

The Creative Spark - Making Theatre and Performance Now
M 1:30-3:30 Wright Theatre
Conference Meeting Sign Up on Calendly
Office Number M18 (in PAC Lobby)
cmanson@sarahlawrence.edu

More and more artists are multi-hyphenate like actor-writer-coder, designer-director-singer, or dancer-landscape artist-filmmaker. Whether making different kinds of work or taking on various roles in the process, this course will help you find the multitude in yourself and art. The Creative Spark focuses on nurturing creativity, curiosity, and a resilient artistic practice in the expanded field of theatre and performance while exploring the contemporary landscape of theatrical approaches to making new work. The class will survey the many roles of creating work as a director, designer, dramaturg, performer, organizer, and generator. The course will also investigate contemporary artists embracing theatrical forms of care, devising, the choreographic, immersive, post-internet, music theatre, staging futures, performance cabaret, mixed reality, and beyond. Students will move between developing their creative practice, researching artists and companies through readings, videos, seeing live performance, and creating work through exercises, workshops, and creative prompts. Some of the artists and companies surveyed in this class include Ligia Lewis, who creates immersive, participatory, sensory environments for audiences; The Builders Association, who make interactive app-driven plays; Justin Vivian Bond, who produces cabarets centering trans and queer experience; Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, who invites audiences to follow them along a cross-platform celebration of black love and power; and Big Art Group, who create queer multimedia performance through a technique called real-time film. The Creative Spark meets once a week for 2 hours and will alternate individual conferences with small group meetings/conferences to include screenings, field trips, and performances. Students will also enroll in two other Theatre Components of their choice to complete their Theatre Third. Students are required to attend scheduled Theatre Meetings and Think Tanks and complete a set amount of technical support hours with student productions in the Theatre Program.

Requirements for all students:

Contribute and Participate:

Engaged participation is essential throughout the class. Students are expected to actively engage in the learning, research, creation, and reflection process to demonstrate the acquisition of skills taught throughout the class.

All students are expected to participate fully in every aspect of this course.

- Wear comfortable shoes and clothes that allow a full range of motion. Much of the work we'll do in class will require physical movement.
- Cell phones and any electronic devices must be turned to the **off** position and put away at the beginning of class. Students who answer their phones or insist on text messaging during class will be asked to leave promptly and counted absent for that day. *Students awaiting an emergency call should talk to the professor prior to class to discuss need and protocol.*

Presentations:

Students will participate in group presentations, attend all rehearsals, technical rehearsals, performances, guests workshops, and reflection sessions.

Read:

The course requires all students to complete the assigned readings in the brief. After reflecting on the readings students should prepare their own research to augment and share with their group and class.

Course Policies

By maintaining your enrollment in this course, you agree to these terms. These guidelines help create a safe, supportive, and productive atmosphere for artistic work. Your adherence to these policies allows all the students in the class to enjoy the fullest potential of our work together.

Community Standards

As a condition of enrollment in this component, I expect you to positively contribute to the community in order to fully engage in the intellectual life of this classroom. Let's work to make this a safe space for expression and self-identification. Students are expected to treat *everyone* with respect, regardless of race, country of origin, disability, physical appearance, age, gender and expression, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or marital status. Lack of respect and harassment includes offensive comments related to any protected personal characteristic, deliberate intimidation, sustained disruption of speech, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention. Violations of this agreement are subject to a response from the professor and the school administration.

Care

Our artform often engages with difficult subjects, not just intellectually but emotionally. It is important to engage in rigorous discussion and even disagreement in the process of creating work. It is also imperative that you engage in discussion with care and empathy for the other collaborators. Aim to disagree without becoming disagreeable. Let us not shy away from the hard discussions. Let us work to create a safe space so that we may live our true selves and engage and confront the uncomfortable, the political and emotional issues of our times. Critically examining and assessing our most basic assumptions and values is not just one of the tasks of theater and performance but is an activity vital to living an authentic life. I urge you to listen more than you speak and show care for your fellow students. Let us work together to ensure a classroom environment that supports your taking these intellectual and emotional risks.

Attendance

Students are allowed **one** absence for the semester. If you have professional or personal obligations (such as an interview or a family trip), plan accordingly. Advanced notification of your "free" absence is appreciated (though not required). This "free" unexcused absence may not be taken on a day when you or your classmates are presenting a performance (noted with an asterisk on the course calendar). **Students are considered absent if they arrive after 11:15am.** Repeated tardiness and absence will be reflected in your evaluation and grade.

