

URTA



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

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Academy of Art University
79 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94015

<https://www.academyart.edu/art-degree/acting/#student-work>

ACADEMY of ART
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED IN SAN FRANCISCO 1929
BY ARTISTS FOR ARTISTS

Programs offered: MFA, MA

Contact:

Jana Memel, Executive Vice President,
Schools of Entertainment

jmemel@academyart.edu

Melissa Sydeman, Dean, Schools of
Entertainment

mysydeman@academyart.edu

Recruiting in:	Philadelphia, Fullerton, Chicago, Live-Virtual
Positions Available:	12
Financial Assistance:	MFA Acting scholarships (for new, full-time MFA students recruited through the URTAs) include shared university housing in San Francisco for the duration of the 3-year, 63-unit program and 2 tuition-free classes/year* (Fall and Spring semesters). We accept the FAFSA (Federal Student Aid) and have a dedicated Veterans Financial Assistance Team. Our Graduate Acting Scholarship recipients will meet with a dedicated MFA Acting financial representative to review the exact costs of the program after factoring in the scholarship, which includes partially defrayed tuition and free housing in San Francisco. General information about MFA program costs can be found on our website (please note, these figures do not reflect the scholarship). Also, please note that the MFA application fee is waived for URTA attendees applying through the URTA pathway (do not apply through the website, or the fee is not waived). https://www.academyart.edu/finances/cost-of-attendance/
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	MFA students who aim to become teachers after earning their degree have the opportunity to TA for any Acting instructor on an invitational basis, after they have completed the class or series of classes. TA positions are unpaid.
Program:	We are looking for curious, charismatic actors who are “all-in” to rocket to the next level in film and television— because we are serious about getting you there. Every aspect of your technique gets personal, highly specific attention by our expert faculty— helping you realize your full potential as an actor. You will gain meaningful experience rapidly and effectively: in auditions, on set and in the studio/rehearsal room. We offer holistically-driven, conservatory-inspired training in a joyful, highly creative environment. You will develop power and consistency in your ability to transform and connect emotionally with audiences. You will create original material (improvise, write, produce, direct—and if you wish, shoot and edit). You will originate roles and explore contemporary scripts, working with highly-skilled directors and crews—both professionals and fellow graduate students. At the end of your 3-year MFA program, you’ll be confident in your acting process and have an impressive reel that proves your ability to succeed artistically in the industry.

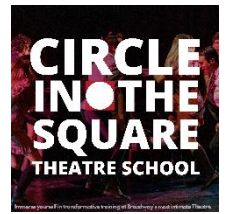
76 9th Ave. Suite. 313
New York, NY 10011
atlanticactingschool.org

Programs offered: Conservatory

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

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

CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE THEATRE SCHOOL



1633 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

235 W 50th St
New York, NY 10019
circlesquare.org

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contacts:
Jeffrey Sundheim,
Director of Student Affairs
admissions@circlesquare.org

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

Positions Available: 25

Financial Assistance: We offer Financial Aid and a need based scholarship. We are also approved by the VA for those who have served our country and their families.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Dot in the Box Theatre Company is a professional branch of the school where recently graduated students get the opportunity to audition for a youth theatre series while also being mentored by a faculty member who is actively working in the New York Theatre business. They also have the ability to take their equity card with the last children's show.

Program: Our actor training connects emotional truth with the power of imagination, cultivating artists with strong technique who will be prepared to thrive in all storytelling platforms.
We commit to an inclusive, diverse curriculum and culture, honoring our student's uniqueness while challenging them to expand their perspectives and advance their craft.
Embrace who you are.
Become the artist you can be.

