

URTA



**Catalog of Guest Programs at the
2025 URTA Auditions and Interviews**

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ATLANTIC ACTING SCHOOL

76 9th Ave. Suite. 313
New York, NY 10011
atlanticactingschool.org

ATLANTIC ACTING SCHOOL

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:
Heather Baird, Director of Education & Recruitment
hbaird@atlantictheater.org
admissions@atlantictheater.org

- Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Fullerton, Chicago, Live-Virtual
- Positions Available: 32
- Financial Assistance: Students in the Certificate Program: Acting may be eligible for financial assistance under one or more of the federal programs. These programs include the Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and Federal Direct PLUS Loan. These programs are designed to assist students in meeting their educational expense. Students applying for financial aid are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. All applicants are eligible to apply for Atlantic/s Institutional need-based aid. Awards vary per program and time of year. Applicants are encouraged to apply early for best consideration. Atlantic Acting School offers a wide array of scholarship opportunities with application due dates and details as stated on our website here:
<https://atlanticactingschool/programs/scholarships/>
- Teaching Opportunities: Alumni have gone on to teach at Atlantic in our youth and teen programs, educational partnerships as well as our full-time adult programs.
- Program: The Atlantic's mission is to provide rigorous, performance-based training rooted in the Practical Aesthetics acting technique, empowering actors with a clear, repeatable approach to their craft. Our goal is to ensure that every graduate masters the essential analytical and physical disciplines required in acting, giving them the foundation needed to succeed in the industry. Through an emphasis on script analysis, moment-to-moment work, and self-discipline, students learn to tell stories truthfully and simply, equipping them with a pragmatic approach to performance. The **2 Year Conservatory** provides actors with a solid acting technique, professional habits, performance experience, and support in entering the profession. Designed for the student seeking rigorous and rewarding training in a respectful and disciplined environment, this intensive program introduces students to professional-level ensemble work and teaches them how to build a successful career in the theater, film and television. The training produces skilled, brave actors who are intent on truthful storytelling and generous, collaborative ensemble members adept at producing their own work. The academic year spans September to May. The **Evening Conservatory** provides concentrated, rigorous training in the Atlantic Technique for the working actor. This three-semester program includes classes in Script Analysis, Performance Technique, Moment Lab, Improvisation, Voice, Speech, Viewpoints and Suzuki, Acting for the Camera, Business, and production rehearsals and culminates with a performance opportunity in one-act plays for an invited audience. The academic year spans September to July. The **6 Week Summer Intensive** is an ambitious six-week course, the Summer Intensive fully immerses students in Atlantic's signature acting technique and collaborative approach to truthful storytelling Monday through Friday with a Guest class offered on Saturdays. The program runs June to August.

GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING

Guildford School of Acting
Stag Hill Campus
Guildford, Surrey
GU2 7XH, United Kingdom
gsauk.org

Programs offered:
Conservatory, MA, & MFA



Contact:
Toby Pope
GSA Administrator
gsaenquiries@gsa.surrey.ac.uk

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Fullerton, Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 20-30

Financial Assistance: GSA has lots of scholarships and bursaries available. Learn more here:
www.gsauk.org/funding/scholarships-and-bursaries

As Guildford School of Acting is part of the University of Surrey, you also get to benefit from the university's scholarship and bursary opportunities. Learn more here:
www.surrey.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries

Teaching Opportunities: The second year of the programme includes mentored opportunities for students to develop their own teaching practice and creative work.

Program: The Acting MFA programme at Guildford School of Acting is highly selective and intensive. You'll train over two years, taking classes in acting for stage and screen, voice, and movement, exploring a wide range of theatre traditions and performance styles in rehearsal projects and public productions, and participating in professional development events and masterclasses. The second year of the programme includes mentored opportunities for students to develop their own teaching practice and creative work. On our unique MFA Acting programme, students get to perform in public performances including their own one-person show and a new play. The new play allows students to further develop their skills through the challenges of creating original characters without reference to previous productions. Other performance opportunities include a short film project, public productions, and an industry showcase.

Mount Street
Liverpool, L1 9HF,
UK
[Lipa.ac.uk](http://lipa.ac.uk)

Programs offered: MA

Contact:
Ryan Duncan - r.duncan@lipa.ac.uk

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Fullerton, Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 20-25

Financial Assistance: The tuition fees for 2025 entry are £22,000 GBP (approx \$28,000 USD).

