

Message from the acting head of department, Prof M-H Coetzee

Welcome to the Drama Department! We hope that your search for an educational experience based on the values of social justice and a respect for our common humanity will be fulfilled with us.

Drama is a way of looking at and engaging with the world, being in the world and positively impacting on the world. A means through which to generate knowledge and make meaning of ourselves in our historical, social and political contexts. As such, the department encourages critical inquiry, entrepreneurial endeavours, creative outputs, independent research and innovative thought in a climate of academic and artistic excellence through a 'glocal' lens (acknowledging local and global contexts). Having an active interface with the professional world, our drama training foregrounds the interface - and balance - between - theory and practice-driven subjects.

Besides offering discipline-specific skills training, the Department also encourages students to explore the transferability of drama skills and knowledge to interdisciplinary domains. This is evidenced in the projects we create in collaboration with multiple role-players from different scholarly domains. As part of the Arts Cluster (Drama, Music, Visual Arts and UP Arts), we encourage you to unlock creative synergies between the arts disciplines with regards to research, projects and creative work.

In joining the Department, you join a long list of alumni who excelled in various domains related to drama and the performing arts sector, including actors, directors, producers, teachers, facilitators, editors, radio and TV presenters, entrepreneurs, performing arts managers, activists, scriptwriters, choreographers, theatre-makers, NGO workers, researchers, lecturers, media liaison officers and events co-ordinators, to name but a few.

We trust that you will find your own creative signature through participating in our training in order to carve out a niche for yourself in the professional world.

We look forward to challenge you creatively and academically in order to develop artist-scholars who can engage with academic and artistic enterprises in a socially committed way.

What else can the B(Dram) at UP offer me?

Employers of today look for the capacity to:

- think strategically, systemically, analytically, critically and creatively;
- communicate effectively;
- work as part of a collective;
- make appropriate decisions;
- plan, organise and prioritise work;
- solve problems creatively;
- obtain and process information;
- influence others;
- work effectively with a variety of people;
- be adaptable;
- lead projects;
- develop an entrepreneurial mind-set;
- develop a strong work ethic and
- manage time.