101 Arch St. 8th floor
Boston, MA 02110
www.commshakes.org

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contacts:
Lauren Cook, Artistic & Education
Associate
lcook@commshakes.org

Recruiting in: Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 36

Financial Assistance:

- Need based financial aid is available with supplementary application
- 2 full tuition (not including housing) SPARKS Scholarships available for BIPOC actors
- Additional work study opportunities available with supplementary application

This is a tuition based program and housing is not included in tuition. Dormitory style housing will be available for rental from Suffolk University for the duration of the program at their 10 West Street Resident Hall. Participating students are NOT required to live on campus for the program but will be responsible for their own timely transportation and/or parking should they choose to commute.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities:

- Apprentices may be considered for understudy roles in our flagship program, Shakespeare on the Common (an AEA company)
- Guaranteed casting in one of two Apprentice Repertory Company productions, titles TBA

Program: The CSC Apprentice Program is designed as a 7.5-week summer intensive that gives early career performers a rigorous tour of Shakespeare's language in professional practice and performance. The program includes training by CSC's faculty and artists in Shakespeare's Text, Linklater Voice, Movement, and several specialized workshop series. Students will receive individual and small group coaching in monologue and scene work. Finally, the program will culminate with professionally directed productions performing for the public in the heart of Boston's downtown theatre scene.

320 Porter Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14201
Dyu.edu

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Katie Mallinson
Executive Artistic Director, D'Youville
Kavinoky Theatre
Program Director, Dramatic Arts MFA
mallinsk@dyc.edu

Recruiting in:	Live-Virtual
Positions Available:	8
Financial Assistance:	Partial scholarships and graduate assistantships with small stipends are available for qualified applications. The tuition rate for the 2024-2025 academic year is \$1,220 USD per credit hour. Tuition rates are reviewed annually; we recommend students visit the website or speak with an admissions counselor to get a full picture of the total cost as well as opportunities for aid.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	<p>Students expand their artistic portfolios with creative roles in traditional and non-traditional performance styles and venues, including the Kavinoky Theatre Mainstage season, original student works, and external professional theatres in Western New York.</p> <p>DYU Partners with Wroxtton College, providing MFA students with the opportunity to study in England, including intensives with Royal Shakespeare Company.</p> <p>MFA candidates have opportunities for teaching residencies at area K-12 schools and community organizations.</p>
Program:	D'Youville's Dramatic Arts MFA is a two year program that trains theater artists for sustainable, inspired careers through a holistic pedagogy that prioritizes creative agency, embodied practice, and practical application of performance theory and technique. We believe that the future for our industry is in well-trained, versatile practitioners challenging the primacy of the past and the assumptions of the present to imagine the way forward. At D'Youville, we aim to create an artistic laboratory for practitioners to explore the question: what's next for the stories we tell? What's next for the storytellers who tell them? And what's next for the communities in which these stories live? Led by faculty who are active practitioners in the industry, our inquiry-based curriculum seeks to nourish artists as individuals who, together, can build a strong creative community committed to the advancement of art in society.

10 Colinton Rd,
Edinburgh EH10 5DT,
United Kingdom
napier.ac.uk

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Laura Williamson,
L.Williamson4@napier.ac.uk

Recruiting in: Chicago

Positions Available: 15

Financial Assistance: Edinburgh Napier University participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program which is administered by the US Department of Education. This loan scheme is only open to eligible applicants from the USA. **Our school code is G34184.**

US Veteran Affairs Benefits Program

The US Department of Veterans Affairs offers education benefits to qualifying students.

Edinburgh Napier University is approved to process Veterans Affairs Benefits.

Students who are from the USA and Canada who are self-funding their course are eligible for a merit-based one-time North American Postgraduate Scholarship of £2,000 (GBP) for entry onto a full-time master programme.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities:

This is a practical course, and will be taught in workshop settings, rehearsals, one-to-one tutorials, and through independent research and practice.

Your assessments will be based on a variety of practical performances and are the culmination of workshops and focused rehearsals, supported by tutorials.

Optional supervised work placement or overseas study module. Study modules mentioned above are indicative only. Some changes may occur between now and the time that you study. Full information on this is available in our disclaimer.