The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) is eligible to participate in the William D. Ford Direct Student Loan Program authorized by US Education Department.

You can see our Cost of Attendance for 2023/24 on our website.

Teaching Opportunities: N/A

Program: Our intensive and highly practical one year postgraduate/graduate school programme will enable you to develop and enhance your acting skills to a professional level. Guided by our world-class teaching team you will become part of a creative and collaborative community.

You will hone and develop your acting technique by using a variety of practitioner approaches and techniques across stage, screen, movement, and voice. To extend your range of technical performance skills you will experiment with contemporary stage and screen texts and classical texts, ranging from the Greeks to Shakespeare. Collaborating with leading industry professionals, you will generate an original live studio show and a main house production, plus a digital showcase and industry events in London and Manchester. A final practical research project allows you to interrogate and focus upon an area or aspect of the creative industries to deepen your knowledge and engagement as you embark upon your professional career.

You will be assessed primarily through performance and modes of self-reflection (podcasts, viva, essay, or presentation). We are interested in how you develop yourself as an artist and so all of our assessments are designed to challenge and develop your techniques and to also allow you to reflect and research on the type of artist you wish to become. The course is 80% practical work and 20% written assignments.

Throughout the year we will work intensively with students so that graduates are well-equipped to immediately apply their acquired specialist skills to performing, directing, writing, and producing for stage, screen and radio.

Visit our website for more information on our facilities including studio and performance spaces, teaching staff and alumni.

MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY in partnership with
THE AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER



101 E Frederick St
Staunton, VA, 24401

<https://marybaldwin.edu/programs/shakespeare-and-performance-mlitt-mfa/>

Programs offered: MA & MFA

Contact:
Matt Davies, Co-Program Director
mdavies@marybaldwin.edu

- Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Fullerton, Chicago, and Live-Virtual
- Positions Available: 10-15
- Financial Assistance: Merit scholarships (available to all), graduate fellowships (awarded), work study positions (6-12 hours per/wk), graduate assistantships (university level). The S&P program operates on a flat-rate rather than tuition hour financial model. Any classes beyond the required hours for graduation (overloads), subject to the approval of the program directors, are free of charge. Click on the following link for details: <https://marybaldwin.edu/admissions-aid/cost-and-aid/shakespeare-performance-cost-and-aid/>
- Teaching Opportunities: Students graduating into the MFA with the Master of Letters degree, or entering the program with another Master's degree, can apply for graduate teaching fellowships (GTF) in Mary Baldwin undergraduate departments of Theatre and English (1 class per semester, pay equivalent to 3 credit hours per course). Our educational partners, the American Shakespeare Center, offer extensive professional development opportunities, including fellowships/internships in acting, directing, theatre education, front-of-house, costume and props.
- Program: Working in close partnership with the American Shakespeare Center, Mary Baldwin University's unique MLitt/MFA in Shakespeare and Performance (S&P) offers a radical approach to training for the classically focused theatre maker in the new economy. Built on the cornerstones of multidisciplinary, collaboration, and self-determination, our Renaissance pedagogy offers a double degree, 3-year program that marries classical rhetorical training with contemporary physical practices and professional pragmatism. Anchored in the liberal arts tradition, the two-year Master of Letters (MLitt) blends practicum and scholastic classes on Shakespeare and his contemporaries within the broader context of production histories, performance practices, and critical studies. Final-year MFA students work within a Renaissance company model to select, develop, stage, and write about a season of five or six early modern and early modern-inflected shows that respond to social concerns and the needs of local communities. During the year-long, immersive program, company members hone skills within their primary and secondary concentrations - from acting and directing to marketing and costuming - and, in the process, prepare themselves for today's dynamic job market.

NATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE (NTI)

Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center
305 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385
nationaltheaterinstitute.org

The following information is from a previous recruiting year. Updated information to come.

Programs offered: MA, MFA & Conservatory

Contacts:
Info to come.

Recruiting in: Philadelphia and Chicago

Positions Available: Info to come.

