Guidelines for Honors Thesis in Performing Arts

**B.F.A. in Commercial Dance**
The senior project is geared towards integrating dancers immediately into the professional dance community in New York by creating a mentorship opportunity for students to work with professionals on repertory to be presented at Pace. The students will choose a choreographer to set a solo piece with them, which will be presented in a concert of senior solos at the University. This concert will be adjudicated by a panel of faculty and professionals. From this adjudication, a select group will participate in a professional showcase at an off-campus theater. This project will give students an opportunity to create a working relationship with a choreographer over a few weeks or months while the piece is being created or set. This will integrate them into the community and give them potential opportunities in these choreographers’ professional projects. Students will have to cover all costs involved in performing the repertory but will be granted free space at Pace to rehearse. Students in the Performance track of the BFA will be required to work with outside choreographers, students in the Pedagogy or Choreography tracks of the BFA will be allowed to choose between working with an outside mentor or creating their own solo.

**Honors-Level Thesis**
The honors students involved in this project have additional work above and beyond the average Commercial Dance Majors project. Honors students are required to perform two solos of differing disciplines, one classical modern or ballet and one solo set on them by a present day choreographer of any discipline.

The classical piece must be researched and granted permission for performance through the corresponding foundation or governing licensing body. Additionally students must write a research paper on the classical solo they perform after researching and viewing it at the Lincoln Center Library Dance Archive or another approved venue. This paper should be a reflection on the process and the history of the piece. The second solo should be a piece that is either set on them by a current day choreographer or a piece that they choose to choreograph for themselves. No paper is the required for the second piece of choreography.
B.A. in Stage Management
The senior thesis in Stage Management grants students in their final year of the program the opportunity to stage manage a large scale production in the Performing Arts Department’s regular season. Demonstrating their sense of responsibility and communication skills, students will handle and coordinate diverse groups of artistic personalities with tactful discipline and a sense of humor. Drawing on their organizational ability, acquired technical knowledge (sounds, music, lights, design and construction, etc.), and familiarity with union requirements, these students will establish a creative environment by combining the ability to prioritize, anticipate, and solve problems with calm sensitivity and grace under pressure.

Honors Level Thesis
The senior thesis for honors students in the Stage Management program includes an additional dramaturgical research component. Honors Stage Managers will compile images, documents, articles, and any other writings that thematically or historically relate to the play which the student is stage managing. (Information on previous productions of the play can account for no more than 1/4th of the total research.) Honor students will also write a 10 - 12 page paper relating how this dramaturgical research impacted their understanding and management of the process and the performances of their play.
**B.F.A. Acting**

Designed to prepare and showcase the graduating student, the senior thesis requires the senior to perform a comprehensive review, exploration, and evaluation of background for the pieces performed. Additionally, the senior is expected to prepare his or her resume, portfolio, or audition materials required to pursue advanced training and/or a professional career.

**Honors Level Thesis**

The honors student must complete a 12-page paper which documents and expands on the research performed in preparing for the performance. This paper must include at least a bibliography of the sources used or cited, a detailed journal of the processes used to develop and realize the performance, and a reaction narrative describing the outcomes and experiences in the preparation and performance of the thesis project.

**Honors list of classes for B.F.A. Acting Program**

(B.F.A. Acting Majors only)

Honors Exclusive – 
- None

Honors Non-Exclusive – 
- World Theatre

Honors Option – 
- World Theatre
- PAAT 272 Script Analysis
- Theatre History I
- Theatre History II
- Acting V
- Acting VI
- Acting VII
B.F.A. in Musical Theatre
Designed to prepare and showcase the graduating student, the senior thesis requires the senior to perform a comprehensive review, exploration, and evaluation of background for the pieces performed. Additionally, the senior is expected to prepare his or her resume, portfolio, or audition materials required to pursue advanced training and/or a professional career.

Honors Level Thesis
The honors student must complete a 12-page paper which documents and expands on the research performed in preparing for the performance. This paper must include at least a bibliography of the sources used or cited, a detailed journal of the processes used to develop and realize the performance, and a reaction narrative describing the outcomes and experiences in the preparation and performance of the thesis project.
Performance Ensemble: B.A. in Directing and B.A. in Acting

PAPE 410: Performance Workshop (Fall, Senior year) is an opportunity for students to experience the preparation for the process of directing a performance on or off campus. Students augment their course work by choosing the material and joining a performance company. Tasks are approved by department faculty. Preliminary interviews are required for all directing students and must happen no later than the Spring semester of their Junior year.

PAPE 499: Senior Showcase (Spring, Senior year) is an opportunity for directing majors to complete a body of work in their chosen area, culminating in a performance on or off campus, where they will showcase their most successful pieces.

Honors Level Thesis
Both PAPE 410: Performance Workshop and PAPE 499 Senior Showcase count as the Honors Thesis Presentation.

Option A
Honors students must write a 15-20 page paper addressing the following elements:
- The experience in directing the production; the process described and studied in the formal classroom and workshops; the nature and purpose of the performance
- An analysis of the chosen material including all aspects of the production (design, dramaturgical approach, styles)
- The working experience in the practical applications of classroom instruction, as well as the traditions and work ethic of the theater; the rehearsal process, including the interaction with actors and designers
- The student’s personal approach to the play and how difficulties were overcome
- A description of the final judgment on the work, the showcase, the response of the invited industrial professionals, and the student’s personal success or lack of success.

Option B
Honors students direct a live performance, installation, short film or video in collaboration with students from other concentrations. Emphasis is on visual and aural realization from a story, play, or screenplay to affect an audience through dramatic presentation. Student directors take creative leadership of their project in collaboration with the talent and crew. The ability to incorporate and maximize the value of contributions made by the actors, designers, cinematographers, editors, and other specialists will be assessed. Directors will create storyboards, cast performers, participate in pre-production and production meetings, execute shooting within set production parameters, and supervise editing to a rough cut. They will be expected to continue with the project until delivery of a complete performance or master ready for live or recorded exhibition. Honors students must write a 15-20 page paper covering the same topics as described above.