Program:

Our 2-year MFA is a unique vocational training that offers you a full run in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival at the end of your first year and extensive screen acting work and showreel opportunities in your second year.

You will be training within a vibrant, interdisciplinary postgraduate community of film and theatre directors as well as screenwriters and playwrights.

Classes are delivered by staff with extensive industry experience and our programme is respected within the profession. Our graduates have been featured on Netflix, Starz, BBC, Amazon Prime, Channel 4, and ITV, as well as working at the Royal National Theatre, The Traverse, the Lyceum Theatre, Dundee Rep, Bard in the Botanic, London Regent's Park Open Air theatre, and have been nominated for Olivier and Ian Charlson Awards.

GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING

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

Programs offered:
Conservatory, MA, & MFA



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

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Fullerton, Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 20-30

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

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

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

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

HERBERT BERGHOF STUDIO (HB STUDIO)



120 Bank Street
New York, NY 10014
hbstudio.org

Programs offered: Conservatory **STUDIO**

Contact:

registration@hbstudio.org (for all queries regarding HB Studio)

hageninstitute@hbstudio.org (for conservatory programs: Hagen Core Training and Hagen Summer Intensive)

Recruiting in: Cal State Fullerton & Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 18

Financial Assistance: Partial financial assistance (scholarships and "key student" positions) available by application.

Hagen Core Training:

TUITION: \$15,500

International visa students pay an annual, non-refundable administrative fee of \$150.

Hagen Summer Intensive:

Tuition: \$3,600

International visa students pay an annual, non-refundable administrative fee of \$150.

Application fee of \$50 is waived for prospective students auditioning through URTA

Teaching/Professional Opportunities:

HB takes pride in mentoring outstanding students who demonstrate a gift for communication and observation, to begin their development as teachers

Program:

HB STUDIO / THE UTA HAGEN INSTITUTE

INTENSIVE FULL-TIME TRAINING FOR ACTORS

Uta Hagen was one of the foremost acting teachers of the 20th century. A celebrated actor in her own right, she trained many of the outstanding actors of the American stage and screen. The Uta Hagen Institute at HB Studio offers full-time immersion in the practical approach to the acting craft that characterized Uta Hagen's legendary master classes and classic acting texts. Its two key programs, the six-week Hagen Summer Intensive (June-August) and the year-long Hagen Core Training (September-June), are highly structured, integrated courses for students with serious professional and artistic intent. Students will leave these programs with greater powers of self-observation, clarity about what the actor's work entails, and an understanding of how to approach that work with confidence.

In addition to its Uta Hagen Institute full-time conservatory programs, HB Studio offers a robust schedule of ongoing 10-week Studio classes and 5-week workshops for actors seeking to further their training and sustain a professional practice in all aspects of the theater arts.

Calle Ramon Dalmases 18
Sitges
Barcelona
08870
SPAIN
iabarcelona.com

Programs offered: MA

Contact:
Cristina Marinescu, Recruitment &
Admission Assistant:
apply@iabarcelona.es

Recruiting in: Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 15

Financial Assistance: Scholarships - The IAB offers a limited number of scholarships each year. Scholarships will be offered to students identified by the faculty as having the potential to make a significant contribution to the development of the performing arts. A scholarship constitutes a reduction in fees, rather than a full fee waiver.

Financial aid - Financial aid is a grant towards your Tuition Fees. If awarded, this constitutes a small reduction in your Tuition Fees.

The Tuition Fees for the MA programme are:

EU/EEA/UK students: 11,900EU (Euros)

International students: 16,900EU (Euros)

Please see: <https://www.iabarcelona.com/fees-and-scholarships/>

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Graduates of the Master in Creative Performance Practice can pursue various artistic and professional opportunities in the performing arts sector. These include roles such as artistic and performance directors as well as creative practitioners. The program's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and arts entrepreneurship prepares graduates to lead workshops, direct productions, and develop innovative performance projects. Additionally, the program equips students with the skills to create and present their own work and independent artistic ventures.