Financial Assistance: Need-Based Scholarships available, partnership with Lin Manuel Miranda Family Fellowship to those who qualify.

Teaching Opportunities: N/A

Program: In collaboration with Rose Bruford College in London, NTI offers two options for degree-granting, graduate training. Drawing on the benefits and experience of two noteworthy educational institutions with an excellent history of delivering high-quality vocational theatre training, this program allows you to study performance and theatre creation in its totality: acting, directing, playwriting, music theatre, theory, history, and dramatic literature, as well as several basic aspects of technical theatre. This program attracts students who are not just internationally-focused and highly motivated but also interested in self-sustaining approaches to theatre making. Additionally, the National Theatre Institute offers non degree-earning semesters in the disciplines of acting, directing, playwriting, and music theatre. NTI's credit-earning theater intensives (8-20 transferable college credits) offers training from industry professionals and master teachers as a springboard to the professional world at the two-time Tony Award-winning Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. to theater making.

Los Angeles:
3300 W Riverside Dr.
Burbank, CA 91505

Miami:
420 Lincoln Rd #300
Miami Beach, FL 33139
nyfa.edu

Programs offered: MFA

Contacts:
Joey Zangardi-Dixon
Director of Performing Arts Recruitment
joey@nyfa.edu

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Fullerton, Chicago, Live-Virtual

Positions Available: Varies per campus

Financial Assistance: NYFA is able to assist a student with up to 40% off of tuition in combined internal scholarships and grants.

- Talent Based Scholarship
- Need Based Tuition Assistance
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Bridge Grant
- Matthew Modine Masters Scholarship

Approximate Tuition: \$19,500 per Semester (prior to any scholarships or aid)
Additional resources are FAFSA, Graduate Plus Loan, Parent Plus Loan, College Avenue & New Hampshire Higher Education Loan, as well as acceptance of Scholarships & Grants Outside of NYFA.

Teaching Opportunities: N/A

Program: The New York Film Academy's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Acting for Film is a conservatory-based, five-semester, full-time graduate program offered in Los Angeles and South Beach, Miami. For over 30 years, NYFA has been the original hands-on arts school, providing immersive training that puts students in front of the camera and at the center of the action from day one. MFA students gain practical experience in both stage and screen, filming on Universal Studios' backlot and sound stages and on Miami's stunning beaches.

NYFA also emphasizes storytelling, teaching students to create compelling content in an ever-evolving media landscape. Through a blend of hands-on coursework and intensive acting seminars, students develop both their artistic and professional skills, preparing them for careers in the motion picture industry.

Beyond our incredible list of alumni, NYFA's reputation for excellence has earned the trust of industry legends like Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, Bruce Springsteen, Al Pacino, Robert Downey Jr., Jamie Foxx, Kevin Kline, Pierce Brosnan, Susan Sarandon, Jodie Foster, and Clint Eastwood, who have entrusted NYFA with the education of their children.

MFA students receive a well-rounded foundation in their craft, guided by a faculty of professionals actively working in Broadway, voiceover, television, and film. This ensures graduates leave with an industry showcase, digital media content, real-world experience, and valuable connections in the competitive entertainment industry.

PO Box 2072
Savannah, GA 31402
scad.edu

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Scott Woodyard, Assistant Director of
Graduate Admission
swoodyar@scad.edu
Scott Smith, Professor, Acting
sasmith@scad.edu

- Recruiting in: Cal State Fullerton, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Live-Virtual
- Positions Available: No cap.
- Financial Assistance: Scholarships are available. Financial aid is available to help students pay for their SCAD education. Financial aid includes scholarships, federal and private loans, and work-study. Advisers are available to help you make a financial plan.
- Teaching Opportunities: N/A.
- Program: Looking for your starring role? In SCAD production studios and theaters, acting students perform in sitcoms, films, plays, musicals, TV shows, and immersive themed experiences, or find jobs in professional productions via the SCAD Casting Office. Through it all, students are led by professors with impressive credentials — accomplished actors, directors, and casting directors at major studios and networks — and connect with iconic Hollywood stars at SCAD signature events celebrating the best of film, television, and streaming each year. SCAD is one of The Hollywood Reporter's "Top 25 Undergraduate Drama Schools" and is the only university selected in all five of its academic program rankings. Learn more at scad.edu/acting.

