



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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Press Release

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Theatre students in NYC

Graduating acting and musical theatre majors at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will again have the chance to audition for professional casting directors and agents in New York City on May 12-15 as part of the Senior Showcase offered through the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Offered for the second year in a row, the Senior Showcase is part of a course that prepares students for an acting career in theatre, film or television, by covering topics such as creating a resume and headshot, auditioning, networking and getting around in New York City.

This year, 10 seniors will travel to New York with their instructors, theatre faculty members Tim Howard and Tyler Marchant, to spend three days auditioning for and meeting with 11 professionals such as Jennifer Rudin, head of casting for Disney Theatricals; Bernie Telsey, a top casting director for both New York and Los Angeles; New York agent Barry Katz; Bob Klein, a casting director for nationally touring shows; and Joel Carlton with DGRW Talent Agency in New York. The professionals also have a dialogue with the students to give them feedback on their auditions, resumes and headshots.

New this year is the opportunity to audition for professionals in the commercial and voice over fields as well as those in theater, television and film. The students and faculty members will also see a Broadway show.

In preparation for the trip, the students will give preview performances for the public on Tuesday, May 5, at 11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, May 7, at 6 p.m. The showings will be held in room 221 of the Noel Fine Arts Center and are free of charge.

Having a chance to audition as well as receive feedback from the casting directors and agents is "a huge step forward in their theatrical career," says Howard. "It's important for us to introduce them and for our students to nurture these relationships." He added that the students are well prepared and will be quite marketable for those who see their auditions, which could lead to future roles or having agent representation.

For further information please contact Marchant at tyler.marchant@uwsp.edu, Howard at thoward@uwsp.edu, or Gary Olsen, chair, Department of Theatre and Dance, at golsen@uwsp.edu. For biographical information on Marchant or Howard please see the UWSP Web site at www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance.