



**Proposal to change the name of the ‘Graduate Centre for Study of Drama’
to the ‘Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies’**

November 4, 2011

The Graduate Centre for Study of Drama proposes to change its name to the ‘Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies’.

The Centre is home to Canada’s oldest and largest MA and PhD programs devoted to the study of these areas of research, serving 60-70 MA and PhD students in any given year, and with six core, 45 cross-appointed, and eight adjunct faculty. Founded over 40 years ago, the Centre was the first to offer graduate programs related to drama, theatre and performance in Canada, and remains one of only a handful of equivalent size in the world. It is internationally recognized for its long-standing commitment to interdisciplinary research and teaching, and to the formal integration of academic study with performance practice – that is, to use the theatre as a cross-disciplinary laboratory. The Centre envisions itself as a dynamic intersection – for academics and theatre artists, faculty and students, specialists from the performing arts and from a range of cognate disciplines – coming together to explore a diverse range of issues pertaining to presentation, representation and performance. In this respect the Centre is unique in Canada.

Over the past 30 years, the Centre’s mandate has changed to include, in an integrated way, the study of all varieties of theatre and performance in society, including but not restricted to those requiring the existence of a dramatic script in the context of theatrical production as well as the study of a broader theatrical culture, including the history and theory of acting, directing, design and stage technology. The broader study of performance has become an important part of the discipline, and a formalized part of the academy, during this time—since the founding of the first graduate program in performance studies in 1980. It is now an integral part of the broader discipline, with an internationally recognized organization, Performance Studies International (PSi, co-hosted in Toronto last year by the Centre, along with York and Ryerson Universities), and several peer-reviewed journals (for example, *TDR: The Drama Review*).

The change in name of the Centre would clearly reflect the changing nature of the discipline as well as more accurately describe its activities. The nature of student dissertations has changed in a way that would be reflected in the new name (see a list of dissertations at www.gradrama.utoronto.ca/students_2.html). The Centre’s students are eager to make this change as they believe it will better describe what they do, and assist in their search for faculty positions. The name change would likewise assist in the Centre’s recruitment efforts, as potential applicants sometimes do not realize the breadth of what is studied at the Centre. This has the additional benefit that the name focuses on its areas of scholarship.

All core members of the Centre in some measure work in all of drama, theatre and performance studies. As well, more than 45 cross-appointed faculty are affiliated with the Centre from disciplines as disparate as Geography, Music, and OISE, as well as in Languages and Literatures. The Centre actively promotes this broad, complementary approach; the name proposed best

expresses the relationship between our cross-appointed faculty and the Centre. Our own most senior core faculty member (a graduate of the Centre) has noted how much more accurately the proposed name describes his own research over the past thirty years—a change long overdue.

The Centre will also bring forward a recommendation to change the name of its graduate program from ‘Drama’ to ‘Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies’. There are no changes proposed to the learning outcomes, mode of delivery or to faculty engaged in delivering the program. The program curriculum was recently revised and no further changes are proposed.

The proposed changes have been discussed by faculty over the past two years and incorporated into the Centre’s planning document in 2010 as part of the Faculty of Arts and Science academic planning process. The Centre’s Academic Committee, comprised of core faculty members, unanimously accepted the proposal. The student representatives on that committee, as well as the Executive of the Graduate Centre Student’s Association, have enthusiastically endorsed the proposed change. The latter also polled its members, and received only strongly positive responses. The Director has also presented this proposal to the Centre’s Advisory Committee (with representatives that also include the cross-appointed faculty), and to the Tri-Campus Drama Committee (comprised of representatives from each of the three undergraduate programs and graduate program in theatre, drama and performance studies)—the proposal was unanimously endorsed by both. The proposal was circulated to all cross-appointed faculty to ensure that there was a general understanding of the change, inviting comment; as of September 2011 three quarters of cross-appointed faculty have responded, all of them endorsing the change. The Director has consulted with the Dean of the Faculty of Music, and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, both of whom are also in support of the proposed name change.

The proposed graduate program name change is a minor modification that will require approval by the Tri-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC). It will be reported to the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs. The program name change would be effective for students graduating in 2012.

As the Centre is an EDU:A, its name change requires governance approval by the Faculty of Arts and Science Council, and the University’s Academic Board as confirmed by Executive Committee. The name change could be effective immediately pending Executive Committee confirmation.