The George Washington University
2129 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20052
academy.shakespearetheatre.org/

Programs offered: MFA

Contacts:
Maddie Caldis, STC Academy Program
Coordinator
academy@shakespearetheatre.org

Recruiting in: Chicago, Fullerton, Philadelphia

Positions Available: 18

Financial Assistance: The program is run by Shakespeare Theatre Company, which is a not-for-profit organization, which means that our scholarships are funded by our generous donors and the hard work of our development and fundraising team. Though we cannot offer "full ride" scholarships, we do have significant tuition-reduction awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for students most in need. Our students are also eligible for federal assistance through the Federal Student Aid program. George Washington University tuition is normally in the \$80,000.00 range. Steep, we know. And the cost reflects the excellence of the institution and its reputation. We're proud to offer every Academy student a 42% tuition reduction scholarship, which considerably lessens the student tuition obligation, and makes the full program tuition \$49,000. Because our program is an intensive one year, rather than two or three, the overall cost for your MFA is considerably lower than that at other major universities.

Teaching Opportunities: As a joint venture with the Shakespeare Theatre Company, students have the opportunity to audition for and understudy roles in STC mainstage professional productions during their time in the program. Students gain professional experience that complements their coursework on their way to completing the MFA degree. Members of STC's artistic team hold guest classes and workshops throughout the year as part of our ongoing efforts to prepare students for post-graduate work in the industry and to think critically beyond the classroom.

Program: The Shakespeare Theatre Company Academy for Classical Acting is a one-year Master in Fine Arts degree program at the George Washington University. Here at the Academy, we believe that theatre should be a profound exploration of the variety and breadth of the human spirit in all its myriad incarnations. In twelve months, our cohorts ranging from 12 to 18 students reimagine great texts with an underlying focus on our key pillars; craft, scholarship, flexibility, and audacity. Classes in Acting, Text & Rhetoric, Voice, Speech, Mask, Movement, and Stage Combat make up the core of the curriculum.

Stella Adler Studio of Acting
65 Broadway, Floor 2
New York, NY 10006

Art of Acting Studio
1017 North Orange Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90038
stellaadler.com

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:
Ryan Chittaphong, Director of
Recruitment
ryan@stellaadler.com

Recruiting in: Cal State Fullerton, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Live-Virtual

Positions Available: Up to 28 actors in the Professional Conservatory, split into 2 groups of 14.

Financial Assistance: A limited number of scholarships are available in various award amounts. Work study becomes available after the first year of study. Payment plans are also available. Tuition for the professional conservatory programs range from \$7000-\$9500 per semester.

Teaching Opportunities: Teaching Artist training is a possible option through the studio's robust Arts Justice Division. Upon graduation, actors interested in a career in teaching can become teaching assistants and shadow instructors. The studio also provides a program to train theater educators in Stella Adler's acting technique to incorporate into their curriculum.

Professional opportunities include an industry showcase distributed to 3000+ industry guests in NYC and LA, a demo reel, one-on-one sessions with agents, managers and casting directors, and in-house auditions for various theater companies.

Program: The Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City and its sister school, the Art of Acting Studio in Los Angeles, are holding auditions for their acclaimed Professional Conservatory programs. These include the immersive 3-Year Conservatory, Evening Conservatory, and LA Conservatory—rigorous training alternatives to traditional MFA programs, designed for actors committed to a complete, industry-focused education in film, television, and stage.

Since 1949, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting has developed generations of groundbreaking American actors, earning a reputation as one of New York City's most vibrant cultural institutions. Guided by the mission to foster theater artists who place humanity at the center of their craft, the Studio also provides meaningful arts and educational programming to the wider community. Since 2010, the Studio's tradition of excellence has expanded to Los Angeles with the Art of Acting Studio.

Across both locations, legendary actors such as Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro, Elaine Stritch, and Warren Beatty have honed their skills under the Studio's guidance. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting and Art of Acting Studio stand as beacons for serious actors pursuing their passion and potential.

