2021 ATHE Directing Program: Call for Proposals

Individual Paper/Presentation Abstract Submissions Due to Focus Groups: November 1, 2020

Directing Focus Group Full Panel Proposals Due to the DP Planner: November 15, 2020

Directing Focus Group Full Panel Proposals Due to ATHE: December 1, 2020

ATHE 2021 – Austin, Texas – RE: ATHE (August 5-8, 2021)

Our conference theme invites you to explore and interrogate all things regarding ATHE and what it means to direct theatre. The conference theme recognizes a multiplicity of what “RE:” can mean for theatre and we encourage you to explore how RE: relates to directing in 2021: Reverberation, Reparation, Revolt, Recover, Repatriate, Resist, Renew, Rewrite, Remember, Reckon, Rehearse, Reclaim, Resonate, Research, Refresh, Restore, Retire, Resilience, Recast, Reframe. For further exploration of the general theme on the ATHE site click here.

Specific Directing Program Topics of Interest

**Redefining Theatre:**

Is what we do still theatre if it is only seen digitally?

How do hybrid/interactive performance concepts change the ways we direct?

What post-Zoom technologies and directing methodologies for digital directing have been effective?

What specific challenges and strategies have been encountered in auditioning with recorded materials?

How has season selection changed considering both campus and department communities and how content can be delivered?

**Rethinking and Revising Directing:**

How do we as directors break down hierarchical structures while developing a strong effective Point of View for a production?

How can we as directors and educators honor the people whose stories are being told?

When do we need to resist telling a story, remove ourselves and encourage someone else to reclaim their own stories?

What traditional directing techniques can be shifted to tell new stories in more equitable ways? Are there techniques we may have missed, misread or can learn from?
How has experimental and/or immersive theatre work (considerations, methods, ethics, safety) made us rethink our processes?

How is the role of the director being revised with devising and interdisciplinary collaboration?

What methods need revising in response to shifts in audience demographics and student learning styles?

**Reverberations of 2020:**

How do we tell stories as directors one year after the pandemic hit?

How has the Black Lives Matter movement been reflected in directing? How can it help reframe future work?

What are the best practices regarding casting of BIPOC actors?

What initiatives for diversity are working and which ones need to be retired?

How can directors best support their BIPOC colleagues?

**Reckoning and Renewing our Theatre Departments:**

How essential is in-person instruction to our art? Is there a way to recast the concept?

How have reflections on equity and diversity affected season selection?

Are we liberating or limiting student potential in our training methods?

How do we include intimacy training for both instructors and students in our programs?

How do we mentor students to become resilient theatre professionals?

**Retell and Relate:**

How do we write about and publish our stories of performance?

What are the intersections between research, praxis, and practice?

As theatre programs come under the chopping block, how can we reclaim and reiterate the importance of our art for education?

What practical exercises can we share to foster growth among our members and encourage collaboration across platforms?
Please Note:

- Single Focus Group Sessions should address questions to the Conference Planner and FGR to gain approval before submitting their final proposal.
- Multidisciplinary proposals must be authorized by TWO sponsoring ATHE focus groups. Email and get authorization from each focus group’s conference planner before submitting. It is best to give yourself plenty of time to gather the approvals. Last minute proposals may not be able to move forward.
- The Directing Focus Group will be accepting single presentations or panel submissions this year. We will attempt to put relevant submissions together into full panels for submission to ATHE.
- We will have **no A/V available for the conference**. Please think about alternative methods for sharing your work.
- For more detailed information see: [https://www.athe.org/page/21conf_home](https://www.athe.org/page/21conf_home)

Please send individual paper/panel submissions no later than November 1, 2020, and planned full panel submissions no later than November 15, 2020 to Directing Program Conference Planner, Joelle Ré Arp-Dunham (jarpdunham@radford.edu) and Focus Group Rep, Will Lewis (wwlewis@purdue.edu).

Full panel submissions are due directly to the ATHE submission system on the ATHE Website by December 1, 2020 for consideration.