

## Roosevelt To Offer A New Degree

If you are feeling restless within your major or looking for something new Roosevelt has the degree for you! Starting fall of 2023, the university will offer a new degree that is open for anyone. Interdisciplinary Theater Studies (ITS) was a program Jim Iorio, along with faculty of the Theatre Conservatory and CCPA's Dean's office, created to have more flexibility for students who want to pursue performance as well as other things such as Psychology, Business, etc. This program allows students explore their artistic skills without being fully committed to the CCPA program. Though the program is not fully developed, it is currently enduring a trial run with student Sadie Cavalancia.

"I wasn't happy in my former program. I felt a bit left out by my cohort, and like I was learning the same things year after year," said Cavalancia, a previous Musical Theatre major. "I brought my thoughts and concerns up to Nadine Gomes who is the head of the Musical Theatre program. The only other option I could think of was to drop out, but Nadine did not want me to leave the school so I had a meeting with Jim to see if the program would be a good fit for me. And now I am the guinea pig for it!"

The proposal of this new degree took place last spring, and it was submitted to the University's governance process for approval, which was received in the fall of 2022.

"The first step for any current Roosevelt student considering switching to this degree would be to talk to their advisor about why they're considering switching out of their current degree program," Iorio said. "If, after that conversation, they're still interested in making the switch, they should reach out to me, and we would schedule a time to discuss what the program switch would mean in terms of their future courses and timeline for graduation."

The process of deciding the guidelines of the new ITS degree was a long and thorough process. "First, we were finding that we had students in the Theatre Conservatory who, after a semester or two, discovered that they wanted to broaden their course of study beyond performance and we had little to offer those students outside of the specific courses dictated by our BFA programs," Iorio said. "The ITS program provides alternatives to a performance-only course of study." This program was built to provide students the option of a theatre degree that could be coupled with a degree in another discipline.

Cavalancia is ecstatic to be able to choose her own classes and craft her schedule to her liking. "I am focusing on theatre management this semester because I *chose* to. It opens a lot more time in my schedule to focus on schoolwork, and to pursue more theatre work outside of classes," Cavalancia said. "I have an opportunity to take classes with people who I would have never interacted with as a Musical Theatre major."

The reactions from current CCPA students have been positive with a few who have reached out with interest of this new program. "The Interdisciplinary nature of the program allows a student to craft their own specific path," Iorio said.

If you are interested in this new degree, reach out to your advisor or Jim Iorio.