The Drama Program is an integral part of the Performing and Creative Arts Department, sharing its mission to educate, mentor and train students who wish to pursue both the practice and the theory of the arts. In addition to preparing students majoring in the arts and those planning to receive advanced degrees in graduate school, the department’s courses meet the needs and interests of students in the liberal arts and sciences, and foster the role of the arts within the framework of a liberal arts education. Drama, Music, Art, Art History, Photography and Dance are housed together in the Performing and Creative Arts Department, offering rich interconnected resources for all students of the arts.

Drama Program
The Drama Program at CSI is dedicated to offering students vital experiences in the creation of theatre as well as stimulating approaches to the history and theory of theatre. The four faculty of the program are nationally and internationally known scholars and artists who are dedicated and passionate teachers and mentors. We offer both the major and the minor in Drama. Our curriculum reflects the most contemporary developments in theatre and performance studies, as well as the areas of expertise of our faculty. Our classes have an excellent teacher to student ratio, ensuring that students get nurturing guidance and individual attention from faculty members. Because we seek to combine theory and practice, academic and artistic work, our classes are designed to include elements of both in each semester’s work. Our students therefore have the opportunity to create widely diverse creative projects in the classroom. These experiences help students to discover new paths for themselves, and to experience ongoing growth, personally, artistically and academically.

When our students leave the program, we want them to be motivated, sensitive, and critically aware people who are prepared to move ahead in theatre or theatre scholarship, as well as in fields where the training in collaboration, empathy, imagination, and critical thinking that is unique to theatre will be an asset.

There are no auditions for the Drama Program, but students are expected to uphold high standards in their progress through the major.

Resources and Facilities
The Drama Program is located in the Center for the Arts (Building 1P), which hosts outstanding studio, lecture, workshop and exhibition spaces that serve our interdisciplinary Performing and Creative Arts Department. The Drama Program’s dedicated theatre, the Lab Theatre, is a beautiful flexible space with state of the art lighting equipment. Adjacent to the theatre is a scene shop, with dressing rooms in the basement below. We also have a dedicated acting classroom. Room 218 is one of the largest classrooms in the building, with a wall of windows stretching down its long side. This classroom is equipped with projector, screen, computer and DVD and sound equipment, as well as with rehearsal blocks, moveable flats, and prop storage. The room also serves as rehearsal space when not being used for classrooms.

The program is served by a growing collection of books on theatre and performance in our own library, as well as by an outstanding inter-library loan service through which any book or DVD can be procured. Our library also hosts an extensive collection of journals in the field, including The Drama Review, Theatre Journal, Theatre Topics, Contemporary Theatre Review, Theatre Research International, American Theatre, Asian Theatre Journal, Dramatherapy, Latin American Theatre Review, Modern Drama, New Theatre Quarterly, PAJ, Research in Drama Education, Youth Theatre Journal, South African Theatre Journal, and Theatre-Forum. Other digital resources include Films on Demand, a video streaming service with a large collection on theatre.

Perhaps the most important resource for the Drama Program is the city of New York itself. One of the theatre capitals of the world, the city offers international, national and local performances ranging from conventional theatre to the world’s most avant-garde.
We also benefit from the huge range of theatres and performance spaces which allows for affordable theatre-going for our students. Our faculty assign at least one professional production for each class, and our students are fortunate to graduate having experienced four years of world class theatre. The art galleries and museums of New York city are also an indispensable resource for our theatre students.

Productions

The Drama program offers two faculty directed productions per year, with one in each semester. These are usually directed by Professors Maurya Wickstrom and Sean Edgecomb, although occasionally guest directors are invited for a semester. The sets for the productions are designed by Professor Kevin Judge, and we assemble an outstanding production team for lights, sound and costumes. Professor George Sanchez also creates evenings of student solo work.

Our shows are chosen by each director and are almost always challenging and innovative plays, or imaginative treatments of the classics. These have included *The Bakkhai*, by Euripides, *Euridice* by Sarah Ruhl, *Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *St. Joan of the Stockyards* by Bertolt Brecht, *Delirium*, by Enda Walsh, and *One Flea Spare* by Naomi Wallace. We hold open auditions, which means that our acting pool is constantly renewed, and diverse.

Students also have the opportunity to create work of their own through the Junior and Senior Projects. Student projects must be approved by the Drama faculty and are developed with a faculty mentor over the course of two semesters. We average two student projects per semester, with a fascinating and challenging range of student work in acting, directing, solo performance, performance art and design. Recent projects include original performances about the women of the Black Panther Party, bullying, and the conventionality of ordinary life staged on a life-size version of “The Game of Life” board. Examples of directing projects are Amiri Baraka’s *Dutchman*, George C. Wolfe’s *The Colored Museum* and Sophie Treadwell’s *Machinal*. An example of an acting project is an excerpt from Rhodessa Jones’ *Big Butt Girls, Hard Headed Women*. The Junior and Senior projects are also an opportunity to graduate with Honors provided the students has a 3.50 grade point average and earns an A on the project. We do not do musicals in the Drama Program, although often our productions include live music and singing.

Curriculum

The current curriculum for the Drama major begins in Fall, 2015. The Major requires 56–60 credits and the Minor 15. Our required courses include:

- **Theater Learning Lab**, a credit-bearing course for participation in a production,
- **Theatre Production and Lab**, an introductory technical theatre and design course,
- **Theatre Studies**, an introduction to theatre
- **Acting I, Topics on Production, Theatrical Imagination, Text/Performance/Adaptation, Senior Seminar, and Performance Histories**.

Two courses chosen from the Foundational Practices group:

- **Voice and Diction, Movement, Design and Directing**

Two courses from the Specialized Areas group:

- **We offer other courses as electives, including Acting II and III.**

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Department of Performing and Creative Arts

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The Department of Performing and Creative Arts is located in Center for the Arts, 1P-203, 718-982-2545.

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