Program: The IAB's Master in Creative Performance Practice is a Performing Arts Master's program offering two specialized pathways: Acting and Music Theatre. Validated by Liverpool John Moores University (UK), this one-year postgraduate course begins in September 2025 and is taught in English. Designed to enhance creative practice, it deepens students' skills, knowledge, and independence as creative practitioners through a unique blend of academic study and practical training across performing arts disciplines. The program consists of 120 core credits in shared modules like Creative Performance Practice, Research Skills, Performance Theory, and Arts Entrepreneurship, along with 60 additional credits specific to each specialism. The Acting pathway includes modules such as The Embodied Actor, The Contemporary Actor, and Transmedia and Interactive Storytelling. The Musical Theatre pathway combines workshops and technical classes to integrate theoretical studies with physical performance, promoting culturally engaged, refined approaches. The final project encourages innovation and professional portfolio development through self-directed creative and research projects, making this program ideal for those aiming to refine their artistic voice and pursue a career in creative performance.

MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY in partnership with
THE AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER



101 E Frederick St
Staunton, VA, 24401

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

Programs offered: MA & MFA

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

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

NATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE (NTI) at the EUGENE
O'NEILL THEATER CENTER



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

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contacts:
Rachel Kelsey
NTI Program Representative &
Admissions Manager
ntirep@theoneill.org

Recruiting in: Philadelphia and Chicago

Positions Available: 20-45 each term

Financial Assistance: Scholarships: Scholarships offered include the following: Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Scholarship, Hendel Family Foundation Scholarship, John Gore Scholarship, Miranda Family Fellowship, Ron Cowen & Daniel Lipman Scholarship. To be considered for NTI's scholarship opportunities, you must submit a complete admission application to your intended program. You must also complete the scholarship application, providing all requested information, documents, and a detailed letter of need. Admitted students will be notified of their scholarship award upon being offered acceptance to NTI. The National Theater Institute operates a need-blind admission policy, which ensures that an applicant's need or request for scholarship has no influence on the admission decision.

Early Application Discounts:

Summer 2025: Apply by March 3rd, 2025 for \$500 discount

Fall 2025: Apply by April 7th, 2025 for \$2,500 discount

Payment Plans: NTI offers to make payments more manageable with payment plans. These are typically four equal payments of the comprehensive fee, following the \$900 deposit, Early Enrollment Discount (if applicable), and Scholarship (if applicable). Exceptions and extended payment plans may be granted by written agreement.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: N/A

Program: The National Theater Institute (NTI) offers unique semester-long and summer intensive training across the following aspects of the theater: Acting, Directing, Playwriting, and Music Theater. NTI is located in Waterford, CT at America's preeminent Tony Award-winning theater destination, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. The programming is designed for individuals to immerse themselves in the industry through a combination of practical workshops, a residency in New York City, weekly performances, theatrical excursions, and theoretical study. Students develop their skills in their respective discipline, while also exploring opportunities in all aspects of the art form. The instructors of courses, faculty members, and guest artists, are all industry working professionals. Students can expect to experience a conservatory-like schedule (semester-long programs being six days a week, for 13 weeks and the summer intensive being seven days a week, for 6 weeks).

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

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

Programs offered: MFA

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

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

Positions Available: Varies per campus

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

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

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

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: N/A

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

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

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

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

1417 N 2nd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Programs offered: MFA

201 Mullica Hill Rd.
Glassboro, NJ 08028
cpa.rowan.edu/prospective-students/graduate/pigironmfa

Contacts:
Quinn Bauriedel, Program Director
Quinn@pigiron.org

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Chicago, Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 15

Financial Assistance: Pig Iron and Rowan University are committed to ensuring affordability as a pillar of the MFA or Certificate in Devised Performance.

