

Interdisciplinary Study Major Proposal: Theatre and Mass Communications

I am sure that at some point in everyone's childhood the phrase "When I grow up, I want to be..." began the concoction of an ambitious vocational spectrum. I was one of those children creating hypothetical futures that ranged from doctor, to designer, to architect, to paleontologist, to any field related to an intriguing subject. Now as a young woman, I have since tamed boundless, childish ambition just enough to sift through the plethora and realize my inherent and unyielding calling in theatre performance and production and mass communications in broadcasting and film.

The studies of Theatre and Mass Communications are similar both in theory and practice. At an academic standpoint, both require a background in verbal and written communication, artistic and literary composition, and performance. As for practical experience, each production process requires skillful time management and sensitivity, scrutiny, and meticulousness, all of which can only be achieved through repetitive hands-on experience. As such, this Interdisciplinary Studies Major is tailored to merge the key aspects of both theatre and mass communications production to acquire adequate theoretical education and practical experience. The appropriate theatre courses focus on each element of theatre production; and when merged with realms of study related to Mass Communications--English, Film, Photography, along with complimentary courses in Psychology and Anthropology--these courses together will address the previously mentioned theoretical and practical characteristics of both fields.

Theatre courses such as Art of Stage & Properties Management, Scenery & Lighting, Costume & Make-up, and Production Design address the technical elements of production for both the stage and film. Art of Public Speaking teaches vocal methods and techniques that aim in developing strong speech and verbal communication to convey ideas with conviction,

persuasion, presence, and most importantly, clarity both on-stage and in-front of the camera. Lastly, Senior Seminar combines all of the production elements envisioned by senior theatre majors and puts them into action by organizing, rehearsing, and running a production.

To specifically address the Mass Communications portion of this major, a course in Media Psychology aids in understanding mass media's psychological effect on societal and individual perception. Skillful writing, another essential of mass communication studies, developed through Creative Writing: Non-Fiction, will hone the necessity of written communication. Courses in Visual Anthropology, Film Theory, and Photography will concentrate on effective as well as artistic visual portrayals of the world, its people, and their cultures through the powerful medium of film. Finally, an internship at a broadcasting station, such as AETN, will turn knowledge into practice through hands-on experiences in a professional mass communications environment.

As for my capstone experience, I will combine what I have learned through these carefully selected courses and internships and create a monthly broadcast featuring stories based on the requests of the Hendrix student body. The featured stories will not only act as a connection among students, faculty, and the community, but will also be a representation of Hendrix's liberal arts education which encourages students to strive to explore outside of individual interests and comfort zones to becoming a well-rounded person. Upon filming and editing completion, each episode will be posted on the Hendrix College website and Youtube for all those interested in watching and exploring. This plan will be approved through the Hendrix College Marketing and Communications Office by Mr. Frank Cox, whom Professor Muse has been in contact with concerning this project. The project will not be counted as course credit; however, the project will be evaluated by both Professor Muse and Professor Richardson based

on the improvements in organization, diction, vocabulary, delivery, thoroughness of research, and overall aesthetic composition of each broadcast.

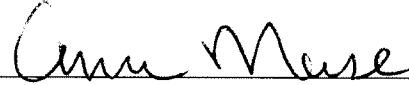
Major Requirements:

1. Art of Stage & Properties Management TART 275
2. Art of Public Speaking TART 110
3. Production: Scenery & Lighting TART 260
4. Production Design TART 450
5. Production: Costume & Make-up 280
6. Senior Seminar TART 497
7. Creative Writing: Non-Fiction ENGC 301
8. Media Psychology PSYC 244
9. Visual Anthropology ANTH 250
10. Intern: AETN Television Production TART 498
11. Film Theory ENGF 381
12. Photography ARTS 250

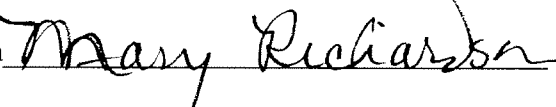
Current Status: Junior

Faculty Committee:

Ann Muse

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Mary Richardson

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