



University Resident Theatre Association  
Directory of Member Training Programs  
2020-2021

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**Lighting&Sound  
America**

 **acceptd**

## UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Andrew Belser, Director

University of Arizona  
School of Theatre, Film, and Television  
PO Box 210003  
1025 N. Olive Rd.  
Drama Building, Rm 239  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0003  
520-621-7008, tftv.arizona.edu

Contact:  
Clare Rowe,  
Director of Graduate Studies  
cprowe@arizona.edu

## MFA PROGRAMS

Theatre Arts – Theatre Design and Production:

Costume Design  
Costume Production  
Lighting Design and Technology  
Scenic Design  
Scenic Production  
Technical Direction

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume Design: 2, Lighting Design: 1, Scenic Design: 1, Technical Direction: 2.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA program prepares students for a career in professional theatre through intensive classroom and production training. The program requires three years in residence and a minimum of 60 credit hours. Admission to and retention in the program are based on academic performance and the design faculty's evaluation each semester of the student's portfolio, professionalism, skills, and demonstrated talent. A 3.0 GPA from undergraduate work is required. Effective leadership and supervision of undergraduate students in the student's area are required.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Arizona Repertory Theatre, the School's professional training company, serves as the public laboratory and showcase of the School's professional training programs. The company is modeled directly after professional examples such as the large classical repertory theatres in the US. Graduate students may also qualify for internships or assisting opportunities at Arizona Theatre Company, Arizona's only LORT B venue.

## FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Assistantships carry with them a stipend, tuition waiver, health insurance and assorted staff benefits. Most incoming student packages require an average of 16 hours per week of work in shop laboratories and carry an annual stipend of approximately \$9009. We expect to offer additional fellowship money, bringing the incoming student's anticipated aid in the range of \$11,000-12,000 in the first year. A combination of graduate tuition waiver and fellowships is expected to allow for full tuition waivers for all graduate students. University fees of around \$1100 per year are charged to the student and cannot be waived.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

Anticipated productions (subject to change due to Covid-19): *The Green Bird*, *Bright Star*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Hot Pink*, *Measure for Measure*, *Sunday in the Park with George*.

## ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Heather Landes, Director

Herberger Institute for Design & the Arts  
School of Music, Dance and Theatre  
Box 870405 Tempe, AZ 85287-0405  
(480) 965-5337, FAX (480) 965-5351  
<http://fdt.asu.edu/>

## MFA PROGRAMS

Directing  
Interdisciplinary Digital Media  
Performance

Contact:

Please call 480-727-6222 for appropriate area contact.

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Recruiting only Interdisciplinary Digital Media (Media Design) and Directing in 2021. Next recruiting Performance in 2022.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This 3-year cross-disciplinary degree is focused on the development of artist-creators and introduces students to rigorous training in collaboration constructed on a foundation of multiple methodologies. Designers will work with the latest technologies for design/production and receive professional training from a faculty that has designed for Broadway, major regional theatres, international touring dance works, feature films, and television. Performers will receive training in Lecoq, Commedia, Meisner, Rasaboxes, the Margolis method, Viewpoints, Fitzmaurice voice work, and more. Directors, performers, and playwrights, in addition to many of the above, will learn best practices for developing new works with playwrights from a former director at the O'Neill Center Playwrights Conference. Programs are 3 years, 60 credits, and run from mid-August through mid-May.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Successful students are aided in their professional development by workshops led by professional guest artists. Internships recently completed by our students include Synetic Theatre, Cornerstone Theatre Company, One Yellow Rabbit, and Odin Teatret. Students work in the School's three theatres, five studios, and one experimental laboratory space. More than \$200,000 is awarded annually in scholarships and support for projects, research and travel.

## FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Teaching Asst: ½ time TA: stipend ~ \$18,400 plus tuition waiver, value of \$11,720 for residents/\$23,544 for non-residents plus health insurance premiums. ¼ time TA: stipend ~ \$9,200 plus 50% reduction in resident tuition, value of at least \$5,860. Non-resident students with TA/RA appointments pay tuition at the resident rate. Value is ~ \$17,580. Fellowships: \$500 - \$10,000.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*Machos, Hedda Gabler, HEDDATRON, Luchadora, New Play Festival: Light Switch, All Hell, en-DANGER!-ed.*

## BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Susan Mickey, Director

Boston University  
College of Fine Arts - School of Theatre  
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Boston, MA 02215  
617-353-3390, bu.edu/cfa

Contact: msmickey@bu.edu

## MFA PROGRAMS

Costume Design  
Costume Production  
Directing  
Lighting Design  
Production Management  
Scene Design  
Scenic Painting  
Sound Design  
Technical Production

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

The School of Theatre admits 2-3 students in each area (total of 16-18).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **MFA Design** program is an intensive conservatory program with a national reputation. The goal of the program is to help students achieve professional competence, stressing collaboration and process, and requires a serious commitment of time and energy from students. [3-year program, 68 credit hours, no summer session]

The **MFA Costume Production & MFA Technical Production** programs prepare students for professional careers in the practical realization of scenery and costumes. In order to establish a common vocabulary and a set of fundamental perceptions about goals and procedures, the first two years of the curriculum closely parallels the Design program. As the content of the classes becomes more sophisticated and specific, the curriculum diverges. Much of the teaching and learning occurs outside of formal classroom situations in master/apprentice relationships with the school's production staff. [3-year program, 68 credit hours, no summer session]

The **MFA Production Management** program provides developing theatre professionals with the opportunity to cultivate their artistic identities while refining and enhancing their craft, and challenges students to push boundaries and redefine the traditional role of the Production Manager. Individualized programs of study vary. The training regimen mixes both ongoing studio classes with design, production, and management classes that alternate short-term exercises with long-term projects. [3-year program, 68 credit hours, no summer session]

The **MFA Directing** program provides early-career professionals with the opportunity to cultivate their artistic identities and professional objectives while refining and enhancing their technical skills, and is individually designed with their personal goals in mind. Students are prepared for careers as resident or freelance directors, with an emphasis on understanding the American regional theatre and other not-for-profit venues. An "Artistic Director Option" joins the MFA Directing curriculum with a graduate certificate program in Arts Administration. Students regularly interact with guest artists from BU's Professional Theatre Initiative partners. 1-2 students are admitted each year. Ideal candidates have 3-5 years professional directing experience outside of a university setting. [3-year program, 60 credit hours, no summer session]

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All MFA and Artisan Certificates require students to work alongside professional working faculty, and provide multiple opportunities for internships at the highest level of the profession. Guest artists are hosted throughout the year. Information on BU's Professional partnerships can be found on the school website.

## FINANCIAL AID

Students chosen for MFA programs may be offered full tuition scholarships, as well as an assistantship/stipend. Offers are dependent on the number of applicants and approval from the University.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

Adjusted fall season due to Covid-19 features 16 projects, including: a new movement piece to be performed outdoors, a series of collaborative new works with Boston Playwrights Theatre (involving undergrads and MFA Design/Production), large collaborative design projects between MFA Designers and their faculty mentors, and a series of construction projects called 'TurnTable' offering unique build opportunities for MFA Production students. Spring 2021 season is pending.

## **BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CUNY**

Kip Marsh, Chairperson

Brooklyn College, Dept of Theater  
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718-951-5666,  
<http://dephome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater/>

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Design and Technical Production:

[kmarsh@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:kmarsh@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Acting: [gradacting@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:gradacting@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Arts Leadership: [Michael.Page@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:Michael.Page@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Directing: [tbullard@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:tbullard@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

## **MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting

Design and Technical Production

Directing

Performance and Interactive Media Arts

Performing Arts Management

## **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Acting, Arts Leadership, Design and Technical Production (Costume, Scenic, Lighting, Technical Direction).

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Brooklyn College Department of Theater offers the MFA degree in Acting, Directing, Design and Technical Production, and Performing Arts Management. The department also participates with the other Arts departments in offering the MFA in Performance and Interactive Media Arts (PIMA). These programs are designed to prepare graduate students to perform at a high level of professional competence, to take leadership roles, and to achieve distinction in their chosen fields. All MFA programs are 60 credits and take 2 years to complete, with the exception of Design and Technical Production which is programmed for 3 years.

## **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The department is affiliated with a number of New York City based theater companies, arts organizations, producing entities, and related vendors. We use New York City and its arts and entertainment communities as our classroom and provide a network of opportunities that are unrivaled by schools and entities that are not located in the New York area.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

In-state tuition is \$5,545 per semester after 1 year of New York state residency. Internship Fellowships, Graduate Assistantships, merit and need-based Scholarships and Awards, and tuition waivers are available.

## **2020/2021 SEASON**

To be announced.

## CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS

Travis Preston, Dean

24700 McBean Parkway  
Valencia, CA 91355  
(661) 253-7834, theater.calarts.edu

Contact:

Rachel Park,  
School of Theater, Senior Admissions Counselor  
rpark@calarts.edu, (661) 222-2716

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Applied Arts  
Directing  
Design:  
    Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound  
Interactive Media for Performance  
Producing  
Production Management  
Stage Management  
Technical Direction

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 13, Costume Design: 3, Directing: 2, Interactive Media for Performance: 2, Lighting Design: 4, Producing: 2, Scenic Design: 3, Sound Design: 2, Stage Management: 4, Technical Direction: 4.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Dedicated to the development of new voices and new forms, CalArts is one of the preeminent theater training grounds in the country, designed to educate the whole person and to prepare fully equipped theater artists to transform the field. Each unique Program gives students the flexibility, skills and critical thinking tools to navigate a rapidly changing field and to pursue their professional goals with maximum agency. All CalArts Theater faculty are working professionally in their fields of expertise. As the School is based in Los Angeles, the epicenter of film and media production, the curricula give considerable attention to students having the versatility to succeed in a variety of media. Theater students are especially encouraged to build professional experiences and relationships while in school, mining every opportunity for them to create effective careers after graduation.

The period of engagement is September through mid-May for three years of full-time study.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CalArts Center for New Performance (CNP) is the professional producing arm of California Institute of the Arts, established to provide a unique artist and project-driven framework for the development and realization of original theater, music, dance, media, and interdisciplinary projects. Extending the progressive work carried out at CalArts into a direct dialogue with professional communities at the local, national, and international levels, CNP offers an alternative model to support emerging directions in the performing arts. It also enables CalArts students to work shoulder-to-shoulder with celebrated artists and acquire a level of experience that goes beyond their curriculum. Beyond CNP, Theater students have access to a broad range of guest artists, internships, and opportunities through a myriad of avenues.

### FINANCIAL AID

CalArts offers artistic, merit-based scholarships to all students accepted into its programs. Need-based scholarships and grants are also available for US residents dependent on financial need. Eligible students may also receive funds in the form of a work study or stipend earned on campus.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

Cries and Whispers, Pelléas and Mélisande, Bobbie Clearly, Obsession, Bolitas de mármol (little marbles), The Carolyn Bryant Project, daddy, and new projects from CNP Artists-In-Residence Daniel Alexander Jones, Natalia Lassalle-Morillo, Rickerby Hinds, Kati Hernandez, Chris Kallmyer, STUDIO teatrgaleria, Ray Sun and Chen Wu-kang, Condola Rashad, Dahlak Brathwaite, Ron Cephas Jones, Octavio Solis, and Chi-wang Yang.



## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Professor Don Hill, Chair

University of California, Irvine  
Department of Drama, 249 Drama  
Irvine, CA 92697-2775  
949-824-6614, <http://drama.arts.uci.edu/>

Contact: [drama@uci.edu](mailto:drama@uci.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenic, Sound

Directing

Stage Management

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8, Design: 2 (in each area – Lighting, Scenic, Sound), Directing: 2, Stage Management: 3.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of California, Irvine, Department of Drama is a degree-granting institution whose purpose is to develop the skills and discipline requisite for a successful career in the professional theatre. Three-year residence is required. Four courses, twelve units, minimum per quarter for nine quarters, exclusive of summer. 110 to 128 quarter units (total units vary depending on area of emphasis) in graduate or approved upper-division undergraduate courses must be completed with at least a B in each class. Specific course requirements must also be satisfied in the area of emphasis.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The New Swan Shakespeare Festival is Orange County's only professional Shakespeare festival performed outdoors in a sustainable, portable mini-Elizabethan theatre, the New Swan Theater, where the audience and actors inhabit the same dynamic, in-the-round space. Our 2021 Season will be our ninth year producing Shakespeare under the stars. This season will feature a wide range of festivities and educational opportunities as well as two dynamic fully produced productions of Shakespeare's greatest works. The New Swan Shakespeare Festival is hosted and produced in collaboration with the University of California, Irvine, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, and the Department of Drama.

### FINANCIAL AID

Out of state tuition is covered by the department in year one of the program. State fees are covered through all three years of the program. Stipends and/or teaching assistantship salary are provided through all three years of the program.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

*She Kills Monsters; Eurydice; Human Error; Resilience, Resistance, Radiance; El Henry; Junk.*

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)

Dominic Taylor, Chair

103 E. Melnitz Hall, UCLA  
Los Angeles, CA 90095  
310-825-7008, [www.tft.ucla.edu](http://www.tft.ucla.edu)

Contact: [info@tft.ucla.edu](mailto:info@tft.ucla.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Directing  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Scenic Design  
Playwriting

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 2, Costume Design: 4, Lighting Design: 2, Scenic Design: 3, Acting: 0.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

UCLA is California's largest university, with an enrollment of more than 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The UCLA College of Letters and Science and the university's 12 professional schools feature renowned faculty and offer more than 323 degree programs and majors. UCLA is a national and international leader in the breadth and quality of its academic, research, health care, cultural, continuing education and athletic programs. Five alumni and five faculty members have been awarded the Nobel Prize.