Rowan's Financial Aid Office is dedicated to helping students achieve their educational goals and promise to: remain aware of issues affecting students, continually work to remove financial barriers; and commit to the highest level of ethical behavior in all of our processes.

Many students choose to work part-time while in school to minimize loans and debt, and some work study positions are available during the program. The theatre also raises scholarship funds to support students with demonstrated needs.

This program functions on a cost per credit system, with the certificate totaling 39 credits and the MFA totaling 77 credits. The cost is \$1033 per credit.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Students in the MFA program may be given the chance to lead the undergraduate students at Rowan University within a group setting. These groups will be overseen by a faculty member and given feedback on their performance as instructors.

Pig Iron also regularly chooses students from the MFA program to act as Assistant Faculty for our multi-week Summer and Winter workshop sessions, and provides the opportunity to act as an observer for smaller weekend intensive workshops.

Program: The MFA program in Devised Performance is designed to train and launch the next generation of theatre professionals, adroit in creating original theatre with a rigorous attention to quality using all the materials at their disposal: their bodies, voices, imaginations and skills in collaboration and in creating surprising and arresting moments of live performance. The mission of the program is to expand and nourish the local, national, and international communities of forward-thinking theatre artists and to encourage the creation of groundbreaking original work.

POWERHOUSE THEATER AT VASSAR COLLEGE



124 Raymond Avenue
Box 225
Poughkeepsie, NY 12604
vassar.edu/powerhouse

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contacts:
Ed Cheetham, Producing Director
edcheetham@vassar.edu

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

Positions Available: 25

Financial Assistance: The Powerhouse program makes available financial aid to applicants based on need. To apply for limited financial assistance, please include the following at the time of application:

1. A personal statement, detailing your and/or your family's current financial situation.
2. And, if applicable, supporting documentation from your academic institution or the US Department of Education, such as a FAFSA report.

The Training Program is fee based (\$6000) which covers room and board (3 meals per day), access to Campus facilities (Fitness Center, Library, etc.) all classes, access to the professional season's work, events, and more.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: In addition to the Training Program, the Powerhouse Season has opportunities for employment in areas of production, administration and company management.

Program: For five weeks every summer the Powerhouse Theater comes to life on the Vassar College campus to provide a nurturing environment for both students and professional practitioners of theater to learn from one another. The Powerhouse Theater Training Program provides aspiring theater professionals a chance to immerse themselves in the study of acting, directing, or playwriting. The Training Company also offers free performances as part of the overall Powerhouse Season. The Professional Season produces developmental workshops of plays, musicals, and readings of works-in-progress. Notable works such as Hamilton, Eurydice, Doubt, The Humans, The Wolves and many more can trace their developmental roots to Powerhouse.

RANDOLPH COLLEGE

2500 Rivermont Ave
Lynchburg, VA 24503
randolphcollege.edu/mfa-theatre/



Programs offered: MFA

Contacts:

