



# **University Resident Theatre Association**

Directory of Member Training Programs

**2024-2025**

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### MEMBER-IN-PROGRESS PROGRAMS

*These programs are in the process of undergoing review to join URTA membership. During the application and review process, members-in-progress may recruit at the URTAs.*

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**Lighting & Sound**  
America



## BOSTON UNIVERSITY – SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Kirsten Greenidge, Director

855 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA 02215  
(617) 353-3390  
[bu.edu/cfa/theatre/](http://bu.edu/cfa/theatre/)

Contact:

Admissions, Matthew Lupulio: [mlupulio@bu.edu](mailto:mlupulio@bu.edu)

Costume Design/Costume Production, Nancy Leary:  
[nleary@bu.edu](mailto:nleary@bu.edu)

Directing, Wendy Goldberg: [wcg@bu.edu](mailto:wcg@bu.edu)

Lighting, Mark Stanley: [mws@bu.edu](mailto:mws@bu.edu)

Scene Design, Jim Noone: [jnoone@bu.edu](mailto:jnoone@bu.edu)

Sound Design, David Remedios: [remedios@bu.edu](mailto:remedios@bu.edu)

Technical Production, Joel Brandwine: [joelab@bu.edu](mailto:joelab@bu.edu)



### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenic, Sound, Technical  
Direction

Directing

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Design/Tech: 2-3 per focus area, Directing: 2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **MFA in Costume Design** enhances artistic expression and communication skills through hands-on, mentored design experience within a wide range of production opportunities and classroom instruction. **MFA Costume Production** students explore creative collaborations with directors, actors, technicians, and playwrights. They're the creators of new forms of theatrical expression (and fashion) for the next generation. The **MFA in Directing** is individually designed with each student's artistic strengths, challenges, and personal ambitions, BU's MFA program in directing prepares students for a rewarding career, as resident or freelance directors, in a variety of fields. The **MFA in Lighting Design** provides developing theatre professionals with the opportunity to cultivate their artistic identities while refining and enhancing their artistic expression and communication skills through hands-on, mentored design experience within a wide range of production opportunities and classroom instruction. The **MFA in Scene Design** aims to develop a complete theatre artist by fostering a passion for theatre, storytelling, design, and the collaborative process. Students demonstrate a high level of technical and interpretive scene design skills sufficient to obtain professional positions in the performing arts. **MFA Sound Design** students conceive creative ideas and solutions for theatrical sound in musical and unconventional ways, while focusing on leadership skills and advanced conceptual and technical skills. The **MFA in Technical Production** provides students with a more specific technical production training that will prepare them for the rigors of the professional world. Students are trained in all areas of technical theatre, commercial and industrial, as well as regional.

Our MFA classes take place in the Joan & Edgar Booth Theatre building, which was designed by and for theatre professionals. Classes are taught in state-of-the-art facilities by professors who are experts in the field, allowing students the opportunity to experiment, innovate, and capture their audience.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BU School of Theatre Students work alongside BU faculty, who are all working professionals, as well as frequent guest partners and lecturers, including collaborators in our onSET Visiting Theatre Artist program. The School of Theatre regularly collaborates with local theaters such as including the Huntington Theatre Company, the Actors' Shakespeare Project, Wheelock Family Theatre, the Boston Playwrights' Theatre (our partner theatre), and more.

### FINANCIAL AID

BU School of Theatre offers full tuition scholarships for the duration of our 2 year program. BU School of Theatre provides ~\$3,000/ year in stipends, and provides students with a 5 hour/ week paid teaching assistantship opportunity throughout their degree program.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Entry (Or, You Think You Know Me); Dark Sisters; Siren Song; Julius Caesar; The Sweet Science of Bruising; The Rink; The Skriker; La Bête; Florencia en al Amazonas; Proof; Corpus Christi; Desdemona; Gianni Sceilchi/ Suor Angelica; Emilia; Mercutio Loves Romeo Love Juliet Loves*

## BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Laura Tesman, Chair

Department of Theater  
Brooklyn College  
2900 Bedford Ave,  
Brooklyn, NY 11210  
(718) 951-5666  
[depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater/](http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater/)

Contacts:

Kip Marsh, Graduate Deputy Chair  
[kmarsh@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:kmarsh@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Arts Leadership: 12 Directing: 4, Design/Tech: 8-9 across all disciplines

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The professional training in our MFA Acting, Directing, Design & Technical Production, and Performing Arts Management degree programs is comprehensive, rigorous, affordable, and transformative. We are an anti-racist, equitable, and inclusive program that reflects and responds to the diverse identities, cultures, and experiences of our students in the work we create with the guidance of our faculty, who are all respected New York professionals. The MFA program in Acting offers our students an individual and collective journey through an integrated curriculum of courses. The two-year program is invested in the actor as a unique human being, trains the actor's instrument holistically for stage and screen acting, and teaches the skills that empower the actor to live in the present moment, under the pressure of performance with ease, vulnerability, and above all, humanity. The MFA program in Directing balances rigorous academic preparation with intensive practical experience in the laboratory of the classroom, in production, and through internships. Each student, with the program head, creates an individualized two-year curriculum combining required courses with multiple electives designed to satisfy each student's unique talents, proclivities, and aspirations. The MFA program in Design & Technical Theater provides professional training in scenic, costume, and/or lighting design, and in related Technical Theater subjects. There is a heavy emphasis on the application of design skills to campus productions, as well as opportunities for professional internships. The MFA Program in Performing Arts Management is a rigorous online course of study offering students from all over the world a theoretical, practical, and essential foundation for a career in the field of performing arts management, providing a professional training ground for future leaders in both the commercial and not-for-profit arms of the industry.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

We enjoy collaborative relationships with a variety of high-profile New-York-City-based theater companies, arts organizations, and producing entities, offering a network of opportunities with industry professionals by inviting guests to lead master classes/workshops and direct select productions. These opportunities are unrivaled by schools and programs not located in the New York area. Some of our professional collaborations include among others: The Public Theater, LAByrnth Theater Company, Lincoln Center, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, The Tank Theater, Signature Theater Company, The Movement Studio of NYC, SoHo Rep

### FINANCIAL AID

There are limited need based tuition waivers available for Graduate students. Assistantships and Fellowships are available for graduate students. Typically these are in the form of work and teaching opportunities in the department. The Department has a number of Scholarships and Awards available for graduate students. Some will cover a full year's tuition. In-state tuition is \$5,545 per semester after 1 year of New York state residency. Internships, Fellowships, Graduate Assistantships, teaching opportunities, merit- and need-based Scholarships and Awards, partial tuition waivers, and Federal Work-Study Awards are all available.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Wolf Play; MacBeth; Three Sisters; A Bright New Boise; Arsenic and Old Lace; Cendrillon; 10 Minute Play Festival; One Act Play Festival*



### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Arts Leadership  
Design/Technology:  
Costumes, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic  
Directing

## CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS

Andrea LeBlanc, Interim Dean

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Valencia, CA 91355  
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Contact:  
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### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Arts Leadership  
Design/Technology:  
    Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic,  
    Sound, Technical Direction  
Directing  
Stage Management

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 13, Arts Leadership: 3, Directing: 2, Stage Management: 3, Design/Tech: 3 students in all design/tech areas we recruit for

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Dedicated to the development of new voices and new forms, the CalArts School of Theater 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. It offers students an educational experience that is experimental, interdisciplinary, international, and diverse. 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. Our educational mission is to forge a community of citizen artists who are rigorously trained in their respective métiers and who are able to work effectively and innovatively across a broad spectrum of artistic settings, media, and technologies. As the School is based in Los Angeles, the epicenter of film and media production, the training gives considerable attention to students having the versatility to succeed in a variety of arenas.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CalArts Center for New Performance (CNP) is the professional producing arm of CalArts. CNP provides a unique artist-and project-driven framework for the development and realization of original theater, music, dance, media, and interdisciplinary projects. Extending progressive work created at CalArts into a direct dialogue with professional communities at the local, national, and international levels, it enables CalArts students to work alongside celebrated artists and acquire a level of experience that goes beyond their curriculum. CNP fosters the future of live performance by infusing the work of transformative artists with the talent and vitality of emerging artists in the CalArts community.

### FINANCIAL AID

CalArts offers need based Financial Aid through the Office of Financial Aid and we offer Merit Based scholarships based on the applicant's submitted application materials and their interview/audition. CalArts offers Teaching Assistant positions to qualified students.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*It'll Be What It Wants to Be; Mother Courage, Morountodun; The Last Days of Judas Iscariot; The Master and Margarita; Danton's Death*

Plus additional workshop projects and projects alongside CalArts CNP.

Prof. Joel Veenstra, Chair of Drama

University of California, Irvine  
Department of Drama  
4000 Mesa Road  
Irvine, CA 92697-2775  
(949) 824-6614  
[drama.arts.uci.edu](http://drama.arts.uci.edu)

**MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting  
Design:  
    Costume, Lighting, Scene, Sound  
Directing  
Stage Management

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

**RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Acting: 0, Directing: 0, Design: 8 students total (2 students per Design focus), Stage Management: 2

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Department of Drama, widely recognized and ranked as one of the top ten training programs in the country, combines broad liberal study and comprehensive training in several sub-disciplines of drama. The Department of Drama produces a full season of plays, musicals, and world premieres with varying dimensions and audience/actor relationships.

The vision of the Department of Drama's founding faculty was "to produce students who combine a critical intelligence with disciplined theatrical experience." To this end, the Department fosters an environment of creativity, in-depth learning of design, performance, and scholarly activity. The Department's rare combination of distinguished permanent faculty, high profile guest master class teachers, an interactive student population, and excellent facilities allows it to offer a program that is creatively robust and intellectually rigorous. The current faculty includes active and highly regarded individuals in their fields of practice, and so remains able to impart current, relevant knowledge to drama students.

Our MFA program is 3 years, regardless of focus. Ours is a quarter system--Fall, Winter, and Spring. Depending on MFA degree focus, required quarter units range from 110 to 116 over the course of the 3 year program. Teaching assistantship opportunities are available to all eligible MFAs.

**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 & actors inhabit the same dynamic, in-the-round space. Each 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.

Scholarship information can be found online at: <https://www.arts.uci.edu/scholarships>

**2024/2025 SEASON**

*9 to 5: The Musical, Gloria, Quit Bitchin', La Belle et la Bête, Starmites*

Michelle Liu Carriger, Chair

225 Charles E Young Dr E  
Los Angeles, CA 90095  
(310) 825-7008  
[tft.ucla.edu](http://tft.ucla.edu)

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

#### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:  
Costume, Lighting, Scenic  
Directing

#### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 2, Scenic: 4 and a few production designers, Costume Design: 2, Lighting Design: 1-2

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The three year Graduate Program nurtures each student's unique artistic journey. With a diverse faculty of artists, scholars, theater and filmmakers, students received a valuable blend of teaching methodologies and hands-on experiences, including Emerging Technology for Entertainment.

Faculty and professional mentorship, including faculty-led projects foster design skills, creative collaborations and a global perspective. This personal approach readies students for a lifetime career in design. At TFT, all theater productions and student films are designed by our student designers. With this rich students experience and a robust local network of working alumni, TFT graduates find placement with the entertainment industry and earn Guild membership. Graduating with a MFA hinges on course completion and a commitment to success.

There are TA-ships, both working on productions and some teaching opportunities.  
104 units / 26 courses are required for the degree.

#### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MFA designers design the Mainstage productions mentored by faculty.  
Students can find Internships in the professional world outside of the school and receive some credit. Also, every year, graduate design students participate in Design Showcase West where they show their work to 200+ industry professionals.