UCLA Department of Theater offers an M.F.A. in Theater with specializations in Acting, Directing, Playwriting, and Design for Theater and Entertainment (Scenic Design, Costume Design and Lighting Design). Students are required to enroll in a minimum of twelve units per quarter. Required courses will be scheduled to permit completion of the program within a three-year period. In addition to the successful completion of a minimum of 94 units or 23.5 courses, candidates for the degree must pass a comprehensive examination, including critical evaluation of production projects which culminate in a manner to show professional competence in the field. Enrollment is required for Fall, Winter and Spring quarters.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television draws upon industry leaders for its faculty, advisors and mentors. Storytelling is the heart of our curriculum, and our talented alumni and faculty members have won Oscars, Emmys, Tonys, and nearly every meaningful artistic accolade in the performing and visual arts. Beyond the faculty, the UCLA TFT Theater Internship Program is open to enrolled students from the Department of Theater. MFA students are highly encouraged to gain field experience in theater, film, television and entertainment organizations. Each student's internship is a variable-time assignment in the profession. Examples of appropriate organizations are The Actors' Gang, Center Theater Group, Comedy Central, Creative Artists Agency, DreamWorks, Geffen Playhouse, L.A. Theatre Works, MTV, Nickelodeon, and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

### FINANCIAL AID

Newly admitted MFA students may be offered the Graduate Opportunity Fellowship (\$20,000 stipend + fees/tuition + non-resident supplemental tuition (if applicable)) or the Mitchell Scholarship Fund (award amounts vary). In addition, MFA students are eligible for Teaching Assistantships that provide tuition/fee remission and salary. Also, each Spring Quarter, the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television awards eligible students approximately \$3 million based on merit and need. All UCLA TFT students are eligible to apply.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

Due to the current pandemic, 2020/2021 performance projects will not be open to audiences.

## **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON**

Dave Mickey, Chair

800 N. State College Blvd, CPAC 142  
Fullerton, CA 92831  
657-278-3628, [www.fullerton.edu/arts/theatredance](http://www.fullerton.edu/arts/theatredance)

Contacts:

Hyun Sook Kim,  
[hyunskim@fullerton.edu](mailto:hyunskim@fullerton.edu)

### **MFA PROGRAMS**

Directing  
Design & Technical Production

### **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Directing program recruits every second or third year. Design & Technical programs recruit every year. Recruiting this year for Lighting, Sound, and Technical Direction candidates.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Nestled between the mountains and the ocean, CSUF's acclaimed, award-winning theatre program has strong relationships with professional theatres and professionals throughout the theatre, film and television industries. Our performing arts center allows students to produce in 5 theatres, as well as other professional venues. Students work with outstanding faculty and guest artists/teachers from throughout the profession.

### **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Professional guest artists are brought in to direct and mentor students in class. Students also have access to a variety of internship opportunities at local regional theatres, and in themed entertainment, television, and film. MFA Directing candidates teach throughout their residency.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Teaching Associate/Graduate Assistantship: \$10,000 per year.

### **2020/2021 SEASON**

Virtual productions are currently being planned for the 2020/2021 season, as the originally planned season has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Anthony Byrnes, Chair

Department of Theatre Arts  
1250 Bellflower Blvd  
Long Beach, CA 90840  
562-985-7891; calrep.org

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Theatre Management (MFA/MBA)

Contacts:

Acting – Hugh O’Gorman, hugh@hughogorman.com  
Theatre Management – Anthony Byrnes,  
Anthony.Byrnes@csulb.edu

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

To be determined.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Programs run from mid-August through mid-May with 2 summer sessions. Students have teaching opportunities during their time at CSULB - assisting and teaching in various areas of the training program.

MBA/MFA Theatre Management: Offered as a combined degree with the Theatre Arts Dept. and College of Business Administration. Joint curriculum offers opportunity to learn industry practices and theories in the fields of both theatre and business management, then apply these in leadership roles through all management aspects of work produced in the Theatre Arts Dept. The MBA/MFA program requires 90 units/3 years.

MFA in Acting: Mentors professional actors who wish to teach at the university level. The degree provides them a flexible pedagogical lab to hone academic knowledge and teaching skills in order to win teaching employment at the University level. They also have opportunities to practice their art as company members of Cal Rep. The MFA program requires 60 units/2 years.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Winner of the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Polly Warfield Award for an excellent season in a small to mid-size theater, California Repertory Company is a professionally-modeled theatre company providing graduate training to the masters of tomorrow. Cal Rep is a theatre company dedicated to nurturing artists and challenging audiences by developing exciting, relevant, and thought-provoking work. We are a visionary company respecting the theatre of the past and creating the theatre of the future.

Cal Rep is located at the California State University, Long Beach Theatre Arts Department. Students are members of Cal Rep, and may also work with the undergraduate mainstage season productions. Cal Rep hires professional directors and designers who work at theatres and other venues throughout the region.

### FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Assistantships: \$6,000 to \$8,000 (out-of-state tuition waivers available).

### 2020/2021 SEASON

To be announced.

## UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE – CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Denton Yockey, Division Head  
denton.yockey@uc.edu

Division of Theatre Arts, Production, and Arts  
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Cincinnati, OH 45221-0003  
513-556-5803, Fax 513-556-3399  
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513-556-5803, dezarndl@ucmail.uc.edu

Michele Kay, Chair, Theatre Design & Production,  
513-556-9440

### MFA PROGRAMS

Costume Design and Technology  
Lighting Design and Technology  
Sound Design  
Stage Design  
Stage Properties  
Stage Management  
Wig & Makeup Design

### MA or MA/MBA

Arts Administration

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Varies, 1-4 per area.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Few schools offer more comprehensive training programs for opera singers, coaches, directors, musical theatre performers, actors, designers, technicians and arts managers than CCM. Utilizing a superb faculty of professional artist-teachers, CCM's programs in opera, musical theatre, drama, dance, arts administration and theatre design and production attract remarkably talented students from around the world.

Students in the Division of TAPAA have the opportunity to participate in a wide-ranging scope of degree programs, classes, major productions, studio productions, master classes, summer projects and professional internships. Students are exposed to a wealth of learning opportunities, thanks not only to the sharing of resources among all the programs within the division, but also through interaction with other divisions at CCM, alumni, and entertainment professionals.

Programs are 2-3 years, with students reporting August 18. MFA: 60-70 credit hours, MA/MBA: 84-92 credit hours. Teaching responsibilities vary by program.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students in CCM's Theatre Design and Production program have the opportunity to work alongside professional theatre and entertainment artists via professional internships, masterclasses, and when guest artists join our production teams.

### FINANCIAL AID

Please refer to the University of Cincinnati's Financial Aid website for information on Graduate Funding and Scholarship: <https://financialaid.uc.edu/gradstudents.html>

### 2020/2021 SEASON

To address restrictions imposed upon the theatrical and entertainment industry brought about by a response to the global pandemic, CCM has decided to create a season that focuses on the exploration of current issues and one which can remain adaptable to the changing conditions within our community. Projects are being created in all areas of performance: drama, musical theatre, opera, dance, choral, and film.

## UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Edward Weingart, Interim Chair

Department of Dramatic Arts  
802 Bolton Road, U-1127  
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[dramaoffice@uconn.edu](mailto:dramaoffice@uconn.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Arts Leadership & Cultural Management  
Design  
Directing  
Puppetry  
Technical Direction

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Arts Leadership & Cultural Management (4), Design (4), Directing (0), Puppetry (4), Technical Direction (4).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

An intensive, professionally oriented 3-year program that balances classroom instruction with assignments in Connecticut Repertory Theatre (CRT) productions. Graduate acting students can earn Equity Membership Candidacy weeks by performing in CRT shows; and all students work closely with professional guest and faculty directors as well as visiting artists. CRT produces a season with two productions in a 500-seat proscenium theatre, two productions in a 241-seat thrust stage, and two productions in an intimate 116-seat studio theatre. CRT also sponsors additional experimental and student directed productions. Instruction is provided by 23 full-time faculty members and is continually supplemented by master classes, workshops and lectures given by guest artists. 9-12 credit hours per semester with assistantship.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Connecticut Repertory Theatre is the producing arm of the UConn's Department of Dramatic Arts. CRT produces under a year-round contract with Actors' Equity Association, and serves as a cultural center for CT and the New England region. CRT productions are directed, designed by, and cast with, visiting professionals, AEA actors, faculty members and the department's most advanced students. CRT presents a wide range of material including premieres, contemporary plays, classics of the American musical theatre, and great works from the canon of world drama. CRT is also the performance outlet for the Department of Dramatic Art's internationally acclaimed Puppet Arts program, the only degree-conferring puppetry program of its kind in the United States.

## FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Assistantships: \$11,918.40 (2019-2020) with full tuition waiver; subsidized medical/dental insurance. This is subject to change.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

Fall 2020: *Men on Boats; It's a Wonderful Life.*

Spring 2021: *Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen...; This Property Is Condemned; Pericles, Prince of Tyre; Antigone.*

## EAST 15 ACTING SCHOOL

Dr. Chris Main, Director

East 15 Acting School  
Hatfields, Rectory Lane  
Loughton, IG10 3RY  
020 8508 5983, [www.east15.ac.uk](http://www.east15.ac.uk)

Contacts:

Chris Main, Director of East 15  
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Laura Collins, Executive Assistant  
[laura.collins@essex.ac.uk](mailto:laura.collins@essex.ac.uk)

## MFA PROGRAMS

MA/MFA Acting International  
MA/MFA Theatre Directing  
MA Advanced Professional Theatre Practice

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

MA/MFA Acting International: 32 (approx.), MA/MFA Directing: 23 (approx.), MA Advanced Professional Theatre Practice: 12 (approx.).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**MA/MFA Acting International** is a unique professional course designed specifically for overseas students. The course emphasizes the importance of the integration and mastery of a wide spectrum of core acting skills and is a holistic approach to building character and interpreting narrative. The MFA course runs for 20 months and the MA course runs for 1 year. Both are full-time beginning in October and based in Loughton. **MA/MFA Theatre Directing** is a unique course designed specifically for students who already are or wish to become professional theatre directors. The program benefits from its close ties with the London theatre world, which provides training expertise of the highest caliber and the professional networks that are vital to launching a Theatre Directing career. The MFA course runs for 2 years and the MA course runs for 1 year. Both are full-time beginning in October and based in Loughton. **MA Advanced Professional Theatre Practice** is designed specifically for established professionals currently working or teaching in the performing arts. Our unique program, delivered through a combination of online study with intensive live workshops; uses your existing professional and teaching practice as a medium for development and exploration. 1-year course, linked to the Loughton campus.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**MFA Acting International** students have a 2-3 week residency performing work to an invited audience at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. The MFAs work with tutors and directors from both East 15, and professionals working in the industry. There are additional opportunities to work on productions performed at central London venues, and directed by industry professionals. Students leave East 15 with professionally shot and edited Film Showreel and Voicereel material. Students from the USA may apply for the Federation of Drama Schools New York Showcase, the Fall after graduation. **MA/MFA Theatre Directing** students have the opportunity to culminate their studies with a resourced practical project at one of East 15's theatre performance spaces or in a London theatre venue. There are opportunities to collaborate with professional designers, directors and writers, as well as to study optional modules overseas in an alternative cultural environment. The **MA Advanced Professional Theatre Practice** course supports the student's existing professional career in performing arts.

## FINANCIAL AID

At present scholarships are not available to international students on these courses as the funding conflicts with UK visa requirements. North American students frequently access US Federal Loans or Sallie Mae Loans to assist with fees.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

**Fall 2020:** *MFA International Voices* – self-devised solo theatre pieces performed by second year MFA International students (East 15 Mainstage), *Sleeping Beauty*, *A Christmas Carol* (to be confirmed). **Spring/Summer 2021** (titles to be confirmed): Two productions at Blackfriars Theatre, Central London, Two Showcase productions at the Tristan Bates Theatre, Central London, Two productions on the East 15 Mainstage, *MA International Voices* – self-devised solo theatre pieces performed by the MA International students (East 15 Mainstage).

## UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Dr. Peter Carpenter, School Director

University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance  
1800 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611-5900  
352-273-0500, arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance

Contacts:

MFA Acting: Tim Altmeyer, taltmeyer@ufl.edu

MFA Design: Stan Kaye, stankaye@arts.ufl.edu

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Costume Design

Costume Technology

Lighting Design

Scene Design

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 4 – 6, Design: 4 – 6.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA degrees challenge and focus the advanced artist-scholar through rigorous professionally oriented exploration in the classroom, studio, and in public production/performance. They require full-time extensive sequential study, preparing students for professional practice as designers and actors in theater, film, television, and allied digital media. A three-year curriculum comprised of 60 credits of course work with end-of-semester jury evaluations, internships, and projects in lieu of a thesis in the final year. One summer is in residence for Summer Repertory. Active nationally and internationally recognized faculty, guest artist workshops and residencies, and industry showcasing (acting and design) round out the experience.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In partnership, through an annual co-production with the Hippodrome Theatre in Gainesville, MFA in Acting candidates may be cast based on audition and may attain Equity candidacy during their time in the program. Other fully supported professional internships for MFA in Acting candidates are also available.