Tardiness

Class begins and ends on time. You are late if you arrive after class begins (i.e. after the published start time).


Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. If changes are made, an updated syllabus will be posted on google docs.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:




If you have a disability that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the objectives of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please contact Disabilities Services, located in Westlands 116. You may also call Disability Services at 914.395.2235. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Sarah Lawrence College

Community Agreement

 FYS Community Agreement

Schedule: Fall 2022(Subject to Change)

Week 1 (Sept 5): Introduction

- Introduction
- Expanding Theatre!
 - Image -  Elements of Theatre_FYS_22-23.jpg
 - Image -  Types of Theatre_FYS_22-23.jpg
-  Creative Practice Notebook

Week 2 (Sept 12) A: Viewpoints

- Viewpoints

Week 3 (Sept 19) B: Library

- Library Workshop

Week 4 (Sept 26) A: Collaboration Tool Kit

- Collaboration Tool Kit
- Devising Discussion and Lab

Week 5 (Oct 3) B:

- Devising Lab

Week 6 (Oct 10) A:

- Devising Showings and Feedback

Week 7 (Oct 17): NO CLASS - Study Days

Week 8 (Oct 24) B:

- Acting Discussion and Lab

Week 9 (Nov 1) A:

- Acting Lab

Week 10 (Nov 8) B:

- Acting Showings and Feedback

Week 11 (Nov 14) A:

- Directing Discussion and Lab

Week 12 (Nov 21):

- Directing Lab

Week 13 (Nov 28) B:

- Directing Showings and Feedback

Week 14 (Dec 5) A:

- Wild Card

Week 15 (Dec 13) B: Reflection/Self Eval

- Self Eval Due - link <https://forms.gle/KE6Yk3Dk7RnoKMmV8>

WINTER BREAK

Week 1 (Jan 30) A: Performing Care

- Overview of the Second Semester
- READ: [Performing Care - Mansoor - Currents V2 \(unpublished\)](#)
[HedvaTue, Johanna. "Sick Woman Theory." *Mask Magazine*, 19 Jan. 2016](#)

Week 2 (Feb 6) B: Performing Care

- DISCUSSION and Lab: [Performing Care - Mansoor - Currents V2 \(unpublished\)](#)
[HedvaTue, Johanna. "Sick Woman Theory." *Mask Magazine*, 19 Jan. 2016](#)
- Break Into Groups

Week 3 (Feb 13) A: Performing Care

- Group Creation

Week 4 (Feb 20) B: Performing Care

- Group Creation with feedback

Week 5 (Feb 27) A: Performing Care

- Presentations
- Discussion

Week 6 (March 6) B: Performing Care

- Feedback on Performing Care
- READ: [Eckert, Stephen M. "Immersive Theatre." *Currents 2017: Contemporary Performance Think Tank*, edited by Caden Manson, 1st ed., vol. 1, ser. 1, Contemporary Performance, 2017, pp. 38–50. 1.](#)
[Activating Co-Presence in Performance - Philip Wesley Gates - Unpublished](#)

Week 7 (March 13)

SPRING BREAK

Week 8 (March 20) A: Co-Presence/Immersive Theatre

- DISCUSSION and Lab: [Eckert, Stephen M. "Immersive Theatre." *Currents 2017: Contemporary Performance Think Tank*, edited by Caden Manson, 1st ed., vol. 1, ser. 1, Contemporary Performance, 2017, pp. 38–50. 1.](#)
[Activating Co-Presence in Performance - Philip Wesley Gates - Unpublished](#)
- Break Into Groups

Week 9 (March 27) B: Co-Presence/Immersive Theatre

- Group Creation

Week 10 (April 3) A: Immersive

- Group Creation with Feedback

Week 11 (April 10) B: Post-Internet Performance

- Presentations
- Discussion
- READ: [Eckert, Stephen M. "Post Internet Performance ." *Currents 2017, Contemporary Performance, 2017.*](#)

Week 12 (April 17) A: Post-Internet Performance

- DISCUSSION and Lab:
[Eckert, Stephen M. "Post Internet Performance ." *Currents 2017, Contemporary Performance, 2017.*](#)
- Break Into Groups

Week 13 (April 24) B: Post-Internet Performance

- Group Creation

Week 14 (May 1) A: Post-Internet Performance

- Group Creation with Feedback

Week 15 (May 8) B: Wrap-Up/Self Eval

- Presentations
- Discussion
- Wrap-Up