Stephanie Holladay Earl, Director of MFA Theatre

searl@randolphcollege.edu

Ally Farzetta, Assistant Director of MFA Theatre

afarzetta@randolphcollege.edu

Recruiting in:	Cal State Fullerton, Live-Virtual
Positions Available:	12-14
Financial Assistance:	<p>The Randolph College MFA program is committed to supporting our students by developing grants and scholarships.</p> <p>The limited scholarships available are awarded on a combination of merit and need, and with awareness that it is good for our community to maintain an aesthetically and socially diverse community of artists.</p> <p>We provide a comprehensive program of financial assistance.</p> <p>All new MFA applicants who complete their FAFSA paperwork will be considered for financial aid and scholarships.</p>
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	<p>Professional opportunities are available through Endstation Theatre Company, the resident professional theatre of Randolph College. ETC has defined professional theatre in Central Virginia for over a decade. Endstation Theatre Company took up residency at Randolph College in 2016 and is committed to producing new works, reinterpretations of classical plays, and other works chosen specifically for the Central Virginia community based on the historical, current, and cultural events of the area. Visit www.endstationtheatre.org for more info.</p>
Program:	<p>The Randolph College M.F.A. program is a two-year, low residency, intensive degree in theatre, with tracks in acting, directing, design, and playwriting. During the two years, students complete four semesters of virtual one-on-one mentorship, theatre coursework, and attend five residency sessions in Virginia.</p> <p>Each semester begins with a residency session, and the student's last semester ends with a fifth and final graduation residency. The Randolph M.F.A. brings together a faculty of exceptional theatrical practitioners who represent and value the full aesthetic and sociological diversity of contemporary theatre. Our new, intensive, low-residency program integrates the importance of diversity, inclusion, mental health, and safe practices in all our work to help build healthier theatre communities and practices. The program is designed for working and aspiring theatre artists, educators, and leaders.</p>

Rose Bruford College
Lamorbey Park, Burnt Oak Lane
Sidcup, Kent DA15 9DF
United Kingdom
bruford.ac.uk

Programs offered: MFA, MA

Contacts:
Ivan Talijancic, Programme Director,
MA/MFA Collaborative Theatre Making
ivan.talijancic@bruford.ac.uk

Veronique Fricke, Director of Corporate
Affairs
veronique.fricke@bruford.ac.uk

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Cal State Fullerton, Chicago

Positions Available: 12

Financial Assistance: Students from the United States are eligible to obtain federal assistance in the form of FAFSA loans to cover the cost of studying abroad.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Upon successful completion of their MA or MFA degree at Rose Bruford College, students are automatically eligible to obtain a Graduate Visa, allowing them to work and live in the UK for at least two additional years.

Program: **Collaborative Theatre Making MA/MFA programme** at Rose Bruford College (London, UK) empowers you to create your own original work with ensemble training, original creation and devising at its core. This innovative program focuses beyond acting and directing to train you to become a holistic theatre maker. Your strengths and originality will be brought into the process, with working as an ensemble at the forefront. You will become a highly versatile creator with the ability to enter a range of different working situations: not only will you be able to engage in conventional auditioning processes, you will be empowered to develop and perform your own original material, as well as work in ensemble settings either as a leader or a collaborator. You will be engaged in a highly collaborative practice from the start, building a foundation based on communicating and working as a group. You will create original material as an ensemble, with the ability to explore different aspects of performance making throughout the year. Throughout your study, you will engage in interdisciplinary collaboration with many other MA students from a range of programmes, including Contemporary Directing Practice, Light in Performance, Actor Musicianship, amongst others. You will be taught by internationally acclaimed practitioners that are actively making work. You will benefit from being exposed to expert and contemporary approaches to theatre making, with real-world applications, from choreography, movement, writing, directing, to extended vocal techniques. The CTM programme director is the founding artistic co-director of New York based internationally acclaimed multidisciplinary performance group, WaxFactory. Recent and upcoming instructors, visiting companies and practitioners include: Complicité, Punchdrunk, Forced Entertainment, Sasha Waltz & Guests, Katie Mitchell, Martin Crimp, Dimitris Papaioannou, Mita Pujara, Lorenzo Montanini, Kathy Pogson, Paul Brennen, and many others.

Duration: 13 months (MA), 24 Months (MFA) / Start Date: October 2025

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

200 Jennens Rd
Birmingham B4 7XR, England, UK
bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/acting

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

Programs offered: Conservatory, MA, & MFA

Contacts:
Info to come.

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

Positions Available: Info to come.

Financial Assistance: Info to come.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Our MFA course is of two-years duration, focused entirely on developing actors, and does not include modules in pedagogy or teaching. However, the Major Project, which begins in the first year of the course and is delivered at the beginning of the second year, can offer an opportunity to focus on teaching skills if you choose to deliver a lecture/demo or a practical teaching workshop on an aspect of acting.