MFA Design students participate in a professional internship program at Asolo Repertory Theatre (LORT) in Sarasota, FL, working alongside world-class designers and directors.

## FINANCIAL AID

Most MFA students are supported by 9- or 12- month graduate assistantships or graduate school funding and full tuition waivers. Merit scholarships (\$500 - \$1000) are also offered.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*Shakespeare in Love* (co-production with Hippodrome Theatre), *Sweat*, *A Little Night Music*, *BFA Dance Showcase*, *Agbedidi*, *The Three Sisters*, *Dance 2021*, *John Proctor is the Villain*, *The Enchanted*.



## **FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Brad Brock, Director

239 Fine Arts Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1160  
(850) 644-7257, theatre.fsu.edu

Contact: bbrock@fsu.edu

### **MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting  
Costume Design  
Directing  
Technical Production  
Theatre Management

### **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Acting: 12, Costume Design: 3, Directing: 2, Technical Production: 5, Theatre Management: 3.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Florida State University School of Theatre is one of the leading comprehensive graduate theatre training programs in the United States as evidenced by the School's consistent national rankings. The School is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and is a founding member of the University Resident Theatre Association. Our graduate programs offer both a comprehensive learning degree coupled with direct production experiences that make them unique from many other programs.

MFA Acting candidates train at Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory, and graduate with Equity eligibility through work with the Asolo Repertory Theatre.

### **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Graduate students have the opportunity to interact with highly trained and experienced professional faculty, staff, and guest artists.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Every MFA candidate receives a tuition waiver and graduate stipend as part of their assistantship.

### **2020/2021 SEASON**

The 2020/2021 season is to be announced with adjustments due to Covid-19.

## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY / ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING

Greg Leaming, Director

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

5555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243  
941-351-9010, ext. 2316,  
[www.asolorep.org/conservatory](http://www.asolorep.org/conservatory)

Contacts:

[jcourtemanche@fsu.edu](mailto:jcourtemanche@fsu.edu)

[lbeggy@fsu.edu](mailto:lbeggy@fsu.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 12.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training is a three-year graduate program culminating in a Master of Fine Arts degree. Only twelve students are chosen each year from the thousands who audition nationwide to work in a program that combines rigorous classroom training with guest artist workshops and professional production experience.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Understudying with Asolo Repertory Theatre; 3rd year professional company membership with Asolo Repertory Theatre.

### FINANCIAL AID

Tuition waiver, and assistantships are available.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

*Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992; Julius Caesar.*

## UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Dr. David Saltz, Chair

Department of Theatre & Film Studies  
University of Georgia  
Fine Arts Building  
Athens, GA 30602-3154  
(706) 542-2890, <https://www.drama.uga.edu>

## MFA PROGRAMS

Performance

Design:

Scenic, Costume, Lighting

Dramatic Media

Contacts:

General: [saltz@uga.edu](mailto:saltz@uga.edu)

Advising: [dinac@uga.edu](mailto:dinac@uga.edu)

Acting: [gcontini@uga.edu](mailto:gcontini@uga.edu)

Design: [ivani@uga.edu](mailto:ivani@uga.edu)

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 10, Design (Costume, Lighting, Scenic): 6, Dramatic Media: 3.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Performance program focuses on preparing artists for careers in theatre, film, and media and for teaching at the university, community college or secondary level. Our mission is to develop performers who excel as storytellers, artists, content creators, teachers, and entrepreneurs. Building on a performer's core strengths, the program cultivates the artist's individual voice with intensive studies in varied methodologies and applied practice and research. Our faculty specialize in acting, voice, and movement techniques encompassing Stanislavski, Meisner, Michael Chekhov, Alexander, Linklater, Alba, LeCoq, and Laban. The program is designed to provide each student in the cohort with a specialized artistic journey based on their interests and skill set. The MFA Design program allows students to focus on costume, scene or lighting design. While the primary focus is on designing for stage, students also apply design principles to a wide range of other entertainment design applications, including film/video, computer animation, concert, special event, corporate, themed, and architectural design. Students in the program test their skills by designing for University Theater productions and are required to become proficient in more than one area of design. The Dramatic Media MFA program gives students the technical and artistic skills necessary to create computer-generated animation, live stage productions incorporating interactive media, and special digital effects in filmmaking. This unique program of study prepares students to become leaders in the rapidly growing digital media industry. All MFA programs require three years of residency. The academic year begins each year in mid-August and ends in early May.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Each year the department hires at least one professional director to work with MFA actors and designers on a production in the mainstage season. MFA students often go on to perform or design with these directors professionally. Recent guest directors have included the artistic or associate directors of major regional theatres including Actor's Express, the Aurora Theatre, Georgia Shakespeare Theatre, and the Springer Theatre.

## FINANCIAL AID

Assistantships are available for MFA students that include tuition remission and an annual stipend.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

Due to the pandemic, all shows will be virtual this season.

Mainstage Season: *Breathe* (an original play by Angela Hall exploring our student's response to the pandemic, social justice, environmental disasters, and the state of our nation), *Here's Where I Stand* (Musical Cabaret), a revue where students tell us about their lives, their way. MFA Thesis Projects: *The Mountaintop*, *Happy Days*, *How to Be an Ethical Slut*, *Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines*, *American Fiesta*, *St. Nicholas*, *Constellation Obscura & Putting the I in ME*, *Spaceship Sean*. MFA Design: *Walk-through Installation on the Fine Arts Stage*.

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Gabriel Solis, Chair

500 S. Goodwin Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-244-6180, theatre.illinois.edu

Contact: dswinfor@illinois.edu

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Costume Design  
Costume Technology  
Lighting Design and Technology  
Digital Media Design  
Properties Design and Management  
Scenic Design  
Scenic Technology  
Sound Design and Technology  
Stage Management

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Stage Management; Design/Technology (Costumes, Lighting, Projection/Media, Props, Scenic, Sound, Technical Direction).

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Illinois Theatre offers a variety of 3 year MFA programs that run during the fall and spring semesters. Students are encouraged to work during the summer to continue to build their resumes.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A variety of guest artists and resident directors work alongside our students. Alumni and guest artists are invited to work on productions and to teach master classes to the MFAs, providing deeper knowledge of their areas of focus and providing networking opportunities. Each year the MFA Actors are able to work with a Tony award-winning director, who is also a UIUC faculty member.

### FINANCIAL AID

Many students receive an assistantship which includes a tuition waiver and monthly stipend. We also have some fellowships and scholarships available to MFA students.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

To be announced.

## **ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Ann Haugo, Director

Illinois State University, School of Theatre and Dance  
Campus Box 5700, Normal, IL 61790  
309-438-8783  
[www.finearts.illinoisstate.edu/theatre-dance](http://www.finearts.illinoisstate.edu/theatre-dance)

### **MFA PROGRAMS**

Directing  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Scene Design

#### **Contacts:**

Director: Ann Haugo, [ahaugo@ilstu.edu](mailto:ahaugo@ilstu.edu)  
MFA Directing: Robert Quinlan, [rfquinl@ilstu.edu](mailto:rfquinl@ilstu.edu)  
MFA Costume Design: Lauren Lowell, [lmLOWEL@ilstu.edu](mailto:lmLOWEL@ilstu.edu)  
MFA Lighting Design: Dan Ozminkowski,  
[dpozmin@ilstu.edu](mailto:dpozmin@ilstu.edu)  
MFA Scene Design: John Stark, [jcstark@ilstu.edu](mailto:jcstark@ilstu.edu)

### **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Not recruiting this year. Recruiting takes place in a 2-2-0 cycle. Next recruiting in 2022.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The MFA in Theatre: Design (Costume, Lighting and Scenic) and Directing are 3-year programs. Teaching Assistants teach freshman/sophomore level courses. Design assistants work in the shops supervised by faculty and staff. The School has 3 theatres, including a modern 500-seat proscenium theatre in the Center for the Performing Arts that opened in 2002. The outdoor Shakespeare Theatre opened in 2000. Applicants must pass an audition/interview; GPA of 3.0 is required for assistantship consideration.

### **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The Illinois Shakespeare Festival is a professional and academic (URTA) summer theatre that the Chicago Tribune recently placed at the top of its "must-see" cultural attractions in Illinois list. The Festival produces three mainstage plays in rotating repertory and a Theatre for Young Audiences production that is offered free to the community. MFA candidates routinely work for the Festival, side by side with professional artists, but they may also explore internship and other professional opportunities, including in the Chicago area where our program has an extensive community of alumni. MFA in Directing candidates are strongly encouraged to identify a professional internship opportunity for one semester of their third year in the program.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Admitted students are awarded an assistantship (\$1,060/month) plus a full tuition waiver. Additional funding opportunities may be available at the University level for competitive applicants.

### **2020/2021 SEASON**

Fall 2020: Pipeline, Richard III, Top Girls, Zoo Story, Mud. Due to Covid-19, the Spring 2021 season is to be announced.

## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Linda Pisano, Chair

Lee Norvelle Theatre & Drama Center  
275 N Jordan Avenue A300  
Bloomington, IN 47405-1101  
812-855-5382, theatre.indiana.edu

Contact:  
smithcin@indiana.edu

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Costume Design  
Costume Technology  
Directing  
Dramaturgy  
Lighting Design  
Scenic Design  
Theatre Technology  
Playwriting

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume Design: 3, Costume Technology: 4, Directing: 1, Lighting Design: 0, Scenic Design: 2, Theatre Technology: 5. *Dramaturgy: 0, Playwriting: 1 (does not recruit at the URTAs).*

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Indiana University's Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance is consistently ranked as one of the top theatre schools in the nation. We believe that theatrical productions and classroom study are of equal importance, and give our students broad experience in both.

The Department offers MFA degrees in Acting, Directing, Dramaturgy, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Costume Design, Costume Technology, Theatre Technology, and Playwriting, and prides itself in working collaboratively within all these programs. All MFA degrees are 3 years in length and require at least 60 credit hours.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The MFA programs are structured for students who intend to pursue professional careers in theatre as either scholars or artists. At any given time, our department has roughly 55 graduate students and approximately 300 undergraduate majors. These students go on to hold key positions in hundreds of universities and professional theatres throughout the nation. They also excel in related professions such as film and television.

The Department brings over 25 guest artists to campus each year, creating excellent learning opportunities and ways of making connections in the profession. We produce a professional summer theatre, providing students the ability to work with professionals. Graduate students have the opportunity to teach and serve as instructors of record for a number of undergraduate courses.

### FINANCIAL AID

All students receive an assistantship of \$15,750, tuition remission, and health insurance.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

Due to Covid-19, the originally planned season has been reduced. For more information visit: <https://theatre.indiana.edu/on-stage/current-season/index.html>. The season includes: *Solo Spotlight Series, Amplified: A Series of Plays by Black Authors, Bonnets: How Ladies of Good Breeding are Induced to Murder, More Perfect Places, Sounding Bodies: Dance Concert, Twelfth Night, At First Sight-New Play Festival, Spring Musical (TBD), New Moves: Senior Dance Concert.*

## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Mary Beth Easley, Chair

Department of Theatre Arts  
107 Theatre Building, 200 N. Riverside Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1705  
319-335-2700, <https://theatre.uiowa.edu/>

Contact: [theatre@uiowa.edu](mailto:theatre@uiowa.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design  
Directing  
Dramaturgy  
Playwriting  
Stage Management

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 13, Design: 2, Stage Management: 2.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Becoming a theatre artist requires mastering one field of study while developing knowledge and respect for the others, as such MFA students at Iowa have their own intensive programs and work closely with one another across disciplines. The art of the theatre occurs most successfully with this kind of open collaboration. When you apply for an MFA program at Iowa you are applying for admission to a community of artists. Each of Iowa's MFA programs is: an intensive 3-year course of study; dedicated to the development of theatre artists and new work; grounded in the study of dramatic literature; connected to its sister programs by means of formal and informal collaborations. To attain the MFA you normally must complete: 6 semesters in residence (internships may be substituted with permission); a minimum of 61 semester hours (specific programs may be higher), each student must complete the requisite number of graduate hours stipulated by their Plan of Study. You must also complete all requirements of the Graduate College: G.P.A requirements; creative or scholarly work of high quality according to program requirements; a comprehensive exam; a written thesis.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Department brings in over 30 guest artists throughout each academic year to work with students in each of our programs through productions and in the classroom. Through the Summer Partnership in the Arts program we bring in guest artists for a four-week residency to develop new work, in which our students are paid to participate. Our design students assist (paid) faculty on professional contracts. Semester long internships are supported and can be arranged.