TERRY KNICKERBOCKER STUDIO



68 34th Street
Suite 4
Brooklyn, NY 11232
terryknickerbockerstudio.com

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:
Molly Horan
Director of Admissions & Enrollment
molly@terryknickerbockerstudio.com

- Recruiting in: Cal State Fullerton, Chicago, and Live-Virtual
- Positions Available: 40
- Financial Assistance: We offer an Excellence Scholarship and work study for students once they have been at the studio for at least 3-4 months. We offer flexible payment plans for all our programs. For 2 year programs we can split it up to 8 payments. For intensives we typically split it into 2 or 3 payments.
- Teaching Opportunities: N/A
- Program: At TK Studio, we wholeheartedly believe in the conservatory approach to acting, the same pedagogical approach to training actors that you find at the best universities and conservatories across the globe. Conservatory training has proven itself to be the surest way to give talented actors a reliable craft to do their very best work and launch them into the industry confident that they are well equipped. Our Conservatory Program is a comprehensive training program equally centered around the Meisner Technique, the study of the Linklater approach to voice training, and the Williamson and Laban techniques of physical training for the actor. The students in this comprehensive program dedicate themselves to a rich exploration of craft, self-discovery, community, and connection—to your classmates, your instructors, the material, and most importantly, yourself. All classes take place in our modern, well equipped studio spaces located in the heart of Brooklyn’s Industry City, a burgeoning campus of creatives and makers that is accessible to, and yet separate from, the hyper-stimulation of Manhattan. For more information you can visit our website at www.terryknickerbockerstudio.com.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

2500 Broadway W
Lubbock, TX 79409

depts.ttu.edu/theatre-dance



SCHOOL OF
THEATRE & DANCE

TEXAS TECH
J.T. & Margaret Talkington
College of Visual & Performing Arts

Programs offered: MFA, MA

Contact:

Molly Horan

Director of Admissions & Enrollment

molly@terryknickerbockerstudio.com

Recruiting in:	Chicago
Positions Available:	10
Financial Assistance:	We have scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships available for our incoming graduate students. We strive to offer competitive financial packages to all members of each incoming cohort. We also offer travel funding to support our MFA students' research agendas and professional certification ventures.
Teaching Opportunities:	Most, if not all, of our MFA in Performance & Pedagogy students are awarded the opportunity to be the instructor of record of courses in our department, including (but not limited to), Introduction to Acting, Theatre Appreciation, Voice, Speech, Movement, and more!
Program:	The M.F.A. degree with a track in Performance & Pedagogy is a terminal professional degree designed to prepare students for work in professional theatre, academia, & beyond. This program champions training and education in a breadth of specialized courses and prepares students for careers in practice, research, entrepreneurship, and pedagogy.

THE ACTORS CONSERVATORY



Mailing Address:
128 NW 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97209
pac.edu

Physical Address:
1410 SW Morrison St. Suite 502
Portland, OR 97205

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:
Michael Mendelson, Artistic Director
mmendelson@pac.edu

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Fullerton, Chicago, and Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 10

Financial Assistance: Federal Financial Aid (Stafford Loans, Pell Grant, FSEOG, etc) is available to all eligible conservatory students. Need-based conservatory scholarships are available to students in need.

Tuition: \$14,800/year
Supply Fee: \$200/year

Teaching Opportunities: N/A.

Program: The Actors Conservatory provides a comprehensive and rigorous training program for the serious student with a tenacious desire to become a professional actor. Our nationally accredited professional actors' training program is a two-year course of study. The first year of the program focuses on building a solid foundation of the craft: with particular emphasis on acting, voice, and movement. The second year of the program is dedicated to putting theory into practice through our selection of plays, collaborations with local professional theatre companies and nationally recognized artists, and the continuation of master-level classes.

THE NEW SCHOOL

55 West 13th Street
New York, NY 10011
newschool.edu/drama

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Cecilia Viveiros
Admissions Counselor
vivec580@newschool.edu



Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Cal State Fullerton, Chicago, and Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 50

Financial Assistance: We offer a merit scholarship based on the application and audition. We also have a robust financial aid department.

Teaching Opportunities: We do not offer teaching assistantships but we do have professional partnerships with Ping Chong and Company, New Victory Theater and Elevator Repair Service.

Program: The three-year MFA in Contemporary Theatre and Performance is ideal for exceptional storytellers who prioritize collaboration, transcend traditional labels, and strive to master multiple disciplines. Whether you enter as an actor, director, writer, or media artist, our innovative approach will prepare you to lead and redefine the dramatic arts through its 21st-century renaissance.



