

GRADUATE THESIS CONCERT

School Sponsored and Independent Concerts Policies

Every year the third-year MFA candidates must publically present their creative thesis work, either in the School sponsored Graduate Thesis Concert or in an independent concert, typically off campus.

The below policies and protocol apply to MFA thesis productions in the MCD Hayes Christensen Theatre, MCD Studio 240 and alternative venues. The formal proscenium production of choreographic work is only one avenue for the fulfillment of a thesis project. Projects produced in alternative spaces are equally valued, supported and encouraged. Every thesis must include a public presentation of creative work.

Those who wish to present their work outside of the MCD Theatre must inform and work with their thesis committees to assure that these performances are feasible. While this format meets realities of the world, the logistics of alternative venues may complicate student, production crew, faculty and course schedules. Working off campus requires extra commitment from the candidate and their committee. All rentals, programming, publicity, costuming, security, insurance, technical resources and coordination will be at the cost of the MFA candidate.

In their 5th semester, each candidate will receive a thesis research scholarship, which is directed to one's thesis work in general and not specifically in support of one's thesis concert. The amount of this scholarship will be determined annually by the School of Dance Director. However, if a candidate has any unpaid bills at the University, e.g. library fines, then this scholarship will automatically be applied towards payment of these bills.

Information regarding the two types of presentation of ones' thesis work is as follows:

1. Presenting in the School Sponsored Graduate Concert Program:

- a. The School of Dance will provide posters and programs for this event, video documentation of a performance, and full technical/theater production support.

2. Presenting in your own your Independent Concert:

Option 1: All money will be processed through the School of Dance

- a. All participants who are not current students of the School of Dance must sign a liability waiver available in MCD room 106 and must be turned in to administration prior to your event.

- b. ALL income and expenses are handled through the Graduate student(s) presenting. No reimbursements will be made.
- c. You represent yourself and do not represent the University of Utah School of Dance and reference to the University and School of Dance should not be included in your marketing or program materials.
- d. If you choose to use the MCD Theatre or other space within the building a rental agreement must be completed and costs for personnel used in the rental will be charged. Terms of the rental agreement must be followed.
- e. ALL PROFITS OR LOSSES WILL GO TO THE GRADUATE STUDENT(S) WHO HAVE PRESENTED THE PERFORMANCE.
- f. It is suggested that you get all agreements in writing, obtain receipts, and that you obtain liability insurance and liability agreements from all participants. You are not covered by the University of Utah or School of Dance liability agreements.

Policies for MCD Productions

The Department of Modern Dance will provide:

- A faculty member to serve as overall concert/project advisor.
- MFA committee advisors to advise all individual thesis performance projects.
- The MCD Hayes Christensen Theatre for three or four performances depending on the number of choreographers involved.
- Concert/project poster, limited mailing, and programs if necessary.
- Costume advisement from the Department costume designer.
- Lighting design expertise from the Department technical director and/or other advice on site-specific works as necessary.
- Technical crew necessary for the running of all scheduled shows in MDC Theatre. Due to staff resource limitations, Studio 240 performances, off-site and site-specific works will require students to make arrangements for volunteer crew well in advance and/or find alternative technical support. All crew members must be approved by the Department Technical Director. Any performances done outside of the MCD Theatre can only happen with notification and approval of one's thesis committee.
- Videotaping to document choreography in the MCD Theatre or Studio 240. Individual arrangements need to be made for alternative site documentation.

Protocol for Thesis-Related Creative Research

- Only students who have presented and passed their thesis proposals, and have established MFA committees, are eligible to participate on the graduate concert or in alternative MFA related production projects performed on or off campus.
- **The thesis committee must approve all thesis projects before they can be publicly produced. The committee must also be invited to rehearsals/artistic development of all thesis projects on a regular basis.**
- Existing costumes can be used with the permission of the Department costume designer with cleaning costs to be paid by the student.
- The graduate concert in the MCD Theater with pauses and intermissions(s) will not exceed 2 hours of total concert time and/or a maximum of 80 minutes of actual dance time.
- To accommodate more than 80 minutes of dance and ensure equity, students may need to establish an A and B program on alternative nights.
- Concerts will start at 7:30 PM in keeping with all other Department concert starting times unless otherwise previously approved.
- The faculty concert advisor, front office, and the Chair, must proofread posters and all other publicity materials.
- All MFA students are expected to remain in constant communication with their supervisory committees throughout the production process. Failure to do so may result in the production of a work being cancelled.
- Inclusion in the Graduate Concert is predicated on committee involvement and their approval of the work's readiness to be performed.
- Candidates not working effectively with cast, crew, faculty, staff or committee are also grounds for non-inclusion.
- Thesis work must be viewed twice before and twice after the salon (once each must be for the full committee.)
- A thesis committee representative(s) should be present at the lighting, tech and concert dress rehearsal and/or alternate venue project run-through, and should be consulted by the student for final feedback and suggestions.

All candidates must be acquainted with the Department Creative Research Content Policy.