## FINANCIAL AID

Virtually every graduate student in Theatre is appointed as a teaching or research assistant or has substantial scholarship support. Assistantships are awarded to incoming students as part of their acceptance package; continuing students apply in February for the following year, and may propose to continue their current assignment or seek a new position to diversify their skill-sets. Iowa Arts Fellowships: Offered annually to one incoming student in each of the MFA programs. This is a 1-year award that includes an \$18,500 academic year fellowship stipend plus tuition and health insurance allowance. Teaching and Research Assistantships: Nearly all Theatre graduate students hold an assistantship for the 3 years in residence, which require 10-20 hours/week. Salaries for 2019-20 range from \$9,822 - 19,644. Tuition Scholarships: Students holding a 25% or greater teaching or research assistantship (covered by the COGS bargaining unit) are assured a scholarship that covers full tuition and 50% of mandatory student fees for the 2019-20 academic year. Students who have an assistantship quarter-time or more are classified as Iowa residents for tuition and fee purposes. Theatre Arts Scholarships: Scholarships awarded annually based on the recommendation of the head of each program. Graduate College MFA Summer Fellowship: Encourages students to pursue projects and professional development during summer break. In summer 2019, 6 theatre arts graduate students were awarded the fellowship (stipend of \$4,500 each).

## 2020/2021 SEASON

Adapted due to Covid-19 with plans to produce 20+ events featuring alumni and current students, including: 4 Mainstage shows, 10 Workshops, 4 Galleries, a Ten-Minute Play Festival and New Play Festival. The first mainstage will feature commissioned short pieces on racial justice by 6 alumni playwrights. Current playwrights will write pieces on essential workers for the second mainstage. Spring mainstages will include: alumni Keith Josef Adkin's *The People before the Park*, and a devised piece by our Grant Wood fellow. The Galleries are original plays by students in the playwriting program.

## **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY**

Eric van Baars, Director

School of Theatre and Dance, Kent State University  
B141 Center for the Performing Arts  
Kent, OH 44242  
330-672-2082, <https://www.kent.edu/theatredance>

Contacts:

Director: Eric van Baars, [fvanbaar@kent.edu](mailto:fvanbaar@kent.edu)  
Graduate Coordinator: Dr. Yuko Kurahashi,  
[ykurahas@kent.edu](mailto:ykurahas@kent.edu)  
Acting: Amy Fritsche, [afritsch@kent.edu](mailto:afritsch@kent.edu)  
Design & Technology: Jakyung Seo, [jseo1@kent.edu](mailto:jseo1@kent.edu)

### **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Theatre Design and Technology: 5-7.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University offers graduate training for students wishing to pursue specialized intensive study. The MFA Acting for the Returning Professional is a two-year, 60 credit hour intensive program which includes summer activities. The curriculum of core classes centered around a variety of techniques and theories within a pedagogical laboratory allows the candidate to explore areas of interest.

The MFA in Theatre Design and Technology is a 60-credit program which follows a three-year plan of study and allows candidates to pursue in-depth training in their specific concentration in preparation for a career in the performing arts. Students applying to the MFA program in Theatre Design and Technology may choose to concentrate their studies in: Costume Design and Technology, Lighting Design, Scenic Design or Theatre Technology. The School's annual production season serves as an on-site laboratory for graduate students to develop and refine their technique and skills. Additionally, Porthouse Theatre, Kent State University's summer professional theatre, provides graduate students in both programs with opportunity to work and learn on site at Kent State.

### **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Professional work and/or apprenticeships are available through Porthouse Theatre, the university's summer professional theatre. Additionally, MFA candidates in both programs have option to work alongside professionals through the Roe Green Guest Director Series. Candidates also work with Guest Artists through assisting faculty on projects as well as funded sources.

MFA Candidates on an assistantship may teach up to 2 entry-level classes, in their area of expertise, per semester. Candidates serve as instructors for undergraduate majors and non- majors and may develop special topic advanced course work.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Graduate Stipends, full tuition waiver and access to health insurance are awarded to candidates on assistantship. Scholarships are also available through the school.

### **2020/2021 SEASON**

Season is subject to change due to Covid-19. Current season includes: *A Devised work (Title TBD)*, *In Pieces*, *Dance 2020*, *Head Over Heels*, *The Kent Dance Ensemble*, *Everybody*, *The Rothschilds*.



## **LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Kristin Sosnowsky, Chair

105 Music and Dramatic Arts  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
225-578-4174, FAX 225-578-4135  
[www.lsu.edu/cmda/theatre](http://www.lsu.edu/cmda/theatre)

Contacts:

Acting: Nick Erickson, [nickwe@lsu.edu](mailto:nickwe@lsu.edu)  
Design/Technology: James L. Murphy,  
[jlmurphy@lsu.edu](mailto:jlmurphy@lsu.edu)

## **MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting

Design/Technology:  
Costumes, Props, Scenic

## **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Recruiting for the Acting program only for the Fall of 2021.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Professional training in acting; design and technology. Swine Palace serves as the professional theatre company affiliated with the School of Theatre and provides MFA students with the opportunity to work alongside professional artists in a professional setting.

MFA in Acting is a 2-yr, year-round, conservatory-style program designed to prepare actor/artists for careers in professional theatre, television, film, and allied professions with emphasis on fresh approaches to classical performance and the creation of original dramatic works in a variety of mediums. Our goal is to foster expressive, informed, articulate, and daring actor-artists.

MFA Design and Technology (costumes, props, scenic). Prepares the theatre artisan to undertake positions with a wide scope of responsibility by providing a solid foundation of construction techniques and materials in addition to design and fabrication skills associated with the student's focus (costume, props, or scenic). Classroom instruction is complemented by hands-on experience in a variety of areas. All students undertake positions on LSU Mainstage and Swine Palace productions.

## **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Swine Palace operates with a dual mission to provide South Louisiana with high quality, professional productions of classical and contemporary theater with an emphasis on plays exploring issues of social equity while also serving as a training ground for students in Louisiana State University's M.F.A. Professional Actor and Technical/Design Training Programs.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

\$15,500/yr. year-round (August-July) assistantships.

\$11,000/yr. academic-year (August- May) assistantships have been available in previous years.

## **2020/2021 SEASON**

To be announced.

## UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Maura Keefe, Director

School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies  
2810 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center  
College Park, MD 20742  
301-405-6676, [tdps.umd.edu](mailto:tdps.umd.edu)  
[tdps.umd.edu/academic-programs/mfa-design](http://tdps.umd.edu/academic-programs/mfa-design)

Contact: Misha Kachman, Head of MFA in Design  
[mkachman@umd.edu](mailto:mkachman@umd.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Design:

Costume, Lighting, Projections & Media, Scenic

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 2-3, Lighting: 2-3, Projections/Media: 2-3, Scenic: 2-3.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies (TDPS) offers a full-time and fully funded M.F.A. in Theatre Design degree alongside M.F.A.'s in dance, PhD's in Theatre History and Performance Studies, and undergraduate degrees in Dance and Theatre. TDPS is one unit in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, a state-of-the-art facility with large dance studios, a variety of theatre spaces, and world outreach seminar rooms. Through the Artist Partner Program, graduate students engage with national and international performing artists through master classes, performances, and conversations.

UMD's Master of Fine Arts in Design program is a highly competitive, pre-professional, terminal degree program that offers superior students advanced training in costume, lighting, scenic, and projection/media design in preparation for the professional theater and entertainment fields. It emphasizes the development of specific production-related skills under the mentorship of internationally renowned faculty, and gives students numerous internship and professional opportunities to work with more than 75 professional theaters in the Washington, D.C./Baltimore region. UMD's Program is a 3-year program, requiring the completion of 60 credits.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The UMD MFA in Design Program has official affiliations with Studio Theatre in Washington, DC, Maryland Opera Studio, and Imagination Stage in Bethesda, MD. MFA students can expect to design at least one professional production at one of those companies during the course of their study. In addition, the program has longstanding relationships (through faculty's professional engagements) with Arena Stage, Round House Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Signature Theatre (Arlington, VA), Ford's Theatre, Theater J, Mosaic Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Shakespeare Theatre Company, and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company.

## FINANCIAL AID

The School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies is committed to fully funding all graduate students accepted into its programs and makes every effort to meet that goal. Assistantships are available for graduate study and are awarded by the TDPS graduate program only after a successful Graduate School acceptance. Competitive support for workshops, conference presentations, summer study and other projects is also available.

All current MFA students in the program are fully funded through Graduate Assistantships. GAship package consists of: full tuition remission; annual stipend in the amount of \$22,150 for 1st year students (the stipend rises to \$23,315 for 2nd and 3rd year students); and health benefits. In addition to assistantships, there are opportunities for awards and fellowships through the College of Arts & Humanities and the University of Maryland. To find more funding opportunities outside of TDPS offerings, please visit the ARHU website page for financial support.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

The 2020/2021 is being revised due to Covid-19. The current season includes: *The Revolutionists*, *Machinal*, *Faculty Dance Concert*, *Orlando*.

## **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Stephen Di Benedetto, Chair

542 Auditorium Road  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
517-355-6690, theatre.msu.edu

### **MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting

Design:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic,  
Sound

Contacts:

Chair: Stephen Di Benedetto, dibened6@msu.edu

Acting: Rob Roznowski, roznows5@msu.edu

Design: Karen Kangas-Preston, kangaspr@msu.edu

### **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Acting: 8, Design: 3 (any focus) Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Michigan State University Department of Theatre is an intimate department within a major university of 50,000 students in the capitol city. This unique, 3-year program (60 credits) incorporates a diverse mix of skills-based curriculum to create richer artists along with a focus on creating future educators. The acting program offers rigorous training in theatrical performance with extensive training in voice, movement, and acting to provide a foundation for student's development. The design program allows candidates to explore design across numerous platforms with the goal of creating a richer collaborative artist. Graduates of the program pursue professional careers in theatre or transition immediately into careers in education after experiencing the varied artistic and teaching opportunities MSU provides. Students may present their work in one of six theatre spaces on campus.

### **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

MSU maintains a collaborative partnership with a local Equity Theatre (Williamston Theatre; Tony Caselli, Artistic Director). The Williamston Theatre, 2014 American Theatre Wing National Theatre Company Award Winner, produces professional theatre that excites and engages our audiences while challenging us all to explore our lives. The Williamston Theatre's mission is supported by the following objectives: to be an integral part of the cultural fabric of Michigan; to pursue innovative collaboration in every aspect of our work; to establish a home for Midwest artists; to engage audiences of diverse ages, cultures and economic backgrounds. Graduate students have the opportunity to work at MSU's professional summer theatre, Summer Circle Theatre. This decades old tradition produces five shows of varying styles for mid-Michigan audiences. MSU also has a strong commitment to bringing in guest artists each year to direct, design, and collaborate with graduate students and to offer networking opportunities for students. Professional internships are also available throughout the country and the globe as part of the Spartan alumni network.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is required for assistantship consideration. Graduate Assistantship includes: Full tuition waiver, premium health insurance coverage, and \$15,800 nine-month stipend. Summer Support Fellowships ranging from \$4,500-\$5,000 may also be available.

### **2020/2021 SEASON**

The 2020/2021 season has been adjusted due to Covid-19. The season will now feature a series of experimental pieces devoted to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presented via various socially-distanced means. MFA students have the opportunity to participate in all mainstage productions, typically six per year.

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Mathew LeFebvre, Chair

580 Rarig Center, 330 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South,  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
612-625-6699, theatredance.umn.edu

Contact: theatre@umn.edu

## MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Props,  
Scenic, Sound, Technical Direction

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not recruiting this year.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Minnesota provides a challenging and creative environment for the ambitious design student who expects to become an accomplished professional in the performing arts industry. The MFA in Design and Technology is an intensive three-year (60-credit) program dedicated to the education of artists for the professional theatre and entertainment industry. It is a rigorous program based on the belief that good designers must have a solid understanding of each area of design in order to communicate and collaborate well with other designers, technicians, and directors. Through a curriculum of core design and technology classes, we aim to develop skills necessary for students to effectively communicate with their collaborators and with their audiences. Strong craft skills and the use of technology are balanced in this program in order to understand how the design functions in execution. Students entering the program may have prepared for graduate study as an undergraduate in a related field such as Art, Architecture, English, or Fashion, or even with backgrounds seemingly unconnected to the arts. In any case, the student is expected to have a reasonable amount of exposure to the field of theatre, opera, and dance, and the passion to pursue a greater understanding of these fields locally, nationally, and internationally.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our MFA candidates in Design and Technology have consistent opportunities to assist professional designers and technicians at local, high-profile organizations such as The Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Theatre Latte Da, Penumbra Theatre, the Jungle Theater, and several others. We also bring in professional directors to work with and mentor our students. We make every effort to reserve internal (within the department) design opportunities for our students. Our student technicians very often leave our program with an affiliation with I.A.T.S.E. Local 13.

## FINANCIAL AID

All students accepted into the program are supported with 3-year Assistantship packages that include a tuition waiver, health insurance, and a stipend for production-based teaching assistance. In keeping with the MFA program's emphasis on communication, collaboration, and craft, these assistantships offer sustained practical experience that prepares students to work in professional theatre, as well as to teach and mentor others.

Additionally, the department offers annual awards and scholarships for exemplary students. Funds are available to support students presenting research at national and international conferences or participating in specialized training events in their design area, and our students are also in constant demand by the large Twin Cities professional theatre and arts community where internships and overhire opportunities are frequently available.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

To be announced.

