



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

College of Fine Arts & Communication
Department of Theatre & Dance

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PRESS RELEASE

The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Theatre & Dance Department announces a new and exciting addition to the curriculum of the Theatre Program. The department will initiate a "Senior Showcase" in which graduating seniors will travel to New York City to audition and perform for select Casting Directors and Agents in Theatre/Television/Film.

This past fall the Department hired two new faculty members, Tim Howard (Coordinator Musical Theatre) and Tyler Marchant (Directing/Acting) both of whom had been working professionally in New York for many years. They were given the mandate to create a bridge to the professional world for the actors training at the University.

Beginning this May, 2008, graduating seniors in the BFA Acting and BFA Musical Theatre programs will travel to New York City to participate in a series of auditions. This "Senior Showcase" has been arranged with individual appointments where students will have the opportunity to audition and perform in the heart of the professional entertainment world.

The Department of Theatre & Dance views this Showcase as an opportunity for students to begin the transition from university training, to the practical know-how of the complex professional world. Students will not only have a chance to audition, but they will also receive feedback and advice about the "business" from these Agents/Casting Directors.

This is a unique and powerful experience for the students. Graduating seniors are often daunted by the immense challenge of *starting* their careers. This opportunity is tailored made to make this difficult process seem possible, and help spread the word of the talent the Midwest is generating.

For further information please contact Tyler Marchant at tyler.marchant@uwsp.edu, Tim Howard at thoward@uwsp.edu, or Gary Olsen, Chair, Department of Theatre & Dance at golsen@uwsp.edu. For biographical information on Tyler Marchant or Tim Howard please see the UWSP website (<http://www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance/>).