

ARTS EXPLORER INITIATIVE  
STUDENT HANDOUT

**General:**

The idea behind the Theatre Program's Arts Explorer Initiative is to broaden students' experience with the Arts and their engagement with the Theatre Program. To that end, students are required, as part of their participation in Theatre Program classes, not only to see the theatrical work that the Program produces, but also to go out into the broader arts community and partake in diverse offerings that students might find interesting, engaging, or even—at best—illuminating and life-changing.

**How it works:**

- All students are required to attend BOTH mainstage Theatre Program productions in the semester they are enrolled.
- All students are required to attend TWO outside arts events in the semester they are enrolled as part of their mandatory class requirements.
- There is currently no funding for students to attend specific events. That being said, many (if not most) of the events that would be applicable to fulfilling this requirement are free.
- A list of applicable/authorized outside events may be provided by individual instructors to students on an ongoing basis throughout the semester and will be posted and clearly identified on the Todd Theatre Facebook Group (see below; [www.facebook.com/groups/urtheatre](http://www.facebook.com/groups/urtheatre)). **You are encouraged to join that group!** Events might include readings, workshops, lectures, performances, etc. For example:
  - Annual events that would fulfill the requirement:
    - A performance at the Rochester Fringe
    - A performance at Geva Theatre Center
    - A performance by the RPO
    - A performance in Kilburn Hall (ESM)
    - A visit to the Memorial Art Gallery
    - A visit to see an exhibition at the George Eastman Museum
    - A performance by Rochester City Ballet or Garth Fagan Dance
  - Other events that would fulfill the requirement:
    - Readings presented as part of the Plutzik Reading Series
    - Lectures presented by the Humanities Center, specifically if they pertain to the Arts or the Performing or Visual Arts
    - Guest Workshops hosted by the Program of Dance and Movement, the Theatre Program, the Department of Art and Art History, etc.
- Events that do *not* fulfill the requirement include (if you have a question about whether your event qualifies, please ask your instructor):
  - Performances by student groups
  - Movies (exceptions might be made for specific movies or festival offerings at Instructors' discretion; please check with your instructor first)
  - Holiday sing-a-longs and chorales
- Events that the Artistic Director or other faculty of the Theatre Program hear about and which would fulfill this requirement will also be posted in the UR International Theatre Program Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/urtheatre>). Although these are posted, they are not the *only* events that qualify for the AEI. **Students are encouraged to join the Facebook group.** Events will have this symbol indicating their approval:



- Your instructor has final say over whether an event—not specifically listed as an Arts Explorer event—satisfies the requirement, at their discretion.

**Exceptions and Evaluation:**

- Students involved in a half-semester or 2-credit course need only see ONE of the two Theatre Program mainstage productions and ONE outside event. Students taking a class for 1 credit are exempt from these requirements.
- For students who are enrolled in multiple Theatre Program classes: ask your instructor whether the outside events you attend for one class can be transferred to fulfill another class's requirements, or whether separate outside events need to be attended to fulfill each class's requirements.
- Instructors will evaluate the nature of fulfilling these requirements. Some instructors might require students to write journal entries or papers based on their activities, or create a private Facebook group where students can post a short response to whichever event they attend and in response to the production/workshop/lecture/event they have attended.