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - KANSAS CITY

Kenneth Martin, Chair

4949 Cherry St, Kansas City, MO 64110  
813-235-2353  
[conservatory.umkc.edu/areas-of-study/theatre.html](http://conservatory.umkc.edu/areas-of-study/theatre.html)

Contact: [kjmartin@umkc.edu](mailto:kjmartin@umkc.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound

Stage Management

Technical Direction

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8, Costume Design: 2, Lighting Design: 2, Scenic Design: 2, Sound Design: 2, Stage Management: 2, Technical Direction: 2.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

All MFA programs except Stage Management are 60 credits that completed over six traditional semesters. The MFA in Stage Management is also 60 credits but is run over two years and includes summers. UMKC Theatre's MFA program operates in what is called a 'teaching hospital for the theatre', where graduate students work closely with practicing professionals onstage and off. KC Rep, a LORT B/D company is in residency on campus and students work with the Rep. We are fortunate to have all of Kansas City as our campus and are a major contributor to Kansas City's vibrant theatre scene through our regular co-productions.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

UMKC is affiliated with the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, an Equity, LORT B/D Theatre. KC Rep is located on the UMKC campus. Acting students are occasionally cast in KC Rep shows before their third year. Third year actors may be cast in one or more KC Rep shows, which counts as performance/internship work. EMC credit is available. Additionally, students work with a variety of other local Equity companies in the area such as the Unicorn Theatre, Coterie Theatre and Kansas City Actors Theatre.

### FINANCIAL AID

All graduate students receive financial aid in some form. A typical package includes a tuition waiver and stipend. UMKC Theatre offers assistantships and scholarships.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

*Features Festival Love and Information, Twelfth Night, Brainstorm, and other opportunities to be decided based upon Covid-19 protocols.*

## UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN

Christina Kirk, Chair

Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
215 Temple Building, PO Box 880201  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0201  
402-472-2072, <https://arts.unl.edu/theatre-and-film>

### MFA PROGRAMS

Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Scenic Design  
Technical Direction

Contacts: [ckirk9@unl.edu](mailto:ckirk9@unl.edu), [jbullins@unl.edu](mailto:jbullins@unl.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Lighting Design: 1, Scenic Design: 2, Technical Direction: 1.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers an MFA in Stage Design with emphases in Scenic Design or Production, Lighting Design or Production, Technical Production, or Costume Design. This intensive three-year program focuses on guiding the student to hone their skills as visionary artists and designers. The Carson School is a premiere training program of theatre and film artists with an alumni network stretching from New York to LA. In late 2015, the Johnny Carson Foundation announced a \$20 million donation as part of an overall \$57 million investment by the University to create the new Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts, an exciting new program that creatively fuses performative experiences across film; theatre and live stage performance; gaming, interactive media, broadcast and internet media; and augmented and virtual reality. The program is 60 credit hours over three academic years (fall and spring).

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Carson School is part of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts that, through its endowment, further supports the theatre faculty and students by funding scholarships, student and faculty travel, and productions for the Nebraska Repertory Theatre, the Actors' Equity Association professional wing of the School which employs USA designers and SDC directors as well as Equity actors. Opportunities: realized design/production in theatre, dance, opera; assisting USA829 designers and professional technical directors; teaching; leadership; and attending professional conferences such as USITT and LDI. The Nebraska Repertory Theatre has established a two-year partnership with The St. Louis Black Rep for 2020-2022.

### FINANCIAL AID

The Carson School was established thanks to the philanthropic subsidy from the late Johnny Carson, whose endowment to the School provides substantial support for the graduate programs. Students receive tuition remission, graduate assistantships, with additional fellowships available.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

All productions will be professionally videotaped and will only be available online for the general public: *#realchange The Continuum: Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter* (Oct. 2); *#realchange Baldwin and the American Theatre* (Nov. 6); *Dracula: Mina's Quest* (Feb. 17-21); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Apr. 7-11); *The Way to the Way and A Thousand Words (revival)* (May 6-9).

## UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Norma Saldivar, Chair

Department of Theatre  
Box 455036  
4505 Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5036  
702-895-3666, FAX 702-895-0833  
<https://www.unlv.edu/theatre>

Contacts:

Norma Saldivar, Chair  
[norma.saldivar@unlv.edu](mailto:norma.saldivar@unlv.edu)  
Shannon Sumpter, Associate Chair  
[shannon.sumpter@unlv.edu](mailto:shannon.sumpter@unlv.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design & Technology:  
    Costumes, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction  
Stage Management

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Design & Technology: 3-5, Stage Management: 1-2.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of Theatre at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas offers a three-year Master of Fine Arts program with concentrations in Design/Technology, Performance, and Stage Management. Actors, designers, stage managers, and technicians receive comprehensive and specialized training in preparation for careers in the professional theatre. While deeply committed to the individual theatre artist, the program fosters and encourages an integrated and collaborative approach to theatre. In each semester of training, graduate students apply skills and training to production opportunities with UNLV's Nevada Conservatory Theatre.

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre serves to engage national and international theatre professionals in all disciplines to work alongside the most advanced students from the UNLV Department of Theatre. It is a leading theatre in Las Vegas and southern Nevada. It enriches, strengthens, and challenges the cultural and artistic life of the city and strives to be the state's premier theatre. It seeks the most advanced level of artistic achievement and to become a renowned regional theatre in America.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre (NCT, Norma Saldivar, Executive Director) works to provide students enrolled in the UNLV Department of Theatre Performance and Production program real time opportunities to put into practice theoretical and professional training studied in the classroom and/or studio and transferred to the NCT stages.

The NCT is dedicated to bringing professional actors, designers, and directors to campus to work alongside advanced students in all areas of performance and production. Professional guest artists from across the nation augment and enrich the professional training while creating a bridge to professional opportunities and networks.

### FINANCIAL AID

All graduate assistants (GAs or GRAs) receive \$15,000, plus waiver of out-of-state or in-state tuition. Health insurance is available with assignment.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

*Human Comedy* (world premiere), *bobrauchenbergamerica*, *Little Shop of Horrors*.

## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Adam Versenyi, Department Chair  
Julia Gibson, Head of MFA Acting

120 Country Club Rd., Campus Box 3230  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3230  
919-962-1132  
[drama.unc.edu/programs-of-study/graduate-studies/](http://drama.unc.edu/programs-of-study/graduate-studies/)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Costume Production  
Technical Production

#### Contacts:

Betty Futrell, [bfutrell@email.unc.edu](mailto:bfutrell@email.unc.edu)  
Julia Gibson, Head of Professional Actor Training  
Program (PATP), [gibju@email.unc.edu](mailto:gibju@email.unc.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

UNC Chapel Hill will not be recruiting this year.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MFA Acting is a rigorous three-year program (consecutive, on the academic calendar) offering advanced training to early-career professionals. Classes are taught by resident master teachers who remain active in the field professionally, as well as distinguished guest artists. Training includes professional rehearsal and performance practice with North Carolina's premier regional theatre, PlayMakers Repertory Company. The program develops professionally prepared, technically disciplined, expansive, versatile, and authentic actors who are given the opportunity and encouragement to develop their own voice as an artist. All actors earn membership in Actors Equity Association before graduation. The department, the program and the theatre are all committed to Access, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PlayMakers Repertory Company (Vivienne Benesch, Producing Artistic Director) is a nationally regarded LORT theatre in residence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. PlayMakers has a resident company of actors, directors, and designers, as well as acclaimed costume and technical production teams. All MFA actors are considered for roles on the mainstage upon acceptance into the program. They are given the opportunity to play ensemble, supporting, and even leading roles alongside company members and professional guest artists with established directors in classical, contemporary, and new works.

### FINANCIAL AID

Some MFA actors receive Teaching Assistantships for all or most of their time in the program. Teaching Assistantships come with Tuition Remission, Graduate Student Health Insurance, and a competitive stipend. Other financial assistance, usually in the form of cash awards, is also possible.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

Season is to be determined due to Covid-19.



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

Natalie Sowell, Chair

200 Taylor Building  
PO Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC 27412  
336-334-5576, <https://vpa.uncg.edu/theatre/>

Contacts:

MFA Acting: Jim Wren, [jimwren@uncg.edu](mailto:jimwren@uncg.edu)

MFA Directing: John Gulley, [gulley@uncg.edu](mailto:gulley@uncg.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design

Directing

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not recruiting this year.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Acting Program is an innovative two-year, four semester, 60 credit-hour program dedicated to the development of the advanced actor pursuing a career in professional and/or academic theatre. This competitive program accepts a small core of students every other year, ensuring that classes are small and training is personal. Students study voice, movement, acting for the camera, audition techniques, dialects, and contemporary and period scene study. Students will perform regularly in the Mainstage, Theatre for Youth, and Studio seasons, and at Triad Stage. In the final semester, MFA Acting students participate in our New York Industry Showcase as a means of launching their professional careers.

The MFA in Directing Program is an innovative two-year, four semester, 60 credit-hour program designed to train students to work professionally and to teach at the collegiate level. Directing students direct a production in each of their four semesters. While at UNCG, student directors will have multiple opportunities to work closely with professional directors, designers, and actors at Triad Stage. Preston Lane, the Producing Artistic Director of Triad Stage, is a principal instructor in the MFA Directing Program.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students in both the acting and directing programs have the opportunity to work at Triad Stage, an Equity company in Greensboro and UNCG's professional partner. The MFA actors will perform at least one role alongside Equity actors while earning points in the Equity Membership Program. MFA directors assist on at least two productions at Triad Stage. UNCG brings in additional guest artists throughout the year.

### FINANCIAL AID

It is hoped that all students accepted into one of our MFA programs will receive full tuition waivers (fees cannot be waived) and receive a stipend of at least \$10,000. No promises can be made as waivers and stipends are dependent on the passage of the state budget.

All graduate students serve as Teaching Assistants and will have the opportunity to teach in the undergraduate program.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

To be announced.

## **NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Alexander Gelman, Director

School of Theatre and Dance  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
815-753-1334, FAX 815-753-8415  
www.vpa.niu.edu/theater

Contact: 815-753-1334

### **MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting

Design and Technology

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Theatre Technology

### **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Design and Technology: Costume, Lighting, Scenic, and Theatre Technology.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

MFA Acting: A specialization which offers student/artists professional actor training in a disciplined and challenging atmosphere. Instruction is focused on development of technique. Program is based in the Meisner process with parallel and integrated training in voice and movement. Up to 16 students admitted every three years.

MFA Design/Tech: A specialization which offers study in costume design, lighting design, scenic design, and theatre technology. Students are trained in multiple areas of the visual and/or technical aspects of the theatre. Enrollment is limited in order to maximize personalized instruction and to use fully the resources within and outside the school. Spring entry is possible. Programs are 9 month terms beginning in mid-August for three years.

### **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The School of Theatre and Dance collaborates with Chicago's Organic Theater Company (Alexander Gelman, Producing Artistic Director). Evening and matinee performances in repertory as well as readings, workshops and panels, at Chicago's Greenhouse Theatre Center and in the northern Illinois region. Positions open to students/grads of NIU's MFA/BFA/BA programs. Student assignments may include performing, designing, understudying, production work, house management, publicity, etc. Classes and credits are by arrangement, for internship, directed study, and final project.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Assistantship: \$5,200 - \$13,500 plus tuition waiver, scholarships and fellowships also available. (Information from 2020).

### **2020/2021 SEASON**

To be announced.

## NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Rives Collins, Chair

Northwestern University, Department of Theatre  
70 Arts Circle Dr., Room 5-160  
Evanston IL, 60208  
(847) 491-3170  
<https://communication.northwestern.edu/departments/theatre/about>

Contact: [nutheatre@northwestern.edu](mailto:nutheatre@northwestern.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Directing  
Stage Design:  
Costume, Lighting, Scenic

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not recruiting this year.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**MFA in Acting** is an immersive, comprehensive, and collaborative program designed to equip students with the tools and support necessary for success in professional theatre. The 2-year program focuses on intense and concentrated immersion in both the contemporary and classical canon with a keen eye on parity in representation. Candidates emerge prepared for the rigors and demands of a rapidly evolving creative economy. Located in our brand-new facilities in Abbott Hall on Northwestern's downtown Chicago campus, the MFA in Acting is built upon the study of text analysis, techniques for interpretation and rehearsal, movement, and voice and speech in concert with performance through production experience. We actively engage Chicago's artistically diverse professional theatre community, one of the most vibrant centers for theatre-making in the world. We examine theatre as civic practice and the historical as well as current responsibility of the actor in society. The program offers an intensive and in-depth curriculum in acting, theatrical storytelling, and collaborative production practices while also giving students access to Northwestern's liberal arts environment. **MFA in Directing** guides each director to discover, develop, and apply their individual artistic voice with vision and integrity over the course of the 3-year program. We provide a place for this crucial introspection, supported by rigorous scholarship, a fully-funded assistantship, and intensive mentoring. We prioritize each artist's role and opportunity in a professional community. The course of study includes a rich and unique curriculum that puts the focus on a director's personal vision, depth of craft, leadership, creativity, and collaborative voice, and how these skills are employed in relationship to the community context in which they will work. Directors are exposed to an expansive range of artists, scholars, and critical perspectives, while being supported in close tutorial relationships with a core faculty. While collaborating with actors and designers in classroom and production activities, they also learn advanced directing theory and practice from working directors at prestigious national theatres such as Steppenwolf, The Goodman Theater and Lookingglass, among others. Beyond opportunities to develop and lead projects on campus, students may pursue varied production opportunities such as professional internships in the Chicago theatre community. **MFA in Stage Design** program exists to prepare a select group of scenery, costume, and lighting designers for professional careers in the American theatre, international theatre, and related design fields. Central to this 3-year program of study is an emphasis on intensive collaboration between designers and directors, rigorous analysis of texts, thorough research, and a fervent effort to nurture unique artistic voices. It is our belief that passionate, insightful artists immersed in a team-based environment will generate bold, compelling theatrical works. Necessary for continuation each year is the student's development toward mastery of a complete repertoire of graphic techniques and a heightened conceptual and design aesthetic in a primary design field, mastery of a range of fundamental abilities in a secondary field, and maturing collaboration skills. The first year of study emphasizes the importance of skills training and design process. The second year prioritizes collaboration, research, and imagination and serves as a transition from the activities and points of view of the entering student to the professional profile and attitudes of the graduating designer. The final year's activity concentrates on designing and the preparation of the thesis portfolio.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MFA students will work alongside faculty members and guest artists with a variety of professional theatrical backgrounds and may be eligible for observation and internship opportunities with major Chicago area theatres.