#### FINANCIAL AID

There are a limited amount of assistantships each academic year, based on available state funding. For those students who qualify, they earn a salary and receive tuition remission for the quarter they received the TA-ship. Assistantships may consist of teaching undergraduate students through lectures or supervising lab sections. Some assistantships include providing grading support or providing production support. We have several student awards that are awarded annually. Students can apply for the award if they meet the criteria. More financial aid information can be found here:  
<https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/financial-aid/funding-for-entering-students/>

#### 2024/2025 SEASON

Fall: Bruin Fringe Fest (BFF); *The Courage to Right a Woman's Wrongs*  
Winter: *Natasha and Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*; First MFA directing project (title TBA); *Our Lady of the San Diego Convention Center*; *Claudette and Nicole*  
Spring: Chamber Opera; *Frontieres sans Frontieres*; Xanadu experimental immersive musical; Undergraduate One-Acts, MFA Ones, directed by MFA students (TBA)



# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

Kathryn Wilson, Department Chair

CSU Fullerton, Department of Theatre & Dance  
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Fullerton, CA 92834-6850  
(657) 278-3628  
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## Contacts:

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## MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

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

Directing

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 0, Costumes: 1-2, Lighting Design: 0-1, Technical Direction: 1-2, Projections/Media: 0-1

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Theatre and Dance department at California State University Fullerton offers 3-Year MFA degrees in both Directing and Design & Technical Production. Within the Design & Technical Production area, concentrations are available in Scenic Design, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Props Design, Makeup/Hair Design and Technical Direction.

We believe that practical production experience is a critical complement to classroom study. Our season consists of theater, musicals, devised/physical performances, dance and opera, with performances spread across eight different venues. Graduate Directing students will direct at least two mainstage productions. Design & Production students will take lead roles on at least six fully-realized productions.

CSUF operates on a semester system, with MFA students taking 60 units of classes over three years. Graduate Assistantships and Scholarships are available, which may include work as a Teaching Assistant. Students may also be given the opportunity to teach full courses during their time at CSUF.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our faculty are working professionals with national and/or international careers. California State University is located close to Los Angeles, a vibrant hub for film, television, visual arts and performing arts, and adjacent to major theme parks such as Disneyland, Universal Studios and Knott's Berry Farm. We host portfolio showcases at the end of every year with invited professional guests and have workshops and events with major regional employers such as Disney, Meow Wolf, ETC, Meyer Sound, Tait and Rosebrand.

## FINANCIAL AID

We are able to apply for in-state tuition for out-of-state applicants. As of 2024, in-state tuition is approximately \$9,000 per year, with out-of-state tuition being approximately \$17,400. MFA students in the Theatre & Dance Department can receive a Graduate Assistantship for up to \$14,800 for the year if they do six units of work (16 hours per week) in both the fall and spring semesters. These units can include work in the shops and labs as well as working as a teaching assistant. Students may apply for scholarships from the Theatre and Dance Department, College of the Arts and University through a single application.

## 2024/2025 SEASON

*The Prom; Blood Wedding; Opera Scenes; Lost Girl; Fall Dance Theatre; Significant Other; Spring Awakening; Devised Theatre Production; Spring Dance Theatre; The Magic Flute*

**MFA PROGRAMS**

Acting  
Arts Leadership

Contacts:

[katherine.speer@csulb.edu](mailto:katherine.speer@csulb.edu)

MFA/MBA: [Jeff.Janisheski@csulb.edu](mailto:Jeff.Janisheski@csulb.edu)

**RECRUITING THIS YEAR**

Acting: 0, Arts Leadership: 4

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Master of Fine Arts/Master of Business Administration (MFA/MBA) in Theatre Management is a three-year, full-time program offered jointly between the Theatre Arts Department and the Graduate School of Business. One of the top programs in the country, the MFA/MBA in Theatre Management is committed to fostering the next generation of leaders in the arts. The program is designed not only to teach skills for theatre management, but to instill a deep understanding of the transformative power of the arts. We believe that the future of theatre lies in leaders who are champions of inclusivity, innovation, and artistic integrity. The program is aligned with a not-for-profit, organizational management approach. We prepare students to push the boundaries of theatre arts management toward bold and just futures.

Successful applicants to the MFA/MBA in Theatre Management will: Have completed a Bachelor's or Master's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum 3.0 GPA in upper division major courses; Meet university admission requirements; Gain acceptance into the Department of Theatre Arts; Gain acceptance into the College of Business administration. Application to the MFA/MBA in Theatre Management does not require GRE scores.

When an undergraduate degree has been completed in a program having different requirements than those at CSULB, or in some field other than Theatre Arts, additional preparation and time may be required before the Applicant can be considered for classified status in the degree program. Up to 24 units of credit from an MA degree program may be acceptable after review by the Faculty Evaluation Committee and approval by the Dean.

**PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

From the outset, students are immersed in the real-world challenges of managing a theatre company through their involvement with the California Repertory Company, presenting 6-8 productions annually to thousands of community members. Students focus their work with Cal Rep in an area that furthers their career goals while earning a stipend.

Our students engage in internships at renowned arts organizations, gaining invaluable experience and building professional networks. Previous internships include leading arts organizations in the LA area including Tony Award Winning South Coast Repertory Company, LA's Center Theatre Group, Gallup, Inc., Ojai Playwright's Festival, LA Opera, Pasadena Playhouse and more.

**FINANCIAL AID**

Our flexible structure welcomes students to focus their work with Cal Rep in an area that furthers their individual career goals while earning a stipend that ranges from \$5,000 to \$8,000 annually. Cal Rep assignment areas include Front of House, Box Office Management, Fundraising, Marketing, Production Management, Company Management, Event Planning, and Grant Development. Need-based and merit-based scholarships are available university-wide and in the College of the Arts through Beach Scholarships.

**2024/2025 SEASON**

*An Evening At the Beach; Urinetown the Musical; Small Mouth Sounds; Clyde's; Frantic: Long Beach; The Yoga Play; Red Bike; Alice in Slasherland*

## CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY/CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE

Jeffrey Ullom, Chair

The CWRU/CPH Acting Program  
1901 E 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
Suite 200  
Cleveland, OH, 44114  
(216) 400-7000  
[Clevelandplayhouse.com/mfa](http://Clevelandplayhouse.com/mfa)

MFA PROGRAMS  
Acting



Contacts:

[donald.carrier@case.edu](mailto:donald.carrier@case.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8 students

### 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. Students are involved in readings, play workshops and CPH's annual New Ground Theatre Festival throughout the training. In the first two years of training, MFA students have the opportunity of performing and understudying in CPH's MainStage season. The third year is spent in a professional internship with CPH that includes performing in at least one CPH production working alongside professional casts and directors resulting in full Actors' Equity Association membership. MFA productions are directed and designed by professionals, CWRU faculty or CPH staff.

### FINANCIAL AID

The Program provides each graduate student with complete financial support. This includes a 3-year free tuition as well as a living stipend and healthcare coverage each scholastic year. Each student is given the same stipend amount. There is no assistantships associated with this stipend. The stipend is given to each student to offset housing/living expenses. There is no teaching and or research work associated with the University's stipend. The amount is given to the students over the course of 9 months to help defray living expenses. Healthcare is also provided to each student - students may choose whether to take the university's plan or stay on one that might be associated with a partner or family member.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

Traditionally there two mainstage MFA Productions each year: This fall, students will be performing in Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, directed by guest director, Eleanor Holdridge. The Spring production is TBD. The second year Class of 2026 are appearing in CPH's mainstage production of *Pride and Prejudice*. Students in the Class of 2026 will also be understudying in *A Christmas Story* and *Fat Ham*, two plays in Cleveland Play House's mainstage season.

## UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE – CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Peter Justras, CCM Dean



Attention: Deborah Neiheisel-DeZarn  
Room 4740 CC  
PO Box 210003  
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0003  
(513) 556-5803  
[ccm.uc.edu](http://ccm.uc.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:  
Costumes, Lighting, Props, Scenic, Sound  
Stage Management

Contacts: Deborah Neiheisel-DeZarn, Program Manager  
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Rebecca Bromels, Division Head  
[bromelra@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:bromelra@ucmail.uc.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Stage Management: 2, Costume Design: 3, Lighting: 2; Props: 1, Scenic Design: 1, Sound: 2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CCM offers comprehensive training programs for arts managers, designers, technicians, opera singers, coaches, directors, musical theatre performers, and actors. CCM's programs in theatre design and production, opera, musical theatre, acting, dance, and arts administration attract remarkably talented students from around the world who enroll at CCM to learn and work alongside a superb faculty of professional artist-teachers.

Students in the Division of Theatre Arts, Production, and Arts Administration (TAPAA) have the opportunity to participate in a wide-ranging scope of degree programs, classes, mainstage productions, studio productions, master classes, summer projects and professional internships.

Students access a wealth of learning opportunities through interaction with our proud alumni and additional entertainment professionals, as well as through cooperation with other divisions within the College-Conservatory of Music.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students in CCM's Division of Theatre Arts, Production, and Arts Administration (TAPAA) have the opportunity to work alongside professional theatre and entertainment artists via professional internships, CCM's relationships with many local and regional professional companies, co-op opportunities, masterclasses, and when guest artists join our production teams.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, CCM is collaborating with The Carnegie Theatre based in Covington, KY to perform "Witch" over the Fall Semester, and "Seussical" over the Spring Semester.

### FINANCIAL AID

Please refer to the University of Cincinnati's Financial Aid website for information on Graduate Funding and Scholarships: <https://www.uc.edu/about/financial-aid.html>

### 2024/2025 SEASON

Current mainstage season includes Fall 2024 productions of *Wonderful Town*; *Winter's Tale*; *La Finta Giardiniera* (Opera); *Danceworks*. The Fall 2024 studio season includes *In the Green* and an Acting Workshop: *John Proctor is the Villian*. Spring 2025 mainstage productions include *Emilia*; *Mid-Summer Nights Dream* (Opera); *Hair*; and *Coppelia*. The Spring 2025 studio season includes *Dark Sisters* (Opera) and *Dance Choreographers Showcase*. Please see <https://ccmonstage.universitytickets.com/> for more details on the 2024-2025 CCM Season

## UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Megan Monaghan Rivas, Department Head

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(860) 486-2281  
[drama.uconn.edu](http://drama.uconn.edu)

Contacts:

[christianne.smith@uconn.edu](mailto:christianne.smith@uconn.edu)

# UConn

## DRAMATIC ARTS

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Lighting Design: 1-2, Scenic Design: 2, Technical Direction: 1, Costume Design: 1

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of Dramatic Arts at the University of Connecticut offers intensive degree programs to prepare individuals for numerous careers in theatre. Our goal is to provide the finest professional training through classroom and studio instruction. Dramatic Arts faculty are all working professionals, active in the theatre industry. We also work regularly with guest artists, both in the classroom and on the stage, to further diversify student experience. To enrich classroom and studio training, students obtain professional-level production experience through participation in our theatre, the Connecticut Repertory Theatre (CRT).

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Connecticut Repertory Theatre regularly employs professional guest directors, performers, and stage managers to work with our students, and periodically engages professional guest designers. In addition, the University's physical location, close proximity to New York City, allows for an active interchange with many other exciting designers who live and work in the area.

### FINANCIAL AID

Each incoming graduate student is hired into a Graduate Assistant position whose compensation includes a full tuition waiver along with an annual stipend and access to health care insurance. The Department of Dramatic Arts offers merit-based scholarship funds to continuing students.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*The Moors; The Old Man and the Old Moon; Pocatello; Much Ado About Nothing*

## DRAMA STUDIO LONDON

Emma Lucia Hands, Director of School

Grange Court  
1 Grange Road  
Ealing, London, W5 5QN  
[dramastudiolondon.co.uk](http://dramastudiolondon.co.uk)

MFA PROGRAMS  
Acting



Contact:

Dr Michael Fry, Head of Acting,  
[michael.fry@dramastudiolondon.co.uk](mailto:michael.fry@dramastudiolondon.co.uk)  
Emma Lucia Hands, Director of School,  
[emmahands@dramastudiolondon.co.uk](mailto:emmahands@dramastudiolondon.co.uk)  
Debby Turner, Course Leader, MFA Acting,  
[debbyturner@dramastudiolondon.co.uk](mailto:debbyturner@dramastudiolondon.co.uk)  
[marketing@dramastudiolondon.co.uk](mailto:marketing@dramastudiolondon.co.uk)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

DRAMA STUDIO LONDON (DSL) is the only UK Federation of Drama Schools to focus solely on actor training. We pride ourselves on the strong sense of community at DSL, with many students, staff and alumni commenting on the welcoming family ethos. The school has a distinctive pedagogy, in which every student is allotted a personal tutor, in addition to the teaching faculty, to guide and support them through their training. Our acting courses are designed to offer a comprehensive preparation for the profession, focusing on a variety of genres and practitioners to enable graduates to confidently perform for stage, screen and audio in the UK and internationally.

