House" and create the following production planning documents:

- A scene list by location and time of day, include the start and end of the scene; a brief synopsis of the action; and any special production requirements or questions
- A form for a production contact list using the members of the class or other fictitious persons and including names, character(s) played or production job, space for contact information
- A publicity info form which will be filled out by each member of the production team and cast

4. Break the play down into 10-15 minute long french scenes and create a matrix cross-referencing the characters in the play with their appearance in each scene

C. Using Ibsen's "Doll's House," create a production schedule from concept through design and performance closing

D. Attend a live theatre performance and write an analysis of the complexity of the production from the point of view of a general manager, production manager, or stage manager

E. Interview a professional working in a management position for a theatre company or production and present a synthesis of the challenges and successes associated with the job

Discipline(s)

Theatre Arts, Stagecraft