### FINANCIAL AID

Acting: 2-year Program (12 months per year). Tuition is covered, and a stipend will be provided for 12 months/year. Directing: 3-year Program (9 months per year). Tuition is covered, and a stipend will be provided for 3 months/year. Stage Design: 3-year Program (9 months per year). Tuition is covered, and a stipend will be provided for 9 months/year. *The monthly stipend rate for 2019-2020 is \$2,737. Additional grants and scholarships may be available.*

### 2020/2021 SEASON

To be announced.

## OHIO UNIVERSITY

Merri Biechler, Director

Ohio University School of Theater  
307 Kantner Hall, 19 S. College St.  
1 Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701  
740 593-4818, <https://www.ohio.edu/fine-arts/theater>

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Directing  
General Theater (MA)  
Production Design  
Production Technology

### Contacts:

Primary: Merri Biechler, [biechler@ohio.edu](mailto:biechler@ohio.edu)  
Acting: David Haugen, [haugend@ohio.edu](mailto:haugend@ohio.edu)  
Production Design and Technology: C. David Russell,  
[russell1@ohio.edu](mailto:russell1@ohio.edu)

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 12-14, Scenic Design: 2, Costume Design: 2, Lighting Design: 2, Sound Design: 2, Technical Direction: 2, Costume Technology: 2, Props Technology: 2, Directing: 2, General Theater (MA): 0-2.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

All MFA degrees are 3-year, 90 semester-credit programs featuring intensive professional training with close faculty mentorship, professional guest artists through Tantrum Theater, Ohio University's professional theater, internships and maximum hands on experience. The Acting program offers extensive studio training and ensemble practice, daily practical application, and opportunities to develop new work and appear in films. The Directing program is centered on the principle of collaboration with actors, designers, and playwrights. Directors direct three to six productions, including a third-year main stage production. The Production Design program offers specialization in Scenic, Costume, Lighting, and Sound as well as dual area focus. Our Production Technology program offers specialization in Technical Direction, Props and Costume Technology (and Crafts). The School of Theater is particularly interested in new work. A Playwrights' Festival of new plays is produced annually in collaboration with all programs in which theater professionals are invited to respond to three fully staged productions and readings.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Tantrum Theater, our professional theater, is fully integrated into the academic season. Two Tantrum large scale productions are produced with professional directors, designers and actors working alongside our students. A summer festival of presented productions and a workshop of a new musical in development are planned for 2020-2021. Students acting in Tantrum productions are eligible for Equity EMC points. In addition, Tantrum will be supporting an array of Tantrum Artists, professionals specializing in a wide assortment of disciplines and the developmental musical theater workshop. Graduate students have a required and financially supported off campus internship with a professional company, designer or technician.

## FINANCIAL AID

Tuition remission and graduate assistantships up to \$5,618 per semester. Some upper level competitive fellowships provide additional financial support.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*People, Places, and Things; The Women of Lockerbie; Angels in America, Part 1; This Is Not What I Expected When I Imagined A Republic; musical workshop (TBA); Macbeth; Blood at the Root; Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812; Seabury Quinn, Jr. Playwrights' Festival.*

## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Andrew Shelton, Chair

The Ohio State University Department of Theatre  
1849 Cannon Drive, 1089 Drake Perf & Event Ctr.  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614-292-5821, theatre.osu.edu

Contact: theatre-grad@osu.edu

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Media Design  
Scenic Design

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume Design: 2, Media Design: 1, Scenic Design: 1.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The three-year MFA in Theatre emphasizes professional training in acting (with a focus on new works) or design. The MFA program is dedicated to scholarly and artistic achievement made possible by an excellent faculty with diverse skills and interests, the exceptional opportunities for research provided by the university's libraries, the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute, the department's active production schedule, and yearly guest artists and residencies.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

International opportunities are available with special theatre programs in London, Cuba, and the Czech Republic. Students encounter a vast array of academic and cultural resources at The Ohio State University, such as the Wexner Center for the Arts, and in Columbus, such as the King Arts Complex, CATCO, and the Lincoln Theatre. Students also have the opportunity to work with guest artists each year.

## FINANCIAL AID

50% appointment at \$16,515 a year paid over a 9-month period. Appointments carry out-of-state tuition and fee waiver worth \$47,100 for 3 semesters. There is also an 85% subsidy of student health benefits.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

The originally planned 2020-2021 season was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. New creative opportunities for students in place of the planned season are in development.

## PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Rick Lombardo, Chair

School of Theatre, The Pennsylvania State University  
116 Theatre Building, University Park, PA 16802  
814-865-7586, Theatre.psu.edu

Contact: theatre@psu.edu

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Production:

Costume Design

Scenic Design

Costume Technology

Directing (emphasis on Musical Theatre)

Music Directing for Musical Theatre

Vocal Pedagogy for Musical Theatre

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume Technology: 2, Scenic Design: 2.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Penn State School of Theatre's primary mission is preparing literate, well-trained Theatre artists, artisans, and craft persons for professional careers across the entertainment industry. The Penn State M.F.A. program prepares artists for the demands and rewards of 21<sup>st</sup> century performance on a global scale. We are dedicated to a multi-faceted, diverse world-view using arts, education, and productions in our professional arm, Penn State Centre Stage, as our primary tools to create impactful performance makers.

Students train with working professionals in a conservatory environment through an intensive literature and criticism sequence, interdisciplinary studios, seminars, independent projects, and internships.

The Masters in Fine Arts degree in Theatre is a three-year program, requiring a minimum of 60 credits. The period of engagement runs from August through May, with professional internships encouraged primarily during the summer months.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Partnered Theatre - Penn State Centre Stage (Rick Lombardo, Producing Artistic Director) is the professional arm of the Penn State School of Theatre, which offers professional programs in theatre training and production. The season includes mainstage, studio, and laboratory productions. Space includes a 450-seat proscenium theatre, a 250-seat thrust, and a 150-seat proscenium as well as excellent production facilities and lighting, sound, and scenic technology studios.

### FINANCIAL AID

\$21,000+ per year for 3 years and full tuition remission.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

Fall: *The Black Boy Who Thought He Had It All*, *The Osaze Osagie Project*, *Musical Theatre Cabaret of Color*, *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* (pending rights).

Spring: TBD.

## PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Ann M. Shanahan, Chair

552 W. Wood St.

West Lafayette, IN 47907-2002

765-494-3074

[www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/theatre/](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/theatre/)

Contact:

Beth Daugherty, [bbessler@purdue.edu](mailto:bbessler@purdue.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Costume Design

Lighting Design

Scenic Design

Sound Design:

Audio Technology

Technical Direction

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume Design: 2, Lighting Design: 1, Scenic Design: 2, Sound Design and/or Audio Technology: 2.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Though rigorous, individualized plans of study, one on one mentorship, and extensive production, teaching, and professional development opportunities, the MFA programs at Purdue prepare students for careers in professional or educational theatre and the entertainment industry.

Completing the MFA requires a minimum of 60 credit hours. Design and production programs subscribe to the idea that a strong design best rests on a foundation of technical knowledge, and that the study of technology is enriched by an understanding of design. The curriculum is focused on script analysis and dramaturgy, collaboration, and development of skills in design and technology by area through practical, hands-on experience.

The Department of Theatre is one of four units (with Art and Design, Music, and Dance) in the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Design, Art, and Performance at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, in proximity to professional theatres in Chicago (2 hours) and Indianapolis (1.5 hours). The department is housed in Yue-Kong Pao Hall of Visual and Performing Arts, which features exceptional facilities and equipment, including two innovatively designed theatres and studios that serve as classroom and laboratory spaces. Faculty and staff are professionally active artists, technicians, and scholars committed to maintaining industry standards and work-life balance for students, alongside excellent teaching and mentoring.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Graduate students work on a variety of projects ranging from workshops and dance performances to main stage productions, engaging professional guest artists every season. MFA students are awarded assistantships to work in the technical shop related to their area of study, including with Hall of Music Productions, a large professional production and presenting organization at Purdue. Students also have the opportunity to teach introductory-level courses in their area/s for the undergraduate program. An internship is required in Design and Production. Recent internships include Theatre Aspen, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, First Folio/Chicago, Des Moines Metro Opera, Contemporary American Festival, Shakespeare & Company, Disney Imagineering, Steppenwolf, Electronic Arts, Texas Shakespeare Festival and Chautauqua Opera.

## FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Assistantships include a stipend of \$19,000, tuition waiver, and affordable healthcare options.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*Fall Online Series, Nell Gwynn, In the Blood, Mother Courage and Her Children.* (Season is subject to change for Covid-19 safety considerations)

## SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

'Niyi Coker, Director

School of Theatre, Television, and Film  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, CA 92182-7601  
619-594-5091  
[https://ttf.sdsu.edu/programs/program\\_emphases/mfa-design-technology](https://ttf.sdsu.edu/programs/program_emphases/mfa-design-technology)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Costume Design  
Costume Technology  
Lighting Design  
Projection Design  
Scenic Design  
Sound Design  
Technical Direction

Contact:

Anne E. McMills, Head of Lighting Design  
[amcmills@sdsu.edu](mailto:amcmills@sdsu.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume Design and Technology: 2, Lighting Design: 2, Projection Design: 2, Scenic Design: 2, Sound Design: 2, Technical Direction: 2.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA Program in Design and Technology in the School of Theatre, Television, and Film at San Diego State accepts students who are seriously interested in achieving the artistry and skills necessary to become practicing professionals in the fields of Theatre, Television, and/or Film. A balance of theoretical coursework, studio work, and production is achieved through the curriculum and close consultation with faculty advisors. While the learning environment is protective enough to enable our students to succeed, direct exposure to the diverse and richly active theatre life of San Diego and its environs is an important element of the program. After all, southern California is proud to be the home of some of the most important regional theatres in the country including The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, and Center Theatre Group as well as entertainment giants like Disney and the Hollywood film industry – which employ our students and alumni. Our 63-unit MFA in Design and Technology is a three-year program with emphases in Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Projection and Sound Design and Technology, and Technical Direction. The program does not run during the summer months.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students work with theatre professionals both within and outside the academic environment and are allowed to design as much as their individual capabilities permit, including outside of the university. Students are also required to participate in an intensive internship, often working as an assistant to a professional designer or in a television or film studio. Professional guest directors from San Diego and Los Angeles are brought in consistently to work with our students in class on semester-long design projects as well as direct in our production season to work one-on-one with our students. Additionally, SDSU partners with two professional theatres in San Diego – the Cygnet Theatre and the MOXIE – to provide exclusive fellowships to our graduate students in assisting, design, and technical direction.

### FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Assistantships and/or Teaching Assistantships are available every semester for students in all disciplines. Competitive out-of-state tuition waivers are also available, as well as numerous fellowships, scholarships, and awards of merit.

San Diego State is consistently ranked in the top 15 on the list of '50 Best Value Colleges and University in California' and in the top 50 of Forbes' ranking of the '300 Best Value Colleges and Universities' in the United States.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

*Two Lakes, Two Rivers; Metamorphosis; Much Ado About Nothing; Chess the Musical* in concert; *Cloud 9; She Kills Monsters; The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.*



## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Stephanie Milling, Interim Chair

Department of Theatre and Dance

Longstreet Theatre, Columbia, SC 29208

803-777-4288

[https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/artsandsciences/theatre\\_and\\_dance/about/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/theatre_and_dance/about/index.php)

Contact:

Amy Lehman, Director of Graduate Studies

[lehmana@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:lehmana@mailbox.sc.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

Directing

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing 1-2 (minimum), Design (Costume, Lighting, Scenic): 1-2 in each area (minimum).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A three-year program focused on training and enhancing the individual talent of the graduate student. The classroom production aspects of the programs are closely coordinated. The faculty is composed of working professionals and supplemented by the staff and artists from national and international theatres who serve as teachers, actors, and directors during regular residencies at the university.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students work with guest artist teachers, as well as directors, actors, and designers from regional theatres. Third year actors and designers have interned at Baltimore Center Stage, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, Atlantic Theatre Company (NYC), Walt Disney World, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, among others.

