O. Theatre Educator/ Theatre for Young Audiences Specialist

Theatre Educators are arts-in-education specialists who are responsible for preparing students to attain licenses or certification and/or expertise to teach theatre in primary and secondary schools. As such, the theatre arts educator is responsible for having a broad knowledge of theatre practice, and specific expertise and credentials in training future theatre teachers who must be able to teach performance and production; promote social development, self-expression, creativity, and teamwork in their students; as well as direct and produce student theatre.

Specialists in Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) are artist/scholars with expertise in children’s theatre — they may be actors, directors, designers, playwrights or puppeteers. They may also be administrators of educational programs and activities that involve children and young adults in creating and experiencing theatre.

Both may also have expertise in theatre for social change or may implement the research and expertise required of an TYA in service of advancing the field of TYA or Theatre Education training.

When evaluating documentation in a tenure dossier, external reviewers, administrators, and the tenure and promotion committee may ask themselves whether the candidate’s tenure portfolio demonstrates the ability to teach and use their practice to explore:

Production Expertise

- Knowledge of basic production technique in design and technical areas
- Skill in communicating direction when working with adult or child performers
- Demonstrated skill in bringing social issues to light through theatre
- Proficiency in approaches to performing theatre for young audiences including, but not limited to acting, improvisation or theatre games, mime, or puppetry
- Development and advancement of the field of TYA/Theatre Education training by contributing new and innovative exercises that train students and future theatre educators to accomplish the tasks outlined above
- Building upon or adapting existing TYA/ Theatre Education training methodologies to improve the efficacy of said methods in achieving the tasks outlined above
- Applying scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL) to actor training to contribute to an understanding of the field of Theatre Education/ TYA training
- Responding to the needs of a shifting theatrical landscape by creating and developing new areas in the field of TYA/ Theatre Education training. This may include, but it not limited to, theatrical intimacy, trauma-informed pedagogy, digital performance, and culturally specific approaches to craft.
- Training in Mental Health First Aid, Bystander Intervention, Anti-Racism, LGBTQ+ support, and DEIJE work

Historical Context

- Expert knowledge of dramatic literature across the globe from classic to contemporary genres
- Understanding of how performance addresses socio-cultural events historically and in the present
- Knowledge of repertories, methodologies, production, education, and activities as they inform theatre for young audiences
In depth understanding of national and state arts curriculum standards in the area of fine arts and theatre

**Collaborative Skills**

- Ability to work and collaborate under pressure with various artists, technologists, and technicians, many or all of whom may be relatively unskilled students
- Ability to work with parents, educational administrators, and other parties interest in curriculum building/assessment for young audiences
- Capability in higher levels of planning required in seasonal, curricular, and assessment contexts
- Ability to supervise and maintain safe operations in accordance with state and local codes and authorities having jurisdiction (fire, safety, etc.).
- An understanding of ethical practices associated with the field of professional and academic theatre and performance
- An understanding of how DEIJ is considered when selecting research projects for students
- An understanding of how DEIJ informs the recruitment of students, in cases where that is part of the candidate’s labor
- An understanding of how DEIJ issues impact their life at the university and an ability to think about their own implicit biases