Program: **MFA Acting:** The MFA Acting course is a two-year, full-time program that offers an extremely intensive conservatoire-based actor training. The course is designed for those wishing to enter the acting industry and guarantees opportunities for full theatre productions in professional theatre venues within the city of Birmingham, as well as opportunities to work for camera and other recorded media e.g. film, voice over, talking books, animated features. The first year offers a range of Acting Exercises, Workshops and an intensive program of weekly classes in Acting, Voice, Singing, Movement, Professional Studies and Research. In the second year, actors focus on producing their Major Project – a one-person performance – and appear in a season of three final productions, selected solely for the actors of the MFA program. (The season this year includes Mosquitoes by Lucy Kirkwood, Urinetown by Hollmann and Kotis, Three Little Words by Joanna Murray-Smith, and Shakespeare's Lear.)

MA Acting: The MA Acting course is a one year, full-time accelerated program that offers an extremely intensive conservatoire-based actor training. The course is designed for those wishing to enter the acting industry and guarantees opportunities for full theatre productions in professional theatre venues within the city of Birmingham, as well as opportunities to work for camera and other recorded media e.g. film, voice over, talking books, animated features. The year offers a range of Acting Exercises, Workshops and an intensive program of weekly classes in Acting, Voice, Singing, Movement, Professional Studies and Research. A Digital Showcase is prepared for the gatekeepers of the industry, made available to agents and casting directors. A small Showreel (directed and filmed by professionals) is also produced. In the final term, actors focus on producing their Major Project – a one-person performance – which can then be toured or performed elsewhere.

BA Stage Management: Our BA (Hons) Stage Management degree provides in-depth, practical training; we aim to produce confident graduates who are ready for a successful career in the industry as soon as they leave us.

PO Box 2072
Savannah, GA 31402
scad.edu

Programs offered: MFA

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

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

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

Programs offered: MFA

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

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Cal State Fullerton, and Chicago

Positions Available: 18

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

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

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

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

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

Programs offered: Conservatory

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

- Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Cal State Fullerton, Chicago, and Live-Virtual
- Positions Available: Up to 28 actors in the Professional Conservatory, split into 2 groups of 14.
- Financial Assistance: A limited number of scholarships are available in various award amounts. Work study becomes available after the first year of study. Payment plans are also available. Tuition for the professional conservatory programs range from \$7000-\$9500 per semester.
- Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Teaching Artist training is a possible option through the studio's robust Arts Justice Division. Upon graduation, actors interested in a career in teaching can become teaching assistants and shadow instructors. The studio also provides a program to train theater educators in Stella Adler's acting technique to incorporate into their curriculum.
- Professional opportunities include an industry showcase distributed to 3000+ industry guests in NYC and LA, a demo reel, one-on-one sessions with agents, managers and casting directors, and in-house auditions for various theater companies.
- Program: The Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City and its sister school, the Art of Acting Studio in Los Angeles, are holding auditions for their acclaimed Professional Conservatory programs. These include the immersive 3-Year Conservatory, Evening Conservatory, and LA Conservatory—rigorous training alternatives to traditional MFA programs, designed for actors committed to a complete, industry-focused education in film, television, and stage.
- Since 1949, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting has developed generations of groundbreaking American actors, earning a reputation as one of New York City's most vibrant cultural institutions. Guided by the mission to foster theater artists who place humanity at the center of their craft, the Studio also provides meaningful arts and educational programming to the wider community. Since 2010, the Studio's tradition of excellence has expanded to Los Angeles with the Art of Acting Studio.
- Across both locations, legendary actors such as Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro, Elaine Stritch, and Warren Beatty have honed their skills under the Studio's guidance. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting and Art of Acting Studio stand as beacons for serious actors pursuing their passion and potential.