## FINANCIAL AID

Assistantships range from \$10,000-\$13,600 annually plus tuition abatement.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*Love and Information, She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), You on the Moors Now, Constellations.*

## MEADOWS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS / SMU

Dr. Gretchen E. Smith, Chair

Meadows School of the Arts/SMU

P.O. Box 750356

Dallas, TX 75275-0356

(214) 768-2558

<https://www.smu.edu/Meadows/AreasOfStudy/Theatre>

Contacts:

Graduate Admissions: Joe Hoselton, [hoselton@smu.edu](mailto:hoselton@smu.edu)

Acting: Blake Hackler, [jhackler@smu.edu](mailto:jhackler@smu.edu)

Stage Design: Steve Woods, [stevew@smu.edu](mailto:stevew@smu.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Stage Design:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenery

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Stage Design (Costume, Lighting, Scenery): 4.

Acting: 0 (next class, Fall 2022).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MFA in Stage Design:

- Assistantship responsibilities—Design Main Stage Theatre, Opera & Dance productions.
- 3 years, 66 credit hours
- Classes—learn artistic, analytical, and practical skills (individually focused in the 2nd and 3rd years) to develop open, articulate, professional working designers for theatre, TV, film, media, gaming, and/or animation.
- Networking—regularly scheduled interviews with local and regional directors resulting in students designing 2-6 professional productions in the DFW metroplex
- Summer Internships—Dallas Theater Center/Public Works Dallas

MFA in Acting:

- The Acting Program focuses on the embodiment of action through the marriages of self to technique and imagination to text. Classes in voice, speech, acting and movement work together to create actors who are able to engage in any rehearsal process with rigor, specificity, and abandon. With a strong mix of devised work alongside more traditional plays, SMU prepares actors for a meaningful and productive life in the theatre.
- The MFA Acting Program enjoys a thriving relationship with the Dallas Theatre Center, with all graduate students guaranteed at least one casting opportunity with DTC during their time at SMU. In addition, one actor from each graduating class will be offered a one-year contract with the Brierly Resident Acting Company at Dallas Theatre Center.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Partnered Theatre—Dallas Theater Center, LORT

Summer Dallas Internships—Dallas Theater Center Dallas/Public Works

Other Professional Opportunities—Shakespeare Dallas, Theatre Three, Kitchen Dog, Second Thought Theatre, Undermain, Jubilee Theatre/Ft. Worth, Public Works Dallas, Dallas Opera, Circle Theater/Ft. Worth, Cape Fear Regional Theatre/NC.

## FINANCIAL AID

\$12,000 Assistantship and medical coverage.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

To be announced.

## TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Fred M. Duer, Chair

1301 West Norris Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
215-204-8414, <https://tfma.temple.edu/theater>

Contacts:

Acting: Lynne Innerst, [innerst@temple.edu](mailto:innerst@temple.edu)  
Design: Fred M. Duer, [fmduer@temple.edu](mailto:fmduer@temple.edu)  
Directing: Marcus Giamatti,  
[marcus.giamatti@temple.edu](mailto:marcus.giamatti@temple.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Costume Design  
Lighting/Projections Design  
Scenic Design  
Directing  
Playwriting

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume Design: 2, Lighting/Projections Design: 2, Scenic Design: 1.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The 60 credit/three-year (excluding summers) MFA programs at Temple University consist of Design, Acting, Directing and Playwriting. Additional graduate programs include an MA in Musical Theater and an MFA in Musical Theater Collaboration. A new class of MFA Acting, Directing and Playwriting students are admitted every three years, with a new cohort entering in the fall of 2022. MFA Design students are admitted every year.

The size of the graduate program provides an intimate setting for collaboration and allows for extensive interaction between students and faculty, as well as numerous opportunities for graduate students to practice their craft with realized designs, roles, and directing opportunities. Undergraduate students have the opportunity to work with graduate students in productions, in the shops, and as instructors in the classroom.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to work with professional guest artists and make valuable connections with the professional, regional theaters in Philadelphia.

## FINANCIAL AID

Assistantship opportunities and teaching experiences are available.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*Ivanov, As You Like It, The Laramie Project, The Wolves.*

## UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Calvin MacLean  
Producing Artistic Director, Department Head

University of Tennessee, Clarence Brown Theatre  
206 McClung Tower, University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
865-974-6011, clarencebrowntheatre.com

Contacts: cbt@utk.edu  
Jed Diamond, Head of Acting: jdiamond@utk.edu  
Lauren Roark, Costume Design: lroark2@utk.edu  
Kenton Yeager, Lighting Design: kyeager2@utk.edu  
Christopher Pickart, Scenic Design: cpickart@utk.edu  
Joe Payne, Sound and Media Design:  
jpayne32@utk.edu

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design/Technology:  
Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound/Media

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

University of Tennessee will not be recruiting in 2021.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Intensive professional training program integrating studio training, classroom study, and a rigorous schedule of production experience in the Clarence Brown Theatre (LORT D) season. Actors' Equity Association membership is earned through training, though is not mandatory. Noteworthy recent alumni include: (Acting) – David Brian Alley, Zack Fine, Shinnerrie Jackson, Cycerli Ash, Conrad Ricamora, Tramell Tillman; (Design) – Eric Abele, Miwa Ishii, Mary Pingree, Nevana Prodanovic, Miranda Debusk, Josafath Reynoso, Kate Bashore, Elizabeth Stadstad.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Partnered Theatre – Clarence Brown Theatre was founded in 1974 with Sir Anthony Quayle as Artistic Director. The Clarence Brown Theatre is one of the oldest companies in the LORT system and has a distinguished history of hosting artists of national and international stature, including Jennifer Tipton, Kevin Depinet, Gerald Freedman, Beverly Emmons, Jane Greenwood, Mary Martin, John Cullum, Zoe Caldwell, Dale Dickey, Carol Mayo-Jenkins, and David Keith, among others. The Clarence Brown Theatre serves the greater Knoxville community, The University of Tennessee, and has sometimes toured productions to national and international festivals.

## FINANCIAL AID

All MFA candidates receive Graduate Teaching Assistantships: approximately \$16,000 annual stipend, plus full tuition waiver. Some fees remain due. Additional scholarships are available in the second and third years of training. Up to \$1,500 travel funds allocated per graduate provided, though managed by area faculty. International travel opportunities possible, and are common in design areas.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Clarence Brown Theatre will not produce in the fall of 2020. The hope is that production will resume in spring of 2021.

## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Robert Ramirez, Chair

300 East 23rd Street D3900,  
University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX 78712  
512-471-5793  
<https://theatredance.utexas.edu>

### MFA PROGRAMS

Directing  
Costume Design  
Costume Technology  
Lighting Design  
Projection/Media Design  
Scenic Design

Contacts:

[W.bloodgood@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:W.bloodgood@austin.utexas.edu),  
[kjsanchez@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:kjsanchez@austin.utexas.edu),  
[andrea.grapko@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:andrea.grapko@austin.utexas.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing, Costume Design, Costume Technology, Lighting Design, Projection/Media Design, Scenic Design: 2 for each discipline (12 total).

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

We are a department of Theatre and Dance with a population of 450 majors in multiple programs. Graduate programs include: Directing, Live Design (all design disciplines, 3-year MFA), Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities (DTYC, 3-year MFA), Public Performance as Practice (PPP, 2-year masters). Undergraduate programs include a BA in both Theatre and Dance, BFA in Acting, BFA in Theatre Studies, and a BFA in Dance.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students have opportunities to work with multiple producing companies in Austin including the Zach Theatre and the Austin Shakespeare Festival.

### FINANCIAL AID

We support all graduate students with a combination of assistantships, tuition remission, and scholarships.

### 2020/2021 SEASON

*La Ruta*, *Wyeth Airlines* (new), *Heddatron*, *(Re)current Unrest* (dance concert), *In the Ether* (dance concert), The Cohen New Works Festival (bi-annual event).

## TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Sarah EC Maines, Interim Chair

Department of Theatre & Dance  
601 University Dr.  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
512-245-2147  
<https://www.theatreanddance.txstate.edu>

Contact:

Brandon R McWilliams, Head of Graduate Studies:  
brm111@txstate.edu

## MFA PROGRAMS

Design:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

Directing

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 2, Costume Design: 2, Lighting Design: 2, Scenic Design: 3.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA programs in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University serve as an artistic habitat for the development of innovative practitioners. We celebrate the individual qualities of our students while evolving their entrepreneurial prowess through both extensive practice and foundational studies. We currently offer a 60-hour MFA in Theatre, with concentrations in Directing and Design (scenic, lighting, and costume).

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The MFA programs were created in conjunction with the establishment of a formal relationship with ZACH theatre, Texas' longest continuously running theatre company and recent LORT member. Each season, designers and directors assist professionals in their field throughout the production process. Specific experiences vary based on the unique nature of the production and personalities involved. In addition to our relationship with ZACH, students in the program also benefit from quest artists in residence and additional professional internships.

## FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students in the Department typically receive Graduate Instructional Assistantships and/or Graduate Teaching Assistantships with amounts varying annually. The Department also holds and administers funds that provide scholarships for graduate level students. Enrolled Graduate students are eligible to apply for scholarship through The Graduate College and are also eligible for out of state tuition waivers.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

Traditionally the Department produces up to 10 productions in our three venues over the academic year. We will continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19, but our current production season plan is to produce the following works Spring of 2021: *Oedipus*, *In Arabia We Would Be Kings*, *Mother Courage*, *Spring Awakening*.

## **UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**

Richard Will, Chair

UVA Department of Drama  
PO Box 400128  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4128  
434-924-3326, drama.virginia.edu

Contact: drama@virginia.edu

## **MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting  
Costume Design & Technology  
Lighting Design  
Scenic Design and Technical Production

## **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

UVA will not be recruiting this coming year.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The University of Virginia is a degree-granting institution. MFA Programs in the Department of Drama are three-years (6 semesters) requiring 72 credit hours. Programs are designed to develop the skills, discipline and creative drive requisite for a career in the professional theatre.

## **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Acting has professional partnerships with Heritage Theatre Festival and/or Virginia Repertory Theatre. EMC or AEA membership possible but not guaranteed. Other programs have optional integrated training with Heritage Theatre Festival. The Department hosts approximately 5-6 guest artists per year.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Graduate Teaching Assistantships offered in all areas of study. Past GTAs received approx. \$18,000 per annum + full tuition remission + health insurance subsidy.

## **2020/2021 SEASON**

*Labor + Love* (Devised), New Works Festival, MFA Acting Company Project.

## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Geoff Korf, Chair

University of Washington School of Drama  
101 Hutchinson Hall, Box 353950  
Seattle, WA 98195  
206-543-5140, <http://www.drama.uw.edu>

Contact: [uwdrama@uw.edu](mailto:uwdrama@uw.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Scenic Design  
Directing

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6, Costume Design: 0, Lighting Design: 0, Scenic Design: 0, Directing: 0.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

For eighty years, the University of Washington School of Drama has been nurturing innovative and courageous artists. UW Drama attracts theatre artists who are looking for rigorous, personalized training with a stellar faculty that brings an impressive breadth of experience in theatre, film, television, and contemporary performance. Our small size means that each actor, director, and designer get individualized training. A UW Drama graduate does not bear the stamp of a cookie-cutter training methodology. Rather, a UW Drama graduate is a confident, prepared, self-aware artist with a mastery of their own unique qualities and skills.

Our Master of Fine Arts degrees are intensive, three-year conservatory programs in acting, directing, and design that prepare artists for successful professional careers. Our school year begins at the end of September and runs through mid-June. Our MFA students do not take classes during the summer. During the academic year, our students attend class from 9 AM – 5 PM, followed by evening and weekend rehearsals and performances.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to our world-class faculty, prominent guest artists from theatre, film, and television regularly lecture and teach workshops to our students. We have deep connections with the northwest theatre community, and we ensure that our region's artistic directors, casting directors, and production managers become very familiar with our students' work during their time here. Many of our students find work locally during their summers and immediately upon graduation. MFA design students complete a 10-week professional internship during their third year, before returning to work on their thesis production. Second-year graduate students serve as teaching assistants and graduate staff assistants, and we take the training of teachers and craftspeople as seriously as every other aspect of our curriculum.

## FINANCIAL AID

All accepted students are considered for financial aid. Financial aid varies, depending on program and staff/teaching assistantship availability. Typical aid packages include fellowship stipends ranging from \$500-\$1000/month in the first two years, at least two quarters of teaching or staff assistantships at approximately \$2200/month, and at least one quarter of full-waived tuition. Some packages include graduate health insurance. Funding is available for career entry expenses.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*Twelfth Night*, three New Devised Works, First-Year Director Project, *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*, *Rosmersholm*, *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*.



## WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Mary Anderson, Chair

4841 Cass Ave., Suite 3226

Detroit, MI 48202

313-577-3508, [theatreanddance.wayne.edu](mailto:theatreanddance.wayne.edu)

Contact: [jchavez@wayne.edu](mailto:jchavez@wayne.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Arts Leadership

Stage Management

Design:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Arts Leadership: 3, Stage Management: 3, Costume Design: 3, Lighting Design: 2, Scenic Design: 2.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA at Wayne State, an inclusive, active and immersive 60 hours 3-year program, focused on development of skills and creativity through studio and production experiences. Study may be augmented through a one summer well-established relationship with the Moscow Art Theatre School.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A robust guest production artist program, extensive guest lecturer program and professional internships with local theatre and arts organizations provides multiple opportunities for networking and connecting with successful professionals.