Each of our faculty is active in the industry, as actor, director or coach. Our visiting directors work regularly at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe, the BBC and Netflix. Our intensive, two-year MFA mixes classes in voice, movement and text with a constant number of live and recorded projects and productions, and a West End Showcase, a Graduate Repertory Season and professional Showreel material. Eligible graduates also have the opportunity perform at a Dublin and New York Showcase. There is the option to take part in a range of national and international residencies. In the past these have included Poland, USA, Singapore, Linklater Centre Orkney and at the Royal Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare's Globe. DSL continues to build links for future collaboration, nationally and internationally. Graduates have a high global employment rate and include Forest Whitaker, Olivia Vinall and Emily Watson. DSL is part of the University of West London Group\*

\* University of the Year for Student Satisfaction & Teaching Quality, The Times University Guide 2023

No 1 UK University for Student Satisfaction, Student Voice & Academic Support, National Student Survey 2022

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MFA students generally perform at two or three professionally-run venues during the graduate year. Guest Artists offer specialised workshops throughout the year. There are regular classes with casting directors and agents. Students are eligible for British Equity following graduation and can submit their photos and profiles on to Spotlight directory during their final year.

### FINANCIAL AID

There are a limited number of scholarships covering 50% of the fees. A number of small bursaries and scholarships are available. Please find out more at: [www.dramastudiolondon.co.uk/study/funding](http://www.dramastudiolondon.co.uk/study/funding) and <https://www.uwl.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding-international-students/international-scholarships-and-bursaries#:~:text=The%20Scholarships%20are%20open%20to,select%20the%20most%20deserving%20candidates>

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Much Ado About Nothing; The Recruiting Officer; The Laramie Project; Creations (devised by the company); The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Women He Once Loved in the Soviet Union*

## EAST 15 ACTING SCHOOL

Dr. Chris Main, Director

Hatfields, Rectory Lane  
Loughton, IG10 3RY  
+44 (1) 20 8508 5983  
[east15.ac.uk](http://east15.ac.uk)



### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Directing

Contacts:

General Enquiries: [laura.collins@essex.ac.uk](mailto:laura.collins@essex.ac.uk)

Admissions: [e15adms@essex.ac.uk](mailto:e15adms@essex.ac.uk)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 20, Directing: 8

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**MFA Acting (International)** is a two-year (20-month), full-time, industry-focused, conservatoire training programme - designed specifically for international students. The course emphasizes the integration and mastery of core acting skills, including Movement (Laban, Somatic, Grotowski), Voice (production and articulation) and Singing. Highlights include: Three-week residency at Shakespeare's Globe, with a performance on the Globe stage to an invited audience; Five fully professionally-supported public shows, including: two shows performed in Central London Theatres, a devised project, and a solo, theatre performance (performed live & livestreamed); All shows promoted to the industry; Professionally produced Showreel and Voicereel, which are included in the International Online Showcase, promoted in the UK and abroad. **MFA ACTING (with Digital Media)**: In Year One of our newly restructured programme, students enjoy a London-based theatre training, training alongside students on the MFA Acting (International) programme, including the Globe Residency. Year Two students relocate to our Southend campus, with the state-of-the-art facilities, and focus exclusively on: acting for camera, motion & performance capture, and advance vocal skills for the voice actor. This course recognizes the opportunities in various recorded media fields and is ideal for a student looking to move into film acting, the gaming industry and/or a career in voice acting. **MFA Theatre Directing** is 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, providing expertise of the highest calibre and professional networks vital to launching a Theatre Directing career. Modules include: Shakespeare, Contemporary British Drama, The Artistic Director, Theatre of the World (modules in Bali and Poland)

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MFA students work with industry professionals. Guest directors have worked in leading UK theatre companies including the RSC, National Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe. Professionalization classes consist of specialist workshops and meetings with casting directors and industry experts. **MFA International**: you work with professional playwrights, developing new texts for performance. **MFA with Digital Media**: you work with professional voice-over artists and motion capture directors. **MFA Directing**: you work with range of theatre directors and artistic directors and have the opportunity to stage productions in London venues.

### FINANCIAL AID

**Academic Excellence International Scholarship**: US degrees, £3000. If you meet all the eligibility criteria, you will automatically be considered for this award. **Africa Postgraduate Scholarship**: if eligible, £4,500, paid as a discount on your first year's tuition fee. **Essex Global Talent Scholarship**: This scholarship is competitive and based on academic achievement and extra-curricular engagement. 50% of your first year tuition fee, paid as a discount on registration. **Students on the MFA Acting International and the MFA Acting (with Digital Media)** are eligible for the US Federal Loans (FSA). A full list of scholarships and bursaries can be found at: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/scholarships>

### 2024/2025 SEASON

**Fall**: YEAR TWO: VOX Festival – East 15 Mainstage: Self-devised solo theatre pieces; Theatre for Young People: *The Tinderbox*; *Peter and the Starcatcher*

**Spring**: YEAR ONE: Public Studio performances of 3 productions of newly devised plays by the students; Globe residency and performances at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre; YEAR TWO: 2 showcase productions at the Bridewall Theatre, Central London.

**Summer**: YEAR ONE: 3 public productions – East 15 Mainstage; YEAR TWO: 2 Showcase productions at Hoxton Hall Theatre, Central London

## UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Tiza Garland, Interim School Director

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

### Contacts:

MFA in Acting Graduate Coordinator, Tim Altmeyer,  
[taltmeyer@ufl.edu](mailto:taltmeyer@ufl.edu);

MFA in Design Graduate Coordinator, Jennifer Dasher,  
[jdasher@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:jdasher@arts.ufl.edu)

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Scenic Design

School of  
**THEATRE +  
DANCE**

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 10, Design 4-6 (number per focus TBD)

## 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 evaluations, internships, and projects in lieu of 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.

## 2024/2025 SEASON

*Perfect Arrangement* (co-production with The Hippodrome Theatre); *Pipeline*; *The Music Man*; *Why Are You Like This?*; *Macbeth*; *The Importance of Being Earnest*; *Conference of the Birds*



## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Brad Brock, Director

FSU School of Theatre  
540 W. Call Street  
289 Fine Arts Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1160  
(850) 644-7257  
[theatre.fsu.edu](http://theatre.fsu.edu)

Contact:  
Michele Diamonti, Director, Academic and Student  
Services:  
[mdiamonti@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:mdiamonti@admin.fsu.edu)



### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Arts Leadership  
Design/Technology:  
    Costumes, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction  
Directing

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 12, Arts Leadership: 3, Directing: 2, Costume: 4, Scenic Design: 2, Technical Direction: 4

### 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.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our graduate programs offer both a comprehensive learning degree coupled with direct production experiences that make them unique from many other programs. Graduate students have the opportunity to interact with highly trained and experienced professional faculty, staff, and guest artists. Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory MFA candidates graduate with Equity eligibility through work with the Asolo Repertory Theatre.

### FINANCIAL AID

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

### 2024/2025 SEASON

Florida State University: *Once Upon a Mattress; The Wolves; Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience; Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein; The Sins of Sor Juana*  
FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training: *The Curious Savage; John Proctor is the Villain; The Chinese Lady; The Winter's Tale*

## UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Julie Ray, Head of Department

255 Baldwin, Fine Arts Building, 308D  
Athens, GA 30602  
(706) 542-2836  
[drama.uga.edu](http://drama.uga.edu)

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

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Scenic: 2, Costumes: 2, Lighting: 2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department offers a 3 year MFA program in design that allows students to focus on costume, scenic or lighting design. Students also learn to apply design principles to a wide range of media, including stage, film, television, themed entertainment, and live events.

Students in the program are required to become proficient in more than one area of design. Students also gain proficiency in a secondary design area. In addition to studying traditional design techniques and technologies, students train with digital media and various design software.

Students hone their skills by designing for University Theatre productions. First, as assistant designer (for either faculty, guest artist, or upperclassmen graduate) followed by a minimum of two realized designs for stage or media productions. The first being the Qualifier design assignment, followed by the final Thesis design assignment will culminate in the practical design of costumes, scenery and/or lighting for a stage, film or media production.

Of the minimum 63 credits required for the M.F.A. Degree in Design and Technology, most will be taken within the Department; however, up to six credits may be taken outside of the Department.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our program has working relationships with the LORT theatre company Alliance Theatre in nearby Atlanta along with professional theatre Aurora in neighboring Lawrenceville. Both employ UGA current students as well as recent grads. Students have the opportunity to sit in on tech rehearsals at the Alliance and ask questions of leading union designers who are often brought in from NYC, Chicago, and LA.

Also, we are in partnership with local film studio Athena Stages and Trilith Studios, offering employment opportunities as they arise to visiting film and television productions.

### FINANCIAL AID

3-year Assistantships are offered in the scenic, lighting, and costume shops which come with a tuition waiver (minus fees) and stipend of approximately \$16,000/ year. Student will work on-average 13 hours/week in the shops. Financial aid may be available via the Office of Financial Aid, info found here: <https://osfa.uga.edu/types-of-aid/graduate/>

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Everybody; 9 to 5 the Musical; John Proctor is the Villain; Murder on the Orient Express*



**Department of Theatre  
and Film Studies**

*Franklin College of Arts and Sciences*

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenic

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Valleri Robinson, Associate Professor and Head

500 S. Goodwin Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 300-5264  
[theatre.illinois.edu](http://theatre.illinois.edu)

Contact:

[cdcampb2@illinois.edu](mailto:cdcampb2@illinois.edu)  
[robperry@illinois.edu](mailto:robperry@illinois.edu)  
[tciofalo@illinois.edu](mailto:tciofalo@illinois.edu)  
[kmckea1@illinois.edu](mailto:kmckea1@illinois.edu)

**I ILLINOIS**

Theatre

COLLEGE OF FINE & APPLIED ARTS

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

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

Stage Management

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Stage Management: 3, Costume Design: 2, Costume Technology: 2, Lighting Design and Technology: 2, Sound Design and Technology: 2, Properties Design and Management: 1, Media Design: 2, Scenic Design: 2, Scenic Technology: 2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

All programs are 3 years that include a fall and spring semesters and students are encouraged to work in their field during the summer. There are teaching opportunities with some assistantships, but not all.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Some faculty members include graduate students in their professional work and we have great connections with summer opportunities.