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON + ALLEY THEATRE

3351 Cullen Boulevard,
Houston, TX 77204
uh.edu/cota/theatre-and-dance/

Programs offered: MFA & Conservatory

Contact:
Adam Noble, Head of MFA Acting
asnoble@central.uh.edu

Recruiting in: Philadelphia and Chicago

Positions Available: 8

Financial Assistance: MFA Acting candidates receive a full tuition waiver as well as a teaching stipend. Limited scholarships are available.

Teaching Opportunities: MFA Acting candidates serve as Teaching Assistants for large, foundational Theatre courses; limited opportunities are available for students to be instructors of record for Acting, Voice & Speech, and/or Stage Combat courses.

Our new partnership with the Alley Theatre affords our students with a multitude of professional opportunities housed within this flagship LORT theatre.

Program: The University of Houston + Alley Theatre MFA *Professional Actor Training Program* is an immersive three-year program designed to prepare actors for work at leading regional theatres and in major commercial markets around the country. Two years of intensive training housed within the University of Houston culminates in a year in residence at the prestigious Alley Theatre, our partners in this new, innovative MFA program. The combination of intensive studio training, diverse production experience, and professional networking launches our graduates into the industry like no other program available.

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.

URTA admits members based on an appraisal of the qualities of their training program(s). URTA does not function as an accreditation or compliance agency. Students seeking assistance with matters related to their individual experience should contact the appropriate office at the applicable university.

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 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.

GUEST AUDITIONS

The Guest 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 Guest 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, and for additional information, visit urta.com/awards.

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 supporting the education and training of the future leaders of the arts and entertainment industry. For 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. KCACTF is a natural partner with URTA and to underscore our overlapping missions, URTA provides Candidate Awards to the following qualified KCACTF participants:

- National Finalists for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship
- SDC Directing Initiative Fellows
- National Finalists for Design Excellence (Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound, Projection Design)
- National Stage Management Fellows
- ASPIRE Arts Leadership Fellows
- National Finalists for Allied Design and Technology

URTA also supports the Kingsley Colton Award for Outstanding Partner with a \$500 scholarship. The recipient is selected each year at the KCACTF national festival in Washington, D.C.

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 by URTA sponsor, Accepted.

SARAH NASH GATES AWARD

Sarah Nash Gates was a costume designer, educator, and President of URTA from 2007 to 2010. A founder of Theater Puget Sound in Seattle, Sarah Nash Gates was an early pioneer in promoting the professionalism of the costume design industry, helping to elevate the respect costume designers received in the workplace. In celebration of her lasting impact on the costume design profession and in continuation of her mentorship of early career professionals, the Sarah Nash Gates award will be granted annually to up to two costume design candidates returning to graduate school after working in the industry for a minimum of three years. This award is generously funded by Holly Poe Durbin in memory of Sarah Nash Gates.

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, based on a review of candidates' materials and preparedness at the URTAs. 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, and candidates in all areas.

Recruiting programs may not extend formal offers until the conclusion of URTA recruiting in their discipline. The first/earliest dates that offers may be extended for each recruiting discipline are:

- Acting: February 10, 2025 (12:00 am eastern time)
- Design & Technology: February 3, 2025 (12:00 am eastern time)
- Directing/Stage Management/Arts Leadership: February 10, 2025 (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.

The dates above indicate the earliest date that any program may extend an offer, however programs are not required to make offers on these dates. Programs have different internal timelines, and offers may be made on any date after those listed above.

Candidates cannot be required to accept or decline an offer for two (2) weeks from the above dates. The first/earliest dates that programs may require a candidate to provide a formal decision on the offer are:

- Acting: February 24, 2025 (12:00 am eastern time)
- Design & Technology: February 17, 2025 (12:00 am eastern time)
- Directing/Stage Management/Arts Leadership: February 24, 2025 (12:00 am eastern time)

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

After this 2-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 university application, campus visit, or other requirements 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 2-week offer/acceptance period (see dates above). Should a candidate accept an offer and then change their 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 2-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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URTA 2025 Catalog of Guest Recruiters

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