## FINANCIAL AID

MFA students receive an assistantship with a stipend (\$20,686 for academic year 2020-2021) a full tuition waiver including most fees. Students receive significant scholarship for the study abroad program in Moscow.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*Healing Through Dance and Drums, Shakespeare Sings!, Unveiling the Mask, Onsite/Insight Dance Festival, Pingree's Past, Anon(ymous), Trivøya Gold, Roundabout.*

## WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Joshua B. Williamson, Director

School of Theatre and Dance  
P.O. Box 6111, Creative Arts Center  
Morgantown, WV 26506  
theatre.wvu.edu  
(304) 293-2020

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Costume Design & Technology  
Lighting Design & Technology  
Scenic Design  
Technical Direction

### Contacts:

General inquiries: theatre@mail.wvu.edu  
MFA Acting: Jerry McGonigle,  
jerry.mcgonigle@mail.wvu.edu  
MFA Design/Tech: Steven Neuenschwander,  
steven.neuenschwander@mail.wvu.edu

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8, Costume Design & Technology: 1, Lighting Design & Technology: 1-2, Technical Direction: 1.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

WVU's MFA is a rigorous production-oriented program designed to prepare the student with the skills needed to succeed in the professional world, including opportunities to teach. Our program features small class sizes with in-depth individualized training, and early opportunities for leadership positions. Production opportunities include theatre, opera, dance, musical theatre, and special events. A typical MFA student will perform, design, or build as many as 6-8 main stage and multiple workshop productions in their three years in the program.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Through a partnership with West Virginia Public Theatre and the Guest Artist Program, Graduate Actors interact with professionals from the professional theatre world throughout the three-year program. WVPT produces 4-5 productions a year with 2-3 Actors Equity contracts per show. A significant and accomplished guest artist, including actors, designers, directors, and technicians, will join the School of Theatre & Dance for at least one production a year. These guest artists in residence interact with the MFA students both in rehearsal and also in the classroom.

For design/tech students, the School will pay for your registration at SETC and/or USITT for three years to networking opportunities. For actors, a NYC showcase is presented at the end of the third year as well as professional workshops led by artistic directors, casting agents, acting agents/managers, and other industry professionals.

## FINANCIAL AID

MFA students typically receive an Assistantship which includes a full waiver of university tuition, health insurance, and a \$13,500 stipend. Additional cash scholarships are available as well as merit-based waiver credit hours for students not on an Assistantship.

## 2020/2021 SEASON

*\*Dance Nation, Rent* (moved to April 2021), *King Lear* (no audience – filmed for state-wide broadcast by WV Public Television), *\*Dance Now* (annual dance concert), *\*Rimers of Eldridge*, *\*Sweet Charity*.

*\*cancelled due to the Corona virus pandemic*

## **THE CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY / CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE - GUEST PROGRAM**

Donald Carrier, MFA Program Director

### **MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting

CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program  
1901 E13th St, Suite 200  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
216-400-7019  
Clevelandplayhouse.com/mfa

Contact: Donald.Carrier@case.edu

### **RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Acting: 8 (to enter the program in fall of 2021).

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Since 1996, Case Western Reserve University has partnered with Cleveland Play House to offer a 3-year MFA degree in Acting. The Program looks for committed and bold young artists who possess a love of language, an empathy for the human experience, a vivid imagination, curiosity and the desire to develop the necessary physical and vocal skills for a successful and sustained career in the ever-evolving arts scene. The intimate class size allows the program the flexibility to tailor curriculum and performance experiences to suit the specific training needs of each class. The core curriculum consists of training in Acting, Voice, Speech and Movement taught by CWRU faculty, CPH staff as well as internationally renowned guest artists. The program is further supplemented by specialized modules: On-camera acting, singing tutorials, commercial voice-over technique and extensive audition training have become important elements of the program.

### **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Students are involved with Tony Award winning theatre, Cleveland Play House (CPH), from the moment they arrive through work with CPH actors, directors and artistic staff for workshop opportunities. Students are also involved in readings, play workshops and CPH's annual New Ground Theatre Festival throughout the training. The third year of actor training is spent in a professional internship with Cleveland Play House that includes performing in at least one CPH production resulting in full Actors' Equity Association (AEA) membership. These are mainstage CPH productions working alongside professional casts and directors. MFA productions are directed and designed by professionals as well as by CWRU faculty and CPH staff. MFA productions are presented in state-of-the-art facilities with the support of professional CPH craftspeople, designers and production personnel.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

The Program provides each graduate student with complete financial support. This includes a full 3-year tuition waiver as well as a living stipend and healthcare coverage each scholastic year.

### **2020/2021 SEASON**

Traditionally there are two mainstage MFA Productions each year. Due to Covid-19, the season is still TBD but the fall will be a Zoom presentation, while the delivery for spring 2021 remains uncertain. The delivery method will dictate the kind of production we do. The program will also be involved with the Cleveland Play House season with readings, workshops and New Ground Theatre Festival. Due to Covid-19, these opportunities are TBD.

## **ABOUT URTA**

Founded in 1969, URTA works to ensure the continued renewal of the American theatre by supporting excellence in the professional training of new theatre artists.

URTA has grown to include many programs and services, all working toward that same goal. Whether it's enunciating the highest standards for professional training, helping to match potential students with the MFA program best suited to their needs, facilitating engagement of professional artists at universities, or expanding the reach of our education and career outreach programs, URTA is setting the stage for emerging theatre artists and professional advancement.

## **STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**

As educators and artists, focused on the discovery and fostering of new talent and the creation of socially relevant art and new information in our respective areas and disciplines, we acknowledge and value the absolute necessity of applied efforts in equity, diversity, and inclusion in our classrooms, studios, theaters, and work spaces. We assert that these values are essential as an active practice on every level of recruitment, hiring, teaching, and production. As an organization focused on the stability, welfare and continuing development of its membership community, URTA seeks to serve as a hub for the sharing of experiences, actions, and best practices in these efforts amongst our constituency. If theatre serves as a mirror for humanity, an agent for social change, an inspiration towards greater good, it is therefore clear that we as theatre makers and educators owe it to ourselves, our colleagues, our greater communities, and our current and future students to focus on these issues in an active and thoughtful way.

## **URTA MEMBER PROGRAMS**

URTA members are the backbone that allows us to pursue our mission in an impactful way, and elevate the professional field. Our members share a commitment to professional practices in all areas of production and training. They retain accomplished faculty who continue to work professionally, bringing to bear the latest practices in the training of their students. Their students are provided exposure to professional practice, either through a partnership with a resident theatre, or engagement of guest artists. All URTA members adhere to a strict code of ethics governing the personal and professional integrity of their programs, and of their recruiting and admissions processes.

## **THE URTA AUDITIONS AND INTERVIEWS**

Each year, the URTA Auditions and Interviews—widely known as “the URTAs”—bring together faculty from dozens of top training programs and hundreds of prospective MFA candidates in all areas of theatre including Acting, Design and Technology, Directing, Stage Management and Arts Leadership. Candidates have the opportunity to be seen, in one place by recruiters from among our 46 member universities, as well as other prominent institutions.

While the schools benefit by seeing hundreds of the top theatre candidates in the country over just a few days, the candidates avoid the expense and inefficiency of arranging dozens of separate interviews, and navigating applications for countless institutions. The URTAs also provide the unique opportunity for students to learn about the wide variety of different training programs—some of which they may have been unfamiliar with.

## **SATELLITE AUDITIONS**

The Satellite Auditions are open to select non-member training programs and are offered only to acting candidates taking part in the URTA Auditions. They represent an expanded opportunity for the candidates to be seen by an even larger pool of recruiters. While URTA members are exclusively MFA programs, institutions recruiting through the Satellite Auditions represent additional models of training, including conservatories, MA programs, and many international schools.

## **CANDIDATE AWARDS**

URTA Candidate Awards provide free registration for the URTA Auditions and Interviews, including free admission to continuing education sessions and other programming. The Candidate Award is currently offered in several ways.

### SOUND DESIGN

Recognizing the important growth in the field of sound design and the goal of introducing graduate study to students with backgrounds outside traditional theater, URTA offers a Candidate Award to all candidates in Sound Design.

### ARTS LEADERSHIP

URTA is committed to increasing diversity among leadership in the American theater. To support those seeking training in areas including arts administration, theatre management, producing and arts entrepreneurship, URTA offers a Candidate Award to all candidates in Arts Leadership.

### KENNEDY CENTER – AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

For 50 years, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. KC-ACTF is a natural partner with URTA and to underscore our overlapping missions, URTA provides Candidate Awards to the following qualified KC-ACTF participants:

- National Finalists for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship
- SDC Directing Initiative fellows
- Finalists for the National Award for Design Excellence (Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound)
- KCACTF National Stage Management Fellows

### PAY-IT-FORWARD CANDIDATE AWARDS

Each year, candidates for the URTA Auditions and Interviews may opt to donate as little as \$1 to the Pay-it-Forward fund, which supports future awards to candidates based on personal hardship and other considerations. Currently, donations to the Pay-It-Forward fund are matched (up to \$1,000 per year) by URTA sponsor, Accepted.

### EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The URTA Excellence Awards in Undergraduate Training were established to recognize undergraduate instructors, coaches, mentors and their respective institutions for excellence in the training and preparation of undergraduate theatre artists. URTA recognizes one coach/mentor in each discipline annually, as well as two institutions – one in acting and one in design and technology. Recipients are selected by teams of adjudicators, and the two institutions each receive a Candidate Award for a student attending the following year's URTA Auditions and Interviews.

## **POLICY ON OFFERS AND ACCEPTANCE**

URTA recruiting events support an equitable offer process between schools and candidates. It is the responsibility of all parties to communicate honestly, quickly, and professionally. The following policy applies to all participants at URTA recruiting events, including URTA members, non-members, guest institutions, satellite recruiters and candidates in all areas.

**Recruiting programs may not extend formal offers until the Monday one week after the conclusion of URTA recruiting in their discipline. For 2021, these dates are:**

Directing/Stage Management/Arts Leadership: January 25, 2021 (12:00 am eastern time)

Acting: February 1, 2021 (12:00 am eastern time)

Design & Technology: February 8, 2021 (12:00 am eastern time)

All offers must be made in writing. A verbal offer must be followed by an official offer in writing.

Offers must include the specifics of any financial commitments made by the organization, such as tuition waivers, stipends, housing, travel and assistantships.

Candidates must email a verification they have received the offer in a timely fashion.

**Candidates have 3 weeks from the above dates to either accept or decline a formal offer. Therefore, in 2021, schools must leave offers open until:**

Directing/Stage Management/Arts Leadership: February 15, 2021 (12:00 am eastern time)

Acting: February 22, 2021 (12:00 am eastern time)

Design & Technology: March 1, 2021 (12:00 am eastern time)

Candidates are free to accept or decline an offer prior to these dates, if they wish.

After this 3-week period, recruiters may rescind their offer if a candidate has not formally responded. Additionally, after this date, offers may be made and responses required on a timeline of the program's choosing, though it is essential that the recruiting programs make these deadlines clear to candidates in writing and provide reasonable time for a candidate to receive and respond to correspondence.

In advance of the offer/acceptance period, recruiters should clearly communicate their specific application process, including the procedure and costs. They should also reiterate the date by which an answer is required, and advise whether a campus visit will impact the candidate's prospects for a formal offer.

Wait list policies must be clearly articulated. If a candidate is to be put on a wait list, there should be a date agreed upon when the candidate will be informed of an opening.

At the time that a candidate accepts an offer, the recruiter must positively inquire as to whether the candidate has previously accepted an offer from another institution subject to this policy and, if so, whether they have informed that program of their change of intent.

Candidates are free to accept or reject an offer at any time during the 3-week offer/acceptance period (see dates above). Should a candidate accept an offer and then change his/her mind during this period, they must immediately email this decision to the recruiter, and they will be released.

If the candidate changes their mind after the 3-week period, they must immediately request a written release from the recruiter, and should not be admitted to another program until this step is completed.

In late spring, URTA will send recruiters an offer/acceptance survey to complete. You are required to complete this survey, as providing this data allows us to retain records of success or challenges faced in the process and to track trends in MFA admittance. URTA is constantly adapting to changes in the field, in order to best serve our constituents. Your input is a vital part of this process. URTA maintains strict confidentiality of this information.

#### RECRUITING FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS

A school recruiting at the URTAs for the academic year beginning in the fall, but who formally offers a candidate a place in the following, or subsequent year's class, must guarantee that offer until the date in the next year (designated by URTA) when candidates may be asked to respond to offers made in that year's cycle of recruiting.

A candidate is free not to respond to such an offer until the referenced date. A candidate is free to accept the offer but may change their mind over the course of the intervening year. The candidate must advise the school of any change in their plans. A school making such an offer must inform a candidate of their rights regarding the offer and provide them a copy of the related URTA memo on the policy. To avoid confusion, the offer should be memorialized in writing.

#### APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSING FEES

A primary intention of the URTA Auditions and Interviews is to provide candidates with a financially fair and equitable means of pursuing graduate training. However, some school administrations require a potential candidate to submit an application and pay a related application fee prior to allowing a department to consider the candidate for a position. URTA strongly urges member programs operating under such strictures to act responsibly and ethically in identifying candidates of serious interest to them before encouraging candidates to submit applications and pay application or processing fees in advance of program reviews and/or formal offers.



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