

Season Announcement for FALL 2020

Tufts Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies

Hello everyone,

I'm writing to share an update on the Fall season for the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. Like so many performance venues around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed what we can offer all members our community, ranging from the production team to the audience. We had planned to produce *Spring Awakening*, directed by Maurice Parent, as well as an in-person Fall Dance Concert. Social distancing guidelines and care for everyone's safety have generated a change in plans. We have received permission to stage *Spring Awakening* in Fall 2021.

For the coming semester, we are embracing this moment of radical potential to explore, experiment, and innovate. Throughout the year we will ask: "How can we fashion our work into a tool for social justice that can be wielded beyond a single performance? How can we use the power of our practice to shift not only dialogue, but *outcome* around critical questions of diversity, equity, and inclusion?"

Our Fall Theatre production will be a three-week festival of staged readings presented in streaming format.

Directed by Maurice Parent, this trio of works explores systemic racism, class divisions, and politics. We hope that these plays will provide a jumping-off point for ongoing conversations about the role of theatre in community transformation.

Play titles will be announced soon.

Audition information will be circulated by the end of August.

Our Fall Dance Concert will take a timely new form.

We look forward to **live-streaming** a curated collection of movement works from student portfolios created in Solo Dance for Camera and Dance Repertory & Performance for Virtual Spaces.

This season brings unprecedented challenges as well as new opportunities to rise to the occasion. We already know how to produce plays in the Balch Arena Theater and choreograph concerts in our Dance Lab. We can now turn our ingenuity, our gift for improvisation, and our spirit of collaboration to creating an exciting line-up of fall events that will welcome in *new* performers and *new* audiences.

We invite you to join us on this adventure!

All the best,
Heather