Enhancing the Benedictine Liberal Arts Education through the Arts

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Arthur J. Schmitt Scholar, 2017-2018
High Arts Involvement vs Low Arts Involvement:
- 50% vs 40% obtained gainful employment

37% vs 17% earned a bachelor's degree

97% of elementary schools nationwide don't offer dance and 96% don't offer theater.

72% of business leaders say that creativity is the number one skill they are seeking when hiring.
Preliminary Research
Benedictine University’s Sister School Programs: Saint Benedict/Saint John’s University & Mount Marty College
Benedictine University’s Sister School Programs

- Saint Benedict/Saint John’s University
  - Mission/Learning Goals
    - “The department is committed to scholarly and artistic creativity…”
    - “…helping [students] understand that theater is a formalization of human experience.”
Course Relationships

Benedictine University
- Capstone Project/Course Seminars
- COMM 251 History of Film
- LITR 268 Studies in Drama
- LITR 269 Introduction to Creative Writing
- FNAR 101 Fundamentals of Design

Saint Benedict/Saint John’s University
- THEA 380 Theater Capstone
- Theater History, 337 or 338
- THEA 218 Readings in Culture and Dramatic Literature
- THEA 211 Playwriting
- THEA 334 Basic Scene Design
Mount Marty College

Overview

“Perfect for students whose interests are not singularly focused in music or drama, but span both — you'll be able to soak up as much experience and knowledge as possible in college...[which will] allow you enough spare time to pursue your performing arts passions and improve your career prospects through interdisciplinary study. (a double major).”
Course Relationships

Benedictine University
- LITR 265 Shakespeare
- SPCH 110 Speech Communication
- LITR 269 Introduction to Creative Writing
- COMM 251 History of Film/LITR 268 Studies in Drama
- THEO 165 The Church
- MGT 380 Strategic Management
- Capstone Project/Course Seminars

Mount Marty College
- STH 355 Shakespeare's Drama
- STH 201 Oral Interpretation
- STH 260 Playwriting
- STH 380 Theatre History and Literature II
- STH 422 Drama in the Church
- STH 435 Theatre Management
- STH 490 Senior Capstone
Student Body D2L Survey Results

Survey Interval (2 weeks): Friday, November 17\textsuperscript{th} 2017 – Friday, December 1\textsuperscript{st} 2017
Student Participation

250-252 Responses on each question from Survey Monkey (Up to 2 skips per question)
What year are you in school?

Diverse range of students who are at different stages of their Benedictine experience.

The significance of the seniors responses is that it provides insight on how a class or program may have impacted their experience at Benedictine.
Would you be interested in a theatre course if it satisfied an interdisciplinary seminar (200- or 300-level) credit?

A majority of students would be interested in an IDS theater course, whether that is even a little interest or a lot!
Would you be interested in a theater course if it satisfied a QCA (creative arts) credit?

Over half the students would be interested in this course if it merely satisfied a QCA credit. Could develop more courses as a response to student interest.
Would you attend plays/musicals directed by Benedictine faculty/staff?

Will enhance the connection between faculty, staff and the student experience.

Retention of students who are engaged.
If you were to take a theater course at Benedictine, what theater aspect(s) would you like to learn about in the classroom?

The potential of offering more than one course.

- Realities of Theater: 50%
- Theater within Cultures: 38%
- Music in Theater: 48%
- Theatrical Literature: 26%
- Acting: 57%
- Directing: 43%
- Shakespeare in Theater: 23%
- Theater Management: 28%
- Scenin Design: 36%
- Playwriting: 38%
- History of theater: 27%
- Would Not: 13%
“Explores the basic elements of theater - the drama and production methods. Emphasizes the integration of all elements into a production, and the relationship between modern and historical ideas and methods.” - MVCC Theatre Appreciation
IDS Course Integration
Mission and IDS303 with Dana Horstein
“Students will examine stories from a variety of cultures, time periods, and formats (short story, poem, movie, music, audio documentary, theater, etc.) to explore evolving ideas about individual identity throughout time...In addition, students will gain enhanced applications by sharing their own stories and gathering those of loved ones. “
Benedictine Theater Club
Timelines

Pre-Show

During Show

Post-Show
Why? Why now? Why here?
Why?

- Retention rates (Benedictine experience and interests)
- Enrollment (Students looking for a robust Liberal Arts Education)
- Exploration
- Benedictine Core Values
Awareness
Sources

- https://www.mtmc.edu/academics/majors-and-programs/arts-and-humanities/performing-arts/
- http://www.csbsju.edu/theater/curriculum