TERRY KNICKERBOCKER STUDIO

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



Programs offered: Conservatory

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

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

2500 Broadway W
Lubbock, TX 79409
depts.ttu.edu/theatre-dance



Programs offered: MFA, MA

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

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

THE ACTORS CONSERVATORY



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

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

Programs offered: Conservatory

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

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

Positions Available: 10

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

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

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: N/A.

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

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

Programs offered: MA

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

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

Positions Available: 20-25

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

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

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

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: N/A

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

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

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

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

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

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYHOUSE

340 East 54th Street
New York, NY 10022
neighborhoodplayhouse.org



Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:

Anthony Reimer, Director

areimer@neighborhoodplayhouse.org

Rex Renee Leonowicz, Admissions

rleonowicz@neighborhoodplayhouse.org

Luisa Tascone, Admissions

ltascone@neighborhoodplayhouse.org

Recruiting in: Cal State Fullerton & Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 40

Financial Assistance: The Neighborhood Playhouse offers financial assistance to students through various federal programs, including the Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and Federal Direct PLUS Loan, which are designed to help cover educational expenses. Additionally, the school provides tuition assistance to students enrolled in the Two-Year Certificate Program through several scholarship funds established by distinguished alumni and generous supporters. The school also participates in the G.I. Bill® for veterans' benefits and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)

Discover your potential at The Neighborhood Playhouse, where we make top-tier acting education accessible and affordable! The 2025 Six-Week Summer Intensive offers an exciting opportunity with a \$500 deposit and a total tuition of \$4,250. For those ready to commit to a transformative journey, the 2025-26 Two-Year Certificate Program requires a \$500 deposit, with first-year tuition at \$19,000 and second-year tuition at \$19,500. Join us and embark on a thrilling adventure in the heart of New York City!

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: The Neighborhood Playhouse continues its tradition of excellence with second-year students performing a musical tailored by Ms. Sandy Faison, complete with costumes, set, and accompanist. In the spring, graduating students participate in a Showcase for industry professionals, often leading to meetings, auditions, and work. Finally, students will be performing in the Final Plays. These off-Broadway caliber productions, directed by professionals and supported by first-year students, take place in the Rita Morgenthau Theatre. Chosen to best serve the class, they include modern classics and new works, providing a perfect transition from conservatory to professional acting.

Program: The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre, located in New York City, is a prestigious full-time acting conservatory renowned for its focus on the artistic growth of actors through comprehensive training in acting, movement, speech, and voice. As the only conservatory where faculty were trained by Sanford Meisner, it offers a unique blend of tradition and practical career skills, earning it the title of the most respected acting school in the country by The Cambridge Guide to Theatre. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST), The Neighborhood Playhouse is recognized for its excellence by the New York City Council.

THE NEW SCHOOL

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

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Cecilia Viveiros
Admissions Counselor
vivec580@newschool.edu



Recruiting in:	Philadelphia, Cal State Fullerton, Chicago, and Live-Virtual
Positions Available:	50
Financial Assistance:	We offer a merit scholarship based on the application and audition. We also have a robust financial aid department.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	We do not offer teaching assistantships but we do have professional partnerships with Ping Chong and Company, New Victory Theater and Elevator Repair Service.
Program:	The three-year MFA in Contemporary Theatre and Performance is ideal for exceptional storytellers who prioritize collaboration, transcend traditional labels, and strive to master multiple disciplines. Whether you enter as an actor, director, writer, or media artist, our innovative approach will prepare you to lead and redefine the dramatic arts through its 21st-century renaissance.

The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
Eton Avenue, London, United Kingdom
NW3 3HY
[Ccssd.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses](https://cssd.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses)

Programs offered: MA, Conservatory

Contact:
Morwenna Rowe
Programme Leader, MA Acting Classical
& MA Acting Contemporary
morwenna.rowe@cssd.ac.uk

Recruiting in: Cal State Fullerton and Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 18

Financial Assistance: If you are made an offer for a place on one of our MA Acting programmes, we will invite you to apply for a range of