### FINANCIAL AID

If an assistantship is given to a student, they receive a tuition waiver and a monthly stipend. This will last their three years in the program.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*No Puedo, I'm Sorry; Orlando; Dracula, A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really; Theatre Studies New Works Project; A Winter's Tale; Plumas Negras*

## ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Ann Haugo, Director of the School of Theatre,  
Dance, and Film

111 Milner Library  
Campus Box 5700,  
Normal, IL 61790-5700  
(309) 438-8783  
[finearts.illinoisstate.edu/theatre-dance](http://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/theatre-dance)

Contacts:  
[ahaugo@ilstu.edu](mailto:ahaugo@ilstu.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costumes: 2, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2

### 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.

### FINANCIAL AID

Admitted students are awarded an assistantship (\$1,104.75/month) plus a full tuition waiver. Additional funding opportunities may be available at the University level for competitive applicants.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

Fall 2024: *Honey Bee Baby*; *Medea*; *Puffs*; Fall Dance Concert

Spring 2025: *Escobar's Hippo*; *Borrowed Babies*; *The Prom*; *Everybody*; Spring Dance Concert



### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design/Technology:  
Costumes, Lighting, Scenic



## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Linda Pisano, Chair

275 N Eagleson Avenue A252 W  
Bloomington, IN 47405  
(812) 855-5382  
[theatre.indiana.edu](http://theatre.indiana.edu)

Contact:

Admissions: Cat Richards, [car@iu.edu](mailto:car@iu.edu)

Design & Technology: Reuben Lucas, [reulucas@iu.edu](mailto:reulucas@iu.edu)

Acting: Jenny McKnight, [jenmckni@iu.edu](mailto:jenmckni@iu.edu)

Directing: Ansley Valentine, [arvalent@iu.edu](mailto:arvalent@iu.edu)

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, DRAMA, AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Bloomington

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

Directing

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Directing: 0, Costume Technology: 2, Lighting Design: 2, Technical Direction: 2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

We see you. As a student of theatre, you'll find your place among an accomplished team of artists, scholars, makers, and practitioners committed to pursuing excellence and rigorous intellectual inquiry. You'll learn and work in outstanding facilities. You'll study with experienced faculty and staff who have dedicated their careers to educating and training the next generation of scholars and artists. And you will join an impressive network of alumni who have studied and practiced their craft on our stages and in our classrooms and studios. Whatever your passion is, whatever form your artistic vision takes, you are a part of our community. Take your place. Our M.F.A. degree is a three-year, 60 credit hour NAST- and URTA-accredited program with nine independent areas of study. We intentionally keep the number of graduate students we accept very small, so you get the personalized, one-on-one training you need to succeed. Our programs combines classroom learning with extensive practical production experience. You'll be immersed in the rigorous study and practice of your discipline. As a result, you'll graduate with broad experience and professional-level skills. By the time the curtain closes on your final production at IU, you'll be ready to take your place in the profession. Perfect your craft and hone your skills.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students receive individualized attention from faculty and guest artists who are actively engaged in the profession. Recent guest artists include: Andrew Borthwick-Leslie, Chika Ike, Nilan, Migdalia Cruz, Nira Pullin, David Koté, Henry Woronicz, Jonathan Banks, Glenn Close, David Turrentine, Raelle Myrick-Hodges, and many others.

### FINANCIAL AID

All M.F.A. graduate admittees receive a full tuition and fee waiver as part of their graduate assistantships.

To seek financial aid through a graduate appointment, you must submit an application for admission into the University Graduate School (complete with all transcripts, letters of recommendation, and GRE scores). The standard graduate appointment is a 50% Full Time Employment (FTE) position requiring 20 hours of service per week or the teaching of up to four courses per academic year. Students holding graduate appointments are eligible for fee scholarships that pay the cost of tuition for 12 fall credit hours and 12 spring credit hours of study during the academic year and six credit hours in the summer.

Alumni, faculty, and friends have established a variety of awards to recognize and support deserving students in our department. These awards are given at the discretion of an award advisory committee including the department chairperson, and with the guidance of the IU Foundation.

Student Academic Appointees are automatically enrolled in the student insurance plan and the cost of the student premium is paid by the university.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Sanctuary City*, *Reefer Madness*, *Fucking A*, Faculty Dance Concert, *At First Sight* (MFA New Play Festival), *Twelfth Night*, *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*, *Legally Blonde*, New Moves Senior Dance Concert

## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Mary Beth Easley, Chair

Department of Theatre Arts  
200 N. Riverside Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52242  
(319) 335-2700  
[theatre.uiowa.edu](http://theatre.uiowa.edu)

### Contact:

Paul Kalina, Head of Acting  
([paul-kalina@uiowa.edu](mailto:paul-kalina@uiowa.edu))  
Bryon Winn, Head of Design  
([bryon-winn@uiowa.edu](mailto:bryon-winn@uiowa.edu))  
Mary Beth Easley, Head of Directing  
([mary-easley@uiowa.edu](mailto:mary-easley@uiowa.edu))  
Art Borreca, Head of Dramaturgy  
([art-borreca@uiowa.edu](mailto:art-borreca@uiowa.edu))  
Lisa Schlesinger, Head of Playwriting  
([lisa-schlesinger@uiowa.edu](mailto:lisa-schlesinger@uiowa.edu))  
Melissa Turner, Head of Stage Management  
([melissa-turner@uiowa.edu](mailto:melissa-turner@uiowa.edu))



## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design:  
    Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Props,  
    Scenic, Sound, Technical Direction  
Directing  
Stage Management

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Directing: 0, Stage Management: 2-3, Design/Tech: 3 (in any area)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of Iowa Department of Theatre Arts has intensive 3-year programs in the above disciplines. Our theatres employ state-of-the-art technology and are a major arts center on campus. Special emphasis is placed on the development of new works for the theatre. Graduate and undergraduate actors, stage managers, writers, directors and dramaturgs are involved, and all are paid.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to resident faculty, the department brings in 15-20 guest professionals each year. The department also offers a Summer Program, each summer. For four weeks the department invites one or more professional directors/writers/creators to be in residence to develop a new theatre piece. Graduate and undergraduate actors, stage managers, writers, directors and dramaturgs are involved, and all are paid. The new work is presented free of charge to the public.

## FINANCIAL AID

Assistantships range from at least \$10,300 to \$20,600. There is no tuition charge; most fees are covered. All students are on assistantships or full scholarships. Scholarships available from \$1,500 to \$5,000, with one of \$18,500.

## 2024/2025 SEASON

*Marie Antoinette*; *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*; Iowa Director Festival; *Side Show*, *Enemy of The People*; New Play Festival; 18 gallery/workshop productions, mostly new plays.

## KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Tony Hardin, Director of the School of Theatre and Dance

School of Theatre and Dance  
1325 Theatre Drive  
Kent State University  
Kent, OH 44242  
(330) 672-2082  
[kent.edu/theatredance](http://kent.edu/theatredance)

### Contacts:

Tony Hardin, Director of the School of Theatre and Dance

[ahardi14@kent.edu](mailto:ahardi14@kent.edu)

Michelle Souza, Area Coordinator Design, Technology, and Production

[msouza@kent.edu](mailto:msouza@kent.edu)

Jakyung Seo, Associate Director of the School of Theatre and Dance

[jseo1@kent.edu](mailto:jseo1@kent.edu)

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume Design: 2, Scenic Design: 2, Lighting Design: 1, Technical Direction: 1

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Kent State University's School of Theatre and Dance offers M.F.A. programs in Acting and Design and Technology. The terminal M.F.A. degree equips students with the artistry and skills to become practicing professionals. With a flexible curriculum and concentrations in costume design, lighting design, scene design and technical direction, this three-year program offers students the opportunity to explore their areas of interest and gain hands-on experience in all aspects of theatre production.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Porthouse Theatre, Kent State University's summer professional theatre, provides graduate students with the opportunity to work and learn in a professional producing theatre on site at Kent State. Porthouse Theatre produces three musicals every season.

## FINANCIAL AID

Teaching assistantships are available with full tuition waiver, stipend (\$16,000/year for 20 hours work per week).

## 2024/2025 SEASON

*The Crucible*; *Pride & Prejudice the Musical*; Fall Faculty Dance Concert; *The Wiz*; Spring Faculty Dance Concert; *Men on Boats*



## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Props, Scenic, Technical Direction

## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Kristin Sosnowsky, Chair

105 Music and Dramatic Arts Building  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
(225) 578-4174,  
[lsu.edu/cmda/theatre](http://lsu.edu/cmda/theatre)

Contacts:

[theatre@lsu.edu](mailto:theatre@lsu.edu)

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

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Costume Technology and Design

Properties Technology and Design

Scenic Technology and Design

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Info to come.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Louisiana State University School of Theatre is dedicated to preparing students of all identities for professional and academic careers in arts and cultural industries. Providing an inclusive learning environment as key to a well-rounded humanities education, we offer a variety of degrees and concentrations that encourage students to tailor their training to their creative and scholarly passions and intentions. Graduating students move into careers and further educational institutions as informed and empowered artists, theorists, and technicians; the practical skills learned apply not only to the arts but also to multiple related professions and industries. Accomplished professional creative practitioners from all over the world, contribute to the School's cultural insight and cutting-edge performance tools. Our programming commits to spotlighting topical issues, celebrating shared social values, and exploring humanity. With diversity, equity, and inclusion among our core values, we work to honor the experience, perspectives, and unique identities of our students, faculty, staff, guest artists, and audience. The School also has a unique and significant place within Louisiana State University and seeks to contribute in a visible way to the quality of life and economic growth of both the state and the region. The LSU MFA in Acting Program provides rigorous physical, vocal, emotional, and critical actor training approaches. The MFA acting students are the primary acting pool for the LSU Equity resident theatre company, Swine Palace. To promote holistic actors, candidates create and perform a 20-minute solo work of theatre as their thesis, concluding with an oral presentation on the creative process. A traditional written thesis option is also available.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The School of Theatre is the home to Swine Palace, a professional, Equity theatre company. The MFA cohort is eligible for competitive casting in all Swine Palace productions having the opportunity to work alongside professional directors, actors and designers.

### FINANCIAL AID

MFA In Theatre, specialization In Acting offers assistantships of \$15,500 annually, along with a tuition waiver. Required fees and medical insurance still apply. Graduate students on assistantship become half-time employees of the university, working 20 hours per week, often in a combination of teaching, production, and administrative duties.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B; People, Places and Things; Red Velvet; Roleplay*



## UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Jill Bradbury, Professor and Director



## SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, & PERFORMANCE STUDIES

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

### MFA PROGRAMS

Design:  
Costumes, Lighting, Projections & Media,  
Scenic, Sound

Contact:

General: [tdpsinfo@umd.edu](mailto:tdpsinfo@umd.edu)

MFA in Design: [mkachman@umd.edu](mailto:mkachman@umd.edu),  
[cgaston@umd.edu](mailto:cgaston@umd.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

2 to 3 in each design area

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies (TDPS) offers a 60-credit, three-year, full-time and fully funded M.F.A. in Dance degree alongside M.F.A.'s in design, PhD's in Theatre History and Performance Studies, and undergraduate degrees in Dance and Theatre. The School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies 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 Clarice's Visiting Artist Series, graduate students engage with national and international performing artists through master classes, performances, and conversations.

Our 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 or projection design in preparation for the professional theater and entertainment fields;
- 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.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The program is an integral part of the DC/Baltimore theatre community and maintains partnerships with leading area performance companies and venues, including the Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Baltimore Centerstage, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Signature Theatre and Washington National Opera, among many others. MFA students design a mainstage production at Imagination Stage, the area's premiere theatre for young audiences venue, every year, and have opportunities to assist faculty in New York and at the leading regional theaters throughout the country.

### 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

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:

<https://arhu.umd.edu/academics/graduate-studies/financial-support> All current MFA students are fully funded by Graduate Assistantships regardless of need. The current GA annual stipend is approx. \$27,500.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Emma*; Fall M.F.A. Dance Thesis Concert; *Metamorphoses*; Spring M.F.A Dance Thesis Concert; *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*; *Hip Hop Anansi*

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Kirk A Domer, Director of Graduate Studies

542 Auditorium Road #113  
Department of Theatre  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
(517) 355-6690  
[theatre.msu.edu](http://theatre.msu.edu)

### Contacts:

Karen Kangas-Preston (Design & Technology):

[kangaspr@msu.edu](mailto:kangaspr@msu.edu)

Deric McNish (Acting):

[mcnishde@msu.edu](mailto:mcnishde@msu.edu)

Kirk A. Domer (General Inquiries):

[domer@msu.edu](mailto:domer@msu.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Design: 3 (any area)

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Michigan State University Department of Theatre is an intimate department within a major university of over 50,000 students in the capital city. This unique program incorporates a diverse mix of skills-based curricula to create richer artists with a strong focus on creating future educators. The design program allows candidates to explore design across numerous platforms with the goal of creating a richer collaborative artist. Many graduates of the program 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. The MFA program is designed for the completion of 60 credits within six consecutive semesters (fall and spring semesters) or three consecutive years of study. Designers and actors, as part of their graduate assistantships (renewable for three years based on good standing), will teach a variety of courses that may include intensive lab and studio classes, large lecture classes, and online courses. Summer research endeavors and creative activities associated with Summer Circle Theatre are available.

