



Brigham Young University
Interdisciplinary Music Dance Theatre Program
Professionalism and Casting Policy
2019-2020 Academic Year

Objective: Brigham Young University Music Dance Theatre (MDT) students will treat faculty, staff, visitors and fellow students with a high degree of professionalism based on the principles of charity. MDT students will also be fully aware of and understand their obligation to BYU-sponsored productions while enrolled in the Music Dance Theatre program.

1. Policy: Any MDT student found in violation of the University Honor Code will be referred to the Honor Code Office.

2. Policy: Students who demonstrate consistently unprofessional behavior in class or rehearsal will be dropped from the MDT program. Examples of unprofessional behavior include, but are not limited to:

- *Unexcused absences in class or rehearsal*
- *Disruptive behavior of any kind in class or rehearsal*
- *Chronic tardiness*
- *Failure to honor memorization and preparation deadlines in class or production*
- *Failure to be present in class when scheduled to perform*
- *Reading non-course material during class*
- *Sleeping during class*
- *Playing computer games, texting, checking e-mail, etc. during class*
- *Use of cell phone or text-messaging during class*
- *Regularly leaving class or rehearsal early without making arrangements with the instructor or director*
- *Eating in class where a policy of no eating has been established*
- *Disturbances or distractions during student performances in class or rehearsal*
- *Creating distractions of any kind during classroom lectures or discussions*
- *Consistent failure to meet with performance partners and/or accompanists for scheduled rehearsals*
- *Failure to attend required proficiency examinations*
- *Failing scores in proficiency examinations*
- *Any improper use of electronic devices during class or rehearsal*
- *Any inappropriate or sexually explicit discussion in common areas such as dressing rooms and classrooms.*

3. Policy: At the end of the first and second year in the Music Dance Theatre program, each student will meet with members of the MDT Committee to review their individual progress. During these

interviews, specific goals and objectives will be outlined and reviewed. At the end of the second year, a determination will be made as to whether or not the student should continue in the MDT major. Students whose overall progress is not sufficient, will be asked to change their major and enter another field of study. In the case of continuing and transfer students, this determination may be made at the end of the first year in the program.

PROFESSIONALISM POLICY ENFORCEMENT

If an instructor feels a student is in violation of this policy, the following protocol should be followed:

- First warning: A meeting between the student and the instructor will be conducted to resolve the issues of unprofessional behavior. (*If the violation is extreme or recurring, the Music Dance Theatre Committee will be notified*). Following a consultation between the professor and student, a signed letter describing the problem and subsequent steps toward resolution will be drafted. The instructor will place this letter in the student's file.
- Second warning: The student will be reviewed by the MDT Committee for potential removal from the program. All pertinent information will be presented, considered, and a decision will follow deliberation. A letter containing the decision will be signed by the members of the committee and placed in the student's file.
- Appeal: First appeal will be to the MDT Committee. Second appeal will be to the MDT Executive Committee inclusive of, the Chair of Theatre and Media Arts, the Director of the School of Music, and the Chair of the Dance Department.

MUSIC DANCE THEATRE PROGRAM CASTING POLICY

Objective: More fully integrate the on-campus musical theatre performance experience into the pedagogy of the Music Dance Theatre Program.

1. Policy: All currently enrolled Music Dance Theatre students are required to audition for MDT sponsored on-campus musical theatre productions. These include DeJong, Pardoe and 'workshop' productions. Students are required to participate in all preliminary and callback auditions inclusive of acting, music, and dance calls. **Students who fail to audition will have a registration hold placed on their student records until they meet with the MDT Committee and will be ineligible to receive MDT Talent Awards for one year following the policy infraction.** *Justification:* The audition process is a vital training tool that prepares young performers for the challenges and rigors of auditioning in the professional world of musical theatre. It also provides MDT faculty the opportunity to observe the student's performance skills and techniques in an audition setting. In addition, the shared audition experience provides an opportunity for all students within the MDT program to observe one another's work and encourages discussion of the audition process.

2. Policy: ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED in their first year of the Music Dance Theatre program are required to play AS CAST and are not at liberty to turn down a role in an MDT-sponsored musical. *Justification:* Students in their first year of the MDT program are expected to participate in on-campus performances directed and choreographed by BYU faculty members.

3. Policy: STUDENTS ENROLLED in their first year of the Music Dance Theatre program are ineligible to audition for off-campus productions. *Justification:* Students in their first year of the MDT program need to focus on classroom and studio work as they adjust to the rigors of the training.

4. Policy: All MDT students must participate as an *ensemble* member in at least one BYU musical during their time in the program. It is expected that the majority of students will fulfill this requirement during their freshman year when required to play ‘as cast.’ However, students may also participate in **TWO** ‘minor’ productions as a member of the ensemble to fulfill the requirement. This would include student film musicals, as well as MDT ‘workshop’ productions. *Justification:* A majority of recently graduated MDT alumni work in the ensemble of Broadway, Broadway national touring and regional productions. Learning the protocol and expectations of ensemble members is crucial in the overall training of young performers.

5. Policy: During de Jong and Pardoe musicals, all major roles will have an understudy assigned from the ensemble. It is expected that understudies will thoroughly learn the role inclusive of lines, blocking, music, and choreography and be ready step into the role at any time. One ‘put-in’ rehearsal will take place at the discretion of the director. During this rehearsal, all cast members will be called. Understudies will execute the roles they have been assigned to ‘cover’ during this rehearsal. This is NOT a performance and is not open to the public. NO costumes or make-up will be used during the rehearsal. Sets, lights, props, projections etc. will be used at the discretion of the director and stage management. The orchestra will not be called for this rehearsal. *Justification:* Understudy assignments in Broadway and national touring shows are mandatory for almost all ensemble tracks. Students need the experience of understudying at least one role while maintaining their own ensemble track in preparation for the professional world of music theatre.

6. Policy: All currently enrolled Music Dance Theatre students are obligated to participate in BYU main stage musicals as a priority over off-campus performance opportunities. *Justification:* Main stage musicals are the ‘laboratory’ for the Music Dance Theatre program where students have the opportunity to put skills and techniques introduced in the classroom into practice. Participation by MDT students in the BYU musicals also provides for numerous mentoring opportunities with MDT faculty. Main stage musicals at BYU represent the Music Dance Theatre program to the university community, and should, therefore, be staffed wherever possible by currently enrolled MDT students.

7. Policy: Music Dance Theatre students are highly encouraged, but not required to participate in an off-campus production while enrolled in the MDT program. However, all students must recognize MDT-sponsored productions are always a priority. Students are also **required** to clear off-campus performances that occur during the regular academic year with the MDT Committee. Application forms are available online at mdt.byu.edu. Forms must be completed, submitted and approved by the MDT Committee meeting **prior** to audition/casting. Permission to audition for off campus shows during the academic year will be based on current and most recently completed classroom performance and GPA. The audition form includes questions regarding current GPA and recent proficiency scores. Students whose work in class is not deemed sufficient based on grades and teacher feedback, will NOT be allowed to accept off-campus performance opportunities without jeopardizing their standing in the MDT program. A breach of this policy will result in the student being eliminated from the Music Dance Theatre program. *Justification:* The MDT faculty recognizes the benefit of off-campus performance experiences that offer significant opportunities to build a professional resume and provide a variety of casting opportunities as well as financial compensation. However, a commitment to MDT program and its training objectives must remain a priority for all currently enrolled students.

Student Signature

I _____ understand and accept the Professionalism and Casting Policies of the Music Dance Theatre Program at Brigham Young University and will conduct myself according to the standards outlined in the document at all times.

Student Signature:

Date: _____