MSU is one of the world's largest research universities; as such, your exposure to world-class artists will expand your understanding of your artistic process and the possibilities of how you share that vision.

The Department recognizes the importance of diversity among peers and faculty for the professional development of all graduate students and the mirroring of professional standards within the discipline.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MSU maintains a collaborative partnership with a local Equity Theatre (Williamston Theatre; Tony Caselli, Artistic Director). 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

Full tuition waiver (up to the full 60 credits required). Graduate Assistantship offers an Annual Stipend of \$20,000-22,000 (increase in stipend each year), Medical and Dental Insurance, a Summer Support Fellowship (guaranteed one-time award) of \$4,500 connected to working in our professional summer theatre or to pursue an outside opportunity, and Travel Awards (available annually, based on application).

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*In Pieces* (New Musical Laboratory), *PVA* (Storefront Series), *Inherit the Wind*, *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes*, *MSU UnScripted*, *9 to 5*, *The Musical*, *Decision Height* (Storefront Series), *Inching Toward Yeolha*



**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE**  
[theatre.msu.edu](http://theatre.msu.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic,  
Sound

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Margaret Werry, Chair

540 Rarig Center  
330 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South,  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
(612) 625-6699  
[theatre.umn.edu](http://theatre.umn.edu)

Contact: [volkm003@umn.edu](mailto:volkm003@umn.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

5

Costumes, Scenic, Lighting, Sound/Media

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Design & Technology at the University of Minnesota's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance trains students to be the makers and dreamers of tomorrow. Woven into the heart of the Twin Cities theatre hub, the Master of Fine Arts in Design & Technology explores artistic and technical challenges in scenic, costume, lighting, and sound design. Through collaborative classroom and hands-on production work, our students develop essential 21st-century skills in interpersonal communication and real-world problem-solving, giving them the versatility they need to excel in their work and in their lives.

The three-year, performance-oriented, terminal MFA degree specializes in design and technical production. All areas of design are studied to increase understanding in specialization areas, and technology is studied as an essential part of design. Students are expected to achieve proficiency in at least two areas of any combination of design and technology (scenery/properties, costuming, lighting, sound) and a level of expertise in at least one of these areas. 60 credits. Teaching TH 1501 Introduction to Design for the Theatre course is available for teaching. No summer courses.

Program Highlights:

- Design & build works spanning a wide range of styles including musical, plays, devised works, & world premier dance performances.
- Work with artists with local & national reputations who order a direct connection to career opportunities.
- Explore a secondary area of design or technology focus
- Immerse in the design process & develop strong technology skills.
- Collaborate as a design cohort with both the director & technical production teams.
- Engage in Season Selection considering cultural, artistic, & educational relevance.

<https://cla.umn.edu/theatre/graduate/mfa-design-technology>

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Design & Technology students are in constant demand by the large Twin Cities professional theatre and arts community, where internships and over hire opportunities are consistently available. UMTAD alumni are active in performing arts organizations locally and nationally. The UMTAD Professional Scene Shop builds scenery for Penumbra Theatre, a nationally recognized theatre institution in Saint Paul, MN, whose mission is to "illuminate the human condition through the prism of the African American experience." Our program partners with the Chemistry Department to produce Energy & U, an interdepartmental bi-annual event that teaches the 1st Law of Thermodynamics and world energy use.

### FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Assistants are offered a 50% (20 hours/week); 9 month academic year assistantship for each of the three years in the program. This assistantship as a Teaching Assistant provides for a stipend of \$21,380 in the 2024-2025 academic year. Annual awards are offered through an application process within the department for opportunities to travel to conferences.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*James I: The Key Will Keep The Lock; James III: The True Mirror; Anna In The Tropics; Book of Days; Cabaret*



Department of  
Theatre Arts & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

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

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - KANSAS CITY

Dr. Collin Vorbeck, Interim Chair

4949 Cherry St  
Kansas City, MO 64110  
(816) 235-5222  
[conservatory.umkc.edu](http://conservatory.umkc.edu)

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



### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design/Technology:  
    Costumes, Projection/Media, Scenic, Sound,  
    Technical Direction  
Stage Management

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6-8, Scenic: 2, Technical Direction: 2, Sound: 2, Costumes: 2, Projection/Media: 2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our MFA curricula in Acting, Design, and Technology prioritize studio-based learning and technique-driven classroom experiences that support risk-taking, problem solving, and experimentation. Professional partnerships with nationally recognized theatres provide graduate students with a city-wide campus for enriching their artistic output. Our curricular and assistantship models allow graduate students to mentor undergrads, and engage with peers, faculty mentors, and local industry professionals to hone and expand their craft.

Our three-year programs consist of ~63 credit hours, with summers off to seek professional work. All tracks include introductory teaching assistant positions, with opportunities to lead classes in second and third years.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the third year of our program are matched with nationally recognized local professional theatre companies as performers, technicians, designer, and stage managers.

### FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students invited into our MFA programs receive a tuition waiver of up to 12 credit hours per semester and a monthly stipend.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Vinegar Tom; Silent Sky; The Inspector General; Into the Woods*

## UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN

Hank Stratton, School Director



Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film  
215 Temple Building  
12<sup>th</sup> & R Streets  
P.O. Box 880201  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0201  
(402) 472-2072  
[arts.unl.edu/theatre-and-film](http://arts.unl.edu/theatre-and-film)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

Contacts:

Scenic Design: [JDMadsen@unl.edu](mailto:JDMadsen@unl.edu)

Lighting Design: [Michelle.Harvey@unl.edu](mailto:Michelle.Harvey@unl.edu)

Costume Design: [JBullins@unl.edu](mailto:JBullins@unl.edu)

Technical Direction: [BryceAllen@unl.edu](mailto:BryceAllen@unl.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts is a three-year program offering mentor guided training in the Designing and Technical Production for Live Performance. The MFA Degree is made up of a minimum 60 credit hours and practical thesis production. Students are expected to design a minimum for 2 practical projects during their time with many more as opportunity and potential allows.

The Carson School offers graduate courses in advanced scene design, lighting design, costume design, computer-aided design, drafting, pattern-making rendering, stage rigging, digital motion graphics, and stage technology. Our curriculum also includes courses on dramatic theory, play analysis, and theatre history. We hold classes in the historic Temple Building (funded by John D. Rockefeller, Jr.), and productions take place in the School's numerous venues, which include the Howell Theatre (Proscenium), the Studio Theatre (Flexible Black Box), and Lab Theatre (Small Black Box). Teaching assistantships and graduate fellowships are available to all students enrolled in graduate study.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The graduate program in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film combine academic depth with professional training to prepare students for professional and academic success. We screen applicants for admission to our programs at nationwide University Resident Theatre Association (URTA) interviews; we also conduct on-campus conferences with applicants, where we likewise organize portfolio presentations. Individuals at any stage of their current careers or career planning who are interested in design and/or technical production emphases should prepare and provide evidence of current experience, ability and/or technical skills.

### FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid package includes: Tuition Remission for 12 Credit hours per semester & Health Insurance Premium Reduction. Graduate Teaching Assistantships are offered to students and are used to hire you as direct assistants to our professional instructors. You will have assignments assisting them in the teaching capacity, their professional design work, or in aid production as needed at their discretion, for an average of 19.6 hours per week over the course of the semester. Additional fellowships are often offered to augment stipends with no additional work requirements attached but must be in good standing in the program.

A commitment of funding will never lessen for the continuation of your contracted period of study. Our base offer when totaled will not be less than \$16,000 for the 9 month period.

While our school offers no additional need based funding, additional campus wide scholarships, and funding sources are open for all graduate students to apply to through the graduate college of the university.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

The Nebraska Rep Season: *The Importance of Being Earnest*; *Potus*; *Shakespeare's R & J*; *Urinetown*

## UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Kirsten Brandt, Chair and Executive Director of Nevada Conservatory Theatre

Box 455036  
4505 S Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5036  
(702) 895-3666  
[unlv.edu/theatre](http://unlv.edu/theatre)

### Contacts:

Kirsten Brandt, Chair/NCT Executive Director:  
[kirsten.brandt@unlv.edu](mailto:kirsten.brandt@unlv.edu)  
Christina Watanabe, Assistant Professor/Lighting Designer:  
[christina.watanabe@unlv.edu](mailto:christina.watanabe@unlv.edu)  
Dana Moran Williams, Professor/Scenic Design:  
[dana.moranwilliams@unlv.edu](mailto:dana.moranwilliams@unlv.edu)  
David Shouse, Assistant Professor/Technical Director:  
[david.shouse@unlv.edu](mailto:david.shouse@unlv.edu)  
Judy Ryerson, Associate Prof/Head of Design and Technology/Costume Designer:  
[judy.ryerson@unlv.edu](mailto:judy.ryerson@unlv.edu)  
Matthew Shiner, Assistant Professor/Theatre Production Manager/Stage Management:  
[mwilliam.shiner@unlv.edu](mailto:mwilliam.shiner@unlv.edu)  
Phil Hubbard, Professor/Head of Performance:  
[philip.hubbard@unlv.edu](mailto:philip.hubbard@unlv.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Stage Management: 1, Lighting: 2, Scenic Design: 2, Costume Design: 1, Technical Direction: 1

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Fine Arts programs emphasize craft, professionalism, and practical experience. Classes are small and there is a great deal of one-on-one mentorship. Each MFA program requires a minimum of 72 credit hours and takes three years to complete. This is a three-year program offering advanced 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 share a two-credit graduate seminar committed to progressive and practical exploration of the essential theatre.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre (NCT) serves as the applied artistic and technical producing arm of the Department, bridging the gap between academic practice and professional theatre. NCT engages working professionals and provides students with a professional working laboratory that transcends traditional internships/apprenticeships, placing students in artistic and technical leadership roles that closely mirror their future professional careers.

### FINANCIAL AID

A graduate assistantship is a renewable, part-time academic appointment. Graduate assistants, or GAs, serve as research or teaching assistants who contribute to the university's academic mission. Graduate students selected for these competitive positions receive a stipend and benefits package during the assistantship. Tuition waivers are typically included with the assistantship up to 9 credits per semester of the per-credit-hour registration fee. There are many additional financial aid opportunities that can be found here: <https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/funding/current-student-funding>

### 2024/2025 SEASON

Fall: *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*; *A Skeptic and a Bruja*; *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

Spring: *Climate Shorts* (10 minute play festival); *Wolf Play*; *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*; *Parking Lot Plays*: site specific new play festival



### MFA PROGRAMS

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

# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Kathy Hunter-Williams, Department Chair

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/)

Contacts:

Julia Gibson, Co-Head, Professional Actor Training  
Program: [gibju@email.unc.edu](mailto:gibju@email.unc.edu)

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6, Design/Technology: 0

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**MFA Acting:** The Professional Actor Training Program (PATP) is an intensive three-year program 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. 60 credit hours. No summer courses. There are some teaching opportunities in the second and third years of training. **MFA Costume Technology:** is a three year degree encompassing a broad range of costuming experience through a unique blend of course work and production responsibility. Students study all aspects of costume making including history and digital applications. We focus solely on technology, not design. For more information, please visit <https://drama.unc.edu/programs-of-study/graduate-studies/costume-production-mfa/>.

**MFA Technical Production:** The purpose of this program is to train candidates for careers in professional and university theatre. The three-year program is organized to prepare the candidate to assume responsibility for the entire production process from technical drawings through strike. (Costume Technology and Technical Production do not recruit through URTA). The department, the programs and the theatre are all committed to access, equity, diversity and inclusion.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY (Vivienne Benesch, Producing Artistic Director) is a nationally regarded LORT theatre in residence at UNCCH. It has a resident company of actors, directors, and designers, as well as acclaimed costume and technical production teams. MFA students are members of the company while in residence with their program. Actors are given the opportunity to play leading, supporting, and ensemble roles alongside company members and professional guest artists with established directors in classical, contemporary and new works. PlayMakers occasionally produces a Mobile Unit cast solely with MFA actors that tours the campus and area.

## FINANCIAL AID

Most 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.

Teaching Assistantships: Aid professors with grading and proctoring exams

Teaching Assistantships with full responsibility: Teacher of record for an undergraduate course. Available in 2nd and 3rd years of study.

Research Assistantships: Each graduate program awards a Research Assistantship to one student at a time for a research assignment.

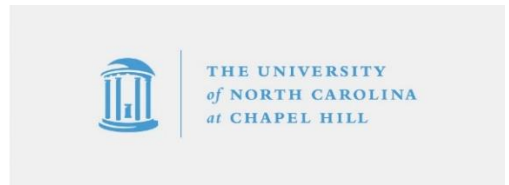
Prize Scholarships: Faculty award these scholarships for commitment and accomplishment in a variety of areas.

## 2024/2025 SEASON

PlayMakers Repertory Company: *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*; *What the Constitution Means to Me*; *The Christmas Case of Hezekiah Jones*; *Death of a Salesman*; *Confederates*; *Little Shop of Horrors*

PlayMakers/PATP Mobile Unit: *Every Brilliant Thing*

PATP Ground Floor Productions: *The Lonesome West*; plus one or two additional titles TBA.



## NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Roxanna Conner, Director

School of Theatre and Dance  
200 University Circle  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
(815) 753-1334  
Fax 815-753-8415  
[niu.edu/theater](http://niu.edu/theater)

Contact:  
[theatreinfo@niu.edu](mailto:theatreinfo@niu.edu)



**Northern Illinois  
University**

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design and Technology  
Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costumes: 1, Scenic: 1, Lighting: 1, Technical Direction: 1

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

NIU offers a practice-oriented Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts that provides individualized, challenging, and disciplined professional training with specializations in Acting and Design and Technology. The specialization in Design and Technology offers emphases in Costume Design, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, and Technical Direction. The program fully prepares theatre artists for work across the entertainment industry on stage and screen and provides the tools to teach their area of focus at a post-secondary level. All programs of study require 69 hours of course work over three years with summers off where students are encouraged to work in professional settings. All students have the opportunity to teach through teaching assistantships, lab supervision, and/or primary teaching assignments.

The School of Theatre and Dance strives to create an atmosphere of collaboration in all aspects of its graduate education. Coursework focuses on developing the individual artist and the cooperative aspects of storytelling. Students in all areas of study incorporate research techniques from coursework into practice. With guidance from faculty, students acquire lasting approaches to the creation and scholarly examination of theatre and the performing arts so they can continue contributing to the global community upon graduation.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All faculty are active working professionals in theatre. Graduates of the MFA programs have access to the breadth of faculty connections in professional theatre across the country. The NIU 2024-25 production season includes guest artist residencies by professional artists from Chicago. Internships are required for all MFA students, and our faculty can assist with procuring and mentoring internships.

### FINANCIAL AID

A limited number of Artistic Talent Tuition Waivers covering up to 9 hours of coursework each semester are available based on audition/portfolio and interview process. Graduate Assistantships are available with tuition waiver and a stipend for each academic year (August 15 to May 15). Stipends vary based on hourly obligation and appointment. For reference, in 2023-24 the full-time graduate stipend (20 hours/week) was \$16,102.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

Fall: *Mary Stuart*, *Machinal*, *Macbeth*, *Paquita*, and new works in Dance  
Spring: *Prowess*, *Holler River*, *Anon(ymous)*, Spring Dance Concert



## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Directing

Design/Technology:

Costuming, Lighting, Scenic

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 12, Directing: 3, Scenic: 2, Costumes: 2, Lighting: 2

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Acting:** The MFA in Acting at Northwestern University is an immersive, comprehensive, and collaborative program designed to equip students with the tools and support necessary for success in professional theatre. This fully funded two-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.

**Directing:** The MFA program pursues this goal by guiding each director to discover, develop and apply their individual artistic voice with vision and integrity. We accept three highly motivated individuals each year – artists with a passionate drive to work in the theater at the highest level of creativity and accomplishment. We give strongest consideration to those who have been directing work, running theater companies, and contributing to the emerging landscape of contemporary theater. These directors seek out a graduate program because they are ready to slow down and engage in a deep examination of what they want to say, how they want to say it, and why they want to say it in the theater. 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.

**Design:** The MFA in Stage Design Program at Northwestern University exists to prepare, a select group of scenery, costume, and lighting designers for professional careers in the American Theatre, international theater, and related fields. Central to this three-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.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students will study under and be mentored by faculty who are industry professionals. They will have many opportunities, especially in the later years of their program, to work along professional in the Chicago Theatre Industry, observe rehearsals at major theaters, and intern and work with these productions in a variety of roles.

## FINANCIAL AID

All programs include tuition coverage for their full duration as part of our Graduate Assistantships (2 years for Acting and 3 years for Directing and Stage Design). Students in all of our programs receive monthly stipend for duration of their coursework for work done as Graduate Assistants, Research Assistants, Teaching Assistants, and also while on Fellowship. The monthly rates for the 2024-2025 academic year are \$3,750 per month (12 months per year for Acting and 9 months per year for Directing and Stage Design). The Northwestern Graduate Financial Aid Department can assist students with financial aid options for students in need beyond the included stipend and tuition coverage they are already receiving. The additional assistance Northwestern Graduate Financial Aid Department can provide will vary student to student based on need.

## 2024/2025 SEASON

Fall 2024: *Imagine U: The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra, Go!; Antigone*; MFA Collaboration: *Sunday on the Rocks*

Winter 2025: *Museum*; MFA Collaboration: *Wink; February House; Lobster*; Danceworks 2025: *signal::transfer*

Spring 2025: *Man of La Mancha; Imagine U: A Tale of Peter Rabbit*; MFA Collaboration: *Mancub; As It Is In Heaven; Honeypot*

## OHIO UNIVERSITY

Merri Biechler, Director

Ohio University School of Theater  
307 Kantner Hall  
19 S. College St., Athens, OH 45701  
(740) 593-4818  
[ohio.edu/fine-arts/theater](http://ohio.edu/fine-arts/theater)

Contacts:

Primary: Merri Biechler

[biechler@ohio.edu](mailto:biechler@ohio.edu)

Acting: David Haugen

[haugend@ohio.edu](mailto:haugend@ohio.edu)

Directing: Jeanette Buck

[buckj@ohio.edu](mailto:buckj@ohio.edu)

Production Design and Technology: C. David Russell

[russelld1@ohio.edu](mailto:russelld1@ohio.edu)

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

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Directing

General Theater (MA)

Production Design

Production Technology

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Info to come.

### 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, and designers. 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).

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Tantrum Theater, our professional theater, is fully integrated into the academic season. Two Tantrum large scale productions are produced with professional directors, stage managers, designers, and actors working alongside our students. Students acting in Tantrum productions are eligible for Actors Equity Association EMC points. In addition, Tantrum will be supporting an array of Tantrum Artists, professionals specializing in a wide assortment of disciplines. 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.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*A Little Night Music; Trojan Women; Pride and Prejudice (Tantrum Theater); Tipping the Velvet; The Prom (Tantrum Theater); First Year MFA Directors' Projects; Bootycandy; Fringe Festival*

## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. E.J. Westlake, Chair

1932 College Rd N  
Columbus, OH 43210  
(614) 292-5821  
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THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS  
AND SCIENCES

**DEPARTMENT OF  
THEATRE, FILM,  
AND MEDIA ARTS**

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 2, Scenic: 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. International opportunities are available with special theatre programs in London 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, The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, and the Lincoln Theatre. The program does not run during summer and requires 64-65 credit hours.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The department regularly brings guest artists and scholars to campus (or online) to work with our students. In the past five years, this has included Terrence Spivey, Jonathan Allender-Zivic, Raymond O. Caldwell, Esther Kim Lee, Leda Hoffman, Olwen Fouéré, Lesley Ferris, Khalid Long, Kristen Wright, Paul Bae, Jack Reuler, Ted Lange, Jesse Eisenberg, Lorin Eric Salm, Tom Shelly, Coyote Peterson, and Chris Jones. Our students are also able to engage with the artists and companies in residence and performing at the Wexner Center for the Arts.

### FINANCIAL AID

50% graduate associate appointments carry out-of-state tuition and fee waiver worth approximately \$40,000. 50% graduate associate appointments at \$22,347 a year paid over a 9-month period (or \$2,483 per month). There is also a 100% subsidy of student health insurance.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Seven Guitars; The Moors; The Dog Project* (a devised project by the graduate acting students); *Orlando*

## THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Kikora Franklin, Interim Director

116 Theatre Building  
477 Allen Road  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814) 865-7586  
[theatre.psu.edu](http://theatre.psu.edu)

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



### MFA PROGRAMS

Directing  
Design: Costume, Scenic

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 0, Costume Production: 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 21st 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.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PARTNERED THEATRE – PENN STATE CENTRE STAGE Kikora Franklin, Producing Artistic Director

Penn State Centre Stage 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

Graduate Assistantship is \$21,000+ per year for 3 years and full tuition remission. Design and Production students work 20 hours per week in our shops and Directing students either TA or teach undergraduate courses.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

Fall: *John Proctor is the Villian, Sweeney Todd, Much Ado About Nothing*

Spring: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Loves Labors Lost Musical, Alice in Wonderland*

## PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Rich Dionne, Chair

552 W. Wood St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
(765) 494-3074  
[cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/theatre](http://cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/theatre)

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



Department of Theatre and Dance

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenic, Sound, Technical  
Direction

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6, Lighting: 1, Scenic: 1, Sound: 1, Technical Direction: 1, Entertainment Technology: 1

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Through 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. The department is committed to maintaining a culture of equity and diversity in all programming, courses, and production-related activities, and encourages applicants who are committed to and embody these values. The MFA **program in Acting** offers intensive training in voice, movement, and acting, complemented by course work in script analysis, theory and criticism, and directing, with multiple opportunities for performing. The MFA **programs in Design and Technology** offer curricula that foster the development of aesthetic responses to scripts and skills to collaborate as part of a production team, through courses in script analysis, theory and criticism, and in design, crafts, and technology specific to each area. Programs require a minimum of 60 credit hours, over 3 years (fall and spring semesters). The Department of Theatre and Dance is one of four units (with Art and Design, Music, and Dance) in the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Design, Art, and Performance in West Lafayette, Indiana, close to Chicago (2 hours) and Indianapolis (1.5 hours), with exceptional facilities and equipment, including two innovatively designed theatres and studios. 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

The department engages professional guest artists every season. The acting curriculum includes a course with professional guests and regional tour in the third year. Design and technology programs require an internship. 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

MFA students are awarded assistantships to work in a shop or teach introductory-level courses related to their area/s. Assistantships include a stipend of \$22,000, tuition waiver, and affordable healthcare options.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Dead Man's Cell Phone; Mary Shelley Presents: Frankenstein; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Gloria*

## SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Stephen Brotebeck, Interim Director of the School of Theatre, Television, and Film

School of Theatre, Television, and Film  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, CA 92182-7601  
(619) 594-5091  
[ttf.sdsu.edu/mfa\\_theatre\\_design/](http://ttf.sdsu.edu/mfa_theatre_design/)

Contact:

Anne E. McMills, Head of Lighting Design and Graduate Advisor for Design and Technology: [amcmills@sdsu.edu](mailto:amcmills@sdsu.edu)



### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic, Technical Direction

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Scenic Design: 2. Costume Design & Technology: 2/3, Lighting Design: 3, Technical Direction: 3/4, Projection Design: 1/2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA Program in Design and Technology in the School of Theatre, Television, and Film 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. Our learning environment enables our students to develop competitive skills as both designers and technicians, and 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, South Coast Rep, and Center Theatre Group as well as entertainment giants like Disney and the Hollywood film industry – most of which employ our students and alumni. Our 60- to 63-unit MFA in Design and Technology is a three-year program with emphases in Scenic, Costume, Lighting, and Projection Design and Technology, and Technical Direction. Our program includes many teaching opportunities ranging from practicum to fundamentals of design courses.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the MFA in Design and Technology program at SDSU work with entertainment professionals both within and outside the academic environment and in the community. 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 Southern California are brought in consistently to work with our students in class on weeks-long design projects. SDSU partners with three professional theatres in San Diego 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 awards of merit, university scholarships, and professional fellowship opportunities with local theatres. Students interested in teaching may be eligible for half in-state tuition remission based on the class load taught for each semester that they qualify. These positions may also include a waiver for select fees and be eligible for various state-sponsored benefits including health, dental, vision care, life, and long-term disability insurance. San Diego State University has over 700 scholarship opportunities to support our students' educational goals. Our application portal, "Aztec Scholarships," allows students to apply for university scholarships via one application. Based on university and application data, Aztec Scholarships automatically filters eligible applications and sends them to SDSU scholarship committees for award consideration. San Diego State is consistently ranked in the top 15 on the list of 50 BEST VALUE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CALIFORNIA and in the top 50 of Forbes' ranking of the 300 best value colleges and universities in the United States.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Waiting for Godot; The Thanksgiving Play; A New Brain; Six Characters in Search of An Author; Hamlet; Rent*



Stephanie Milling, Department Chair

Longstreet Theatre  
1300 Greene St,  
Columbia, SC 29208  
(803) 777-5208  
[sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/artsandsciences/theatre\\_and\\_dance/index.php](http://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/theatre_and_dance/index.php)

Contact:

Stephanie Milling, [smilling@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:smilling@mailbox.sc.edu)  
Quinda Richardson, [QUINDA@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:QUINDA@mailbox.sc.edu)  
Amy Lehman, [LEHMANA@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:LEHMANA@mailbox.sc.edu)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design:  
    Costume, Lighting, Scenic  
Directing

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Directing: 0, Scenic Design: 3-4, Costume Design: 1-2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of South Carolina is the only school in the state that offers an MFA in acting, design or directing so you can achieve the highest degree possible in theatre design or performance.

**The MFA Acting Program** at the University of South Carolina provides comprehensive physical, vocal, and imaginative preparation for working as a professional in theatre or film.

**The MFA in Scenic Design program** offers a unique hands-on approach to learning the art of scenography, which balances high quality production work with rigorous studio and academic study.

**The MFA in Costume Design** is designed to provide professional-grade training in the areas of: costume, hair and make-up design, supported by comprehensive technology coursework.

**The MFA in Lighting Design** is intended to broaden student competences and experiences down the multiple avenues that spring from the convergence of art, commerce and technology.

All MFA degrees offer three-year, intensive programs of study designed to provide professional-grade training with hands-on experience in the chosen area of expertise. All students in the program will complete a professional internship.

The graduate experience includes a competitive assistantship and tuition stipend. The assistantship consists of a 16-hour work week teaching or designing for productions and supporting the needs of the department. Students work collaboratively under the guidance and mentorship of full-time faculty supervisors in their area of expertise.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In the third year of the MFA degree, students complete a semester-long internship working at a reputable professional theatre, or other artistic organizations, honing and practicing their craft. Professional internships are pursued with the assistance of faculty mentors who have connections with nationally-recognized venues across the country.

University of South Carolina engages nationally-reputable guest artists each year to direct mainstage productions in theatre that appear in the historic Longstreet Theatre, a theatre in the round or Drayton Hall Theatre, a proscenium stage. Two productions in a smaller theatrical venue, the Lab Theatre, occur each year.

### FINANCIAL AID

Students receive an out-of state tuition waiver upon acceptance of a graduate assistantship while enrolled in at least 12 credit hours per semester in the first and second years and 9 credit hours in the third year. The graduate assistantship includes a competitive salary, graduate student health insurance, and partial tuition remission. For selected students, they can be nominated for an additional graduate enhancement award.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Antigone; Moon Man Walk; Twelfth Night; Mauritius*

## SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Blake Hackler, Chair



SMU – Division of Theatre  
6101 Bishop Boulevard  
Room 1164  
Dallas, TX 75205  
(214) 768-2000  
[Smu.edu/meadows/areasofstudy/theatre](http://smu.edu/meadows/areasofstudy/theatre)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Design/Technology:  
Costumes, Lighting, Scenic

#### Contacts:

Blake Hackler- [jhackler@smu.edu](mailto:jhackler@smu.edu) - MFA Acting  
Steve Woods - [steve@smu.edu](mailto:steve@smu.edu) - MFA Entertainment  
Design

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Design/Tech: 6

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Entertainment Design cultivates the artist who can transition into theatre, television, film, dance, concert, and opera. This select group of students will train with active working professionals in an intimate conservatory environment where they will learn and foster the skills to become open, articulate, and collaborative professionals. The Meadows School provides the candidate with three unique performance spaces of varying size and scale which include proscenium, thrust, and black box as well as being home to over 13 divisions of artistic study. Along with the candidate's course of study in Scenography or focus in Scenery, Costume, or Lighting Design the student will have the opportunity to design within a jointly offered 11-show season artistically supporting the Divisions of Theatre, Dance, Opera, and Musical Theatre. Support for these productions is provided by a production staff of 12. The MFA in Entertainment Design is structured around a 3-year cycle of 66 total credit hours.

Retention in the program is based on the student's performance both in the classroom and at the production level. The design faculty evaluates all MFA candidates at the end of each semester (a total of 6).

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

While at the Meadows School, opportunities exist for MFA candidates to work alongside design faculty in their professional work both regionally and nationally. Many opportunities are also available within the Dallas community which is home to the Tony Award-winning Dallas Theater Center (LORT) and over 40 professional theatre companies of various sizes.

### FINANCIAL AID

All students at SMU receive a full tuition waiver, tax free. In addition, students will receive a living stipend of \$12,000 per year.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Mr. Burns; Carrie: The Musical; Constellations; Servant of Two Masters; Blood Wedding by Federico Garcia Lorca; Everybody; John Proctor is the Villain; In Arabia We'd All Be Kings*



## TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Fred M Duer, Chair

210A Tomlinson Hall  
1301 West Norris Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
(215) 204-2804  
[tfma.temple.edu/theater](http://tfma.temple.edu/theater)

Contacts:

[fmduer@temple.edu](mailto:fmduer@temple.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 0, Design/Technology: 1 student for Fall 2025

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students in this three-year, full-time graduate conservatory program have opportunities to work closely with professional faculty and guest artists, participating in fully mounted productions. Since the Theater Department is part of Temple's interdisciplinary Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts, Theater-Design MFA students complete intensive training in the full range of theatrical design practice areas, including costume crafts, drawing and rendering, projection design, and model making. Starting in your first year, and continuing on through the full duration of the program, you'll assist in the creation of designs within professional productions. In your third year, you'll produce a production-based thesis with a written component.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

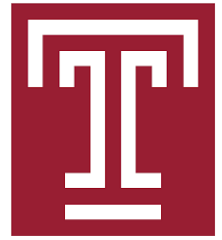
Graduate students have opportunities to work alongside professional faculty.

### FINANCIAL AID

Assistantships offer full tuition remission.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*A Chorus Line; If Pretty Hurts; Cendrillon; The Tempest; Our Country's Good; Don Giovanni; Four Original MFA Thesis Works*



### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic  
Directing

## UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Kenneth Martin, Chair

1115 Volunteer Blvd  
McClung 206  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
(865) 974-6011  
[theatre.utk.edu](http://theatre.utk.edu)

Contacts:

[kmartin@utk.edu](mailto:kmartin@utk.edu)  
[kcunni12@utk.edu](mailto:kcunni12@utk.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of Theatre at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is home to a nationally-ranked, three-year Master of Fine Arts in Theatre, with a concentration in Acting program that is seamlessly integrated with the operations of Clarence Brown Theatre – a professional LORT theatre. Our graduate acting students receive assistantships with full tuition remission plus annual stipends totaling approximately \$21,000 for their performing and faculty assistance duties. Additional scholarships are available by application in the second and third years of training. The program does not run through the summers, but we do encourage students to work with our partner theatres between their second and third year.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

UTK's educational programs are unique in the nation because they are seamlessly integrated with the operations of a LORT professional theatre: the [Clarence Brown Theatre \(CBT\)](#).

As a graduate actor, you will join the ranks of our company. We train together during the day and rehearse and perform together at night; you will be acting alongside your faculty and national caliber guest artists on the Clarence Brown Theatre stages. All of our actors are eligible to join Actors' Equity Association upon graduation.

### FINANCIAL AID

Full tuition remission, including all fees. Assistantships are for work with the Clarence Brown Theatre, as well as some academic work. May include teaching classes. Stipend is at least \$21,000 per year. Some scholarship money is available via application.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Knoxville; Cry it Out; A Christmas Carol; Inherit the Wind; The Play That Goes Wrong*

**CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE**

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Dr. Peter Carpenter, Chair

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Univ. of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX 78712  
(512) 471-5793  
[theatredance.utexas.edu](http://theatredance.utexas.edu)

Contacts:

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The University of Texas at Austin  
**Theatre and Dance**  
College of Fine Arts

### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Integrated Media: 2, Costume: 2, Costume Technology: 2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**UT Live Design and Production** is a Master of Fine Arts degree program where you can explore your talent at a university with vast academic resources in Austin's dynamic and culturally inclusive city. We believe that training artists in design for the theatre prepares them for careers as inventors and producers of work in all aspects of live theatrical performance and the related fields of film, television, themed attractions, concerts, events, and exhibits – wherever the focus is on the live presence of a human story. UT Live Design and Production offers graduate students multiple realized opportunities in a foundational skills and technique development program in Scenic Design, Costume Design, Costume Technology, and Integrated Media for Live Performance. We offer work in theatre, dance, opera, film, video, performance arts, and solo performance. Students have opportunities to create work within their chosen discipline, explore other disciplines within the program, and build affiliations within the university's Department of Radio-Television-Film and Department of Arts and Entertainment Technologies. Over the three-year program, students will gain organizational and entrepreneurial skills to prepare them to be producers of future projects and endeavors. If you seek to cross the traditional boundaries of design, performance, and technology and strongly desire to create original performance work, The University of Texas at Austin community of professional faculty, staff, and students may be the right match. "What Starts Here Changes The World."

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Live Design and Production candidates have abundant production and play development opportunities, including the Cohen New Works Festival, UTNT (UT New Theatre), and the Theatre & Dance stage, workshop, and lab seasons. Students develop work with the Butler Opera Center and Radio Television Film programs. Students participate in Austin-based festivals such as SXSW, Fusebox, Austin City Limits, CreekShow, and Hyde Park's FronteraFest. Graduate Live Design and Production candidates regularly travel with faculty nationwide and abroad as assistants or associates on professional projects. Students show at World Stage Design, The Prague Quadrennial, National Design Portfolio Review, and Design Showcase West.

### FINANCIAL AID

All students receive in-state tuition rates. Tuition remission is granted with a 25% or 50% Teaching assistantship. Students in their first year may receive a 25% Teaching assistantship. Students in their second and third years receive 50% Teaching assistantships. 50% TA's include Health Insurance. All students will receive scholarships in all three years. Please check our website, <https://theatredance.utexas.edu/graduate-programs/mfa-design-and-technology>, or contact Michelle Habeck at [mhabeck@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:mhabeck@austin.utexas.edu) for more information.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes; James and The Giant Peach; Cyphers; (UTNT UT New Theatre); Equinox; The Cohen New Works Festival*

Studio Series: TBA

Butler School of Opera Collaborations: *La Traviata; Song Re-Imagined Series; L'Enfant Et Les Sortileges; The Ghosts of Versailles; Le Nozze Di Figaro*

## TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Sarah EC Maines, Chair

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(512) 245-2147

[theatreanddance.txstate.edu](http://theatreanddance.txstate.edu)

Contact:

[theatre@txstate.edu](mailto:theatre@txstate.edu)



### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Scenic

Directing

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 2, Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University is nationally recognized with a dynamic faculty dedicated to a collaborative and innovative approach to teaching theatre, dance, and film. As a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution, we seek graduate students interested in embracing a diversity of people and ideas, a spirit of inclusiveness, a global perspective, and a commitment to community-building. The Master of Fine Arts in Theatre is a 3 year, 60 credit hour degree plan focusing on practical application. Classes and the producing season are in session in the Fall and Spring semesters providing the opportunity for students to engage in related internships and employment during the summers. The graduate program in directing allows directors with a singular voice and vision to hone their craft and grow into strong, yet collaborative, artists. Our directors can engage with works from the theatrical canon with sophistication and depth, as well as shepherd vibrant new works to fruition. The design programs offer students a comprehensive pre-professional study in the disciplines of Lighting Design, Scenic Design, or Costume Design, with opportunities for students to explore interests in multiple design disciplines. The 60-hour coursework and co-curricular production experiences prepare students to work as practitioners and entrepreneurs in the live entertainment industry. We invite artists with curiosity, integrity, and generosity to join us in continually reimagining what theatre can be and who it can reach.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Theatre & Dance at Texas State University has a relationship with ZACH Theatre, the leading professional theatre in Austin, Texas. Many of our students work as assistants, interns, and designers with ZACH and many more of our graduate students work alongside the faculty on their professional engagements across the country. Most students leave Texas State with significant teaching experience. Graduates generally work as freelance artists nationally, faculty at universities, or some combination thereof.

### FINANCIAL AID

Texas State University provides free tuition and fees for all Design and Directing Graduate Students. All design and directing students that remain in good standing are awarded a 50% FTE assistantship each semester (20 hours) that provides them with an average of \$14,700 per year, based upon their individual assignments. Assignments are made each term and range from Instructor of Record, Teaching Assistant, and production support stage based on each student's skills and interests. Additional merit based scholarships are offered by the graduate college.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Our Town; Escobar's Hippo (World Premiere); Oh To Be Pure Again; Sister Act; Romeo & Juliet; The River Bride; Everybody; Guys and Dolls*

## RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6-8 in 2025

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

3-year program, No summer enrollment, 95 credits

The UW Professional Actor Training Program (PATP) is a renowned MFA program that has produced dynamic artists and creative leaders for over forty years. The vision for our new chapter includes an emphasis on contemporary performance and generative work built upon the program's longstanding foundations in technical craft. Performers will investigate the rapidly evolving role of acting, theatre, and the performing arts in a changing arts field and larger world. What does it take to be an art-maker in the 21st century? How do actors instigate and embody critical questions for contemporary audiences? This program leads to a Master of Fine Arts in Acting and prepares actors to embrace their potential as creative originators and collaborators, navigate their role as industry entrepreneurs, and hone their skills as critical thinkers and agents of change.

The faculty is composed of successful theatre professionals who pursue research that moves the field of theatre forward, and who teach at the highest level. We center our training in theatre. Such foundations provide a model for understanding and exploring other media as well. Actors will receive rigorous training and practice in movement and vocal techniques, explore analysis of scripts and storytelling structures, and work within studios exploring a variety of approaches, from the traditional to the experimental, including but not limited to Stanislavski, Suzuki Method, Viewpoints, Linklater, Archetypes, and Alexander Technique. Devising and project-based learning forms an important part of our pedagogy. We believe in the actor's voice, agency, and power in the creative process. We teach our actors how to teach, as we believe that the most successful artistic practice involves learning, doing, and teaching, all feeding one another.

The PATP strives to inspire life-long exploration and inquiry into the creative spirit that informs the actor's work.

## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Seattle is a vibrant arts city, with numerous professional theatres and presenters showcasing everything from Broadway tours to cutting edge local as well as international performance. The UW School of Drama is connected to all of these organizations, including Seattle Rep, ACT Theatre, On the Boards, Base Experimental Arts, Seattle Theatre Group, 5th Avenue Theatre, Washington Ensemble Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Theatre, Book-It Repertory, Intiman Theatre, and Café Nordo. Our students have found numerous opportunities to develop their craft alongside professionals the community.

## FINANCIAL AID

Students are offered a combination of support in the following areas: 1) work in production shops & teaching assistantships that carry a monthly stipend, tuition waiver and insurance, and 2) fellowships that carry a monthly stipend and, at minimum a non-resident differential, which enables students to pay in-state tuition regardless of residency status. Some fellowships come with insurance as well. In addition, students have the opportunity to apply for department scholarships on a yearly basis (though these resources are limited).

## 2024/2025 SEASON

*Chalk Circle; The Winter's Tale; Thrive;* Producing Artists Lab: The Producing Artists Lab is an opportunity for us to share some of these exciting exploratory or developmental projects with the public. Audience members may see a wider range in the levels of production and often more vigorous artistic risk-taking in these Lab productions

## MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

## WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Michael J Barnes, Interim Chair

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Detroit, MI 48202  
(313) 577-3508  
[theatreanddance.wayne.edu](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu)

Contact:

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[kellygordon@wayne.edu](mailto:kellygordon@wayne.edu)  
[matt.taylor@wayne.edu](mailto:matt.taylor@wayne.edu)

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

### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting  
Arts Leadership  
Design:  
    Costume, Lighting, Scenic  
Stage Management

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not recruiting this year.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre & Dance serves as a creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre, dance, and performance. While the department is grounded in praxis, it is committed to creating thinking artists who have strong foundations in theory, history, and performance studies. The theatre and dance programs prepare students for professional careers as performing artists, choreographers, designer/technicians, directors, stage managers, and theorists and informed audience members within the urban, metropolitan context of Wayne State University. The Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to providing students the opportunity to develop within their disciplines through an extensive performance program that includes twelve theatrical productions and dance concerts, four community outreach performance companies that target the city and metropolitan area's schools, a summer children's theatre tour designed to bring affordable quality summer entertainment to the youth of Detroit, and the Underground Theatre Company—a student-run summer theatre.

The **M.F.A in Acting** program was conceived with the belief that one of the best systems of theatre training is an intensive, performance-guided experience. Continual performance before a live audience is considered a fundamental part of the learning process. Students study the processes of Konstantin Stanislavsky, Michael Chekhov, and Sanford Meisner. Learning modules include individual and group devising, immersive theatre, voice acting, acting for camera, playwriting, improvisation, direction, heightened language and classical. Movement classes emphasize alignment, agility and strength, as well as period dance/deportment and Pilates. Voice classes employ a somatic approach based in the work of Catherine Fitzmaurice.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wayne State has a commitment to bring in two guest directors every year for their production season. This gives the graduate student to work with professionals who are working connections to the business. Additionally, we have informal relations where students have worked with the Detroit Opera, Detroit Public Theatre, Tipping Point Theatre, and Purple Rose Theatre Company

### FINANCIAL AID

All students receive full tuition remission, graduate assistantships that are currently at approximately \$21,500, and full medical/dental benefits. Other scholarships are available for summer studies.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*I Hate Hamlet; Into the Woods; for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf; December Dance Concert; Tartuffe; The Prom; Emilia; 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Dance Concert*

## WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Joshua Williamson, Director

School of Theatre & Dance  
1436 Evansdale Drive, PO Box 6111  
Canady Creative Arts Center  
Morgantown, WV 26506  
(304) 293-2020  
[theatre.wvu.edu](http://theatre.wvu.edu)

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[joshua.williamson@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:joshua.williamson@mail.wvu.edu)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume Design & Technology: 1-3, Scenic Design & Technology: 1, Lighting Design & Technology: 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, graduate actors interact with professionals from the professional theatre world. 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 in the classroom/studio.

For design/tech students, the School will pay for your registration at SETC and/or USITT for three years to take advantage of networking opportunities.

### FINANCIAL AID

All MFA students are offered a Graduate Teaching Assistantship package that includes a full waiver of university tuition (\$29,500 in 2024), stipend of \$15,000, and health insurance. The teaching stipend of \$15,000 is paid over 9 months.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

Theater Season: *Phoebe in Winter*; *Into the Woods*; *A Christmas Carol*; *The Rimers of Eldritch*; *9 to 5: The Musical*

Dance Season\*: *Celebration of Dance*; *Dance Now!*; *Spring Showcase*

\* significant MFA design/technology participation in the dance season.

<https://creativeartsandmedia.wvu.edu/school-of-theatre-and-dance/our-season>



### MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

April Viczko, Chair

FINE arts DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

Department of Drama  
University of Alberta  
3-98 Fine Arts Building  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
T6G 2C9  
[ualberta.ca/en/drama/index](http://ualberta.ca/en/drama/index)

### MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costumes, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

Directing

Contact:

GENERAL INQUIRY: [drama@ualberta.ca](mailto:drama@ualberta.ca)

DIRECTING: [david.kennedy@ualberta.ca](mailto:david.kennedy@ualberta.ca)

DESIGN: [gtondino@ualberta.ca](mailto:gtondino@ualberta.ca)

### RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 2, Design/Tech: 2-3 (all students train in scenic, costumes, lighting, and projected media)

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Directing:** Canada's leading MFA in Directing offers a two-year program—plus a thesis project in the fall of the third year—with significant directing opportunities, including five practical projects ranging in scale from a small studio show with limited tech to a full-scale thesis production on the mainstage in the Timms Centre for the Arts, a fully equipped 300-seat proscenium theatre. Students receive guidance from master teachers with extensive experience as professional directors, who offer diverse approaches to directing through four in-depth directing seminars and close supervision/mentorship on all practical projects. Approaches include fundamentals of the directing process; contemporary theatre practice, heightened text and theatrical styles, and a semester-long practicum on devised theatre; detailed tools for working effectively with actors; skills for working with designers and other members of the collaborative team; tools for effective use of the rehearsal process; leadership and collaboration skills; and professional development in preparation for entering the professional theatre landscape. While the program does not run through the summer, significant prep work on practical projects is required during the off months. **Design:** Canada's foremost Masters in Fine Arts program in production design for professional theatre designers training to Associated Designers of Canada standards, allowing our students to be flexible collaborators with a strong interest in experimentation. Normally a two-year degree with a thesis production in the third year (usually in the fall); a one-year degree is available if qualifications are met (normally reserved for students who have graduated with a BFA in Design from the University of Alberta). Our program also offers a three-year qualifying program for candidates who are lacking in production design experience. Our program normally begins in the fall of the academic year, though exceptions can be made. A full-time residency is required.

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Directing:** Students receive production critiques from professional artists; intern at a professional theatre, and pitch a project to an Edmonton artistic director. Students also interact with the many professional artists who work as guests on the Timms Centre mainstage. **Design:** There are many opportunities for students to work professionally at a variety of theatres in Edmonton. There are opportunities to work alongside professional faculty as well as guests within the Drama Department. We are currently working on establishing an apprenticeship program within the context of our program. Our students also leave with professional affiliations in Associated Designers of Canada.

### FINANCIAL AID

With the exception of qualifying students in Design, all MFA Directing and Design students receive significant financial aid through some combination of scholarships, Graduate Research Assistantships and Graduate Teaching Assistantships.

### 2024/2025 SEASON

*Orlando; Wildfire; [BLANK]; The Laramie Project; Witch; Waiting for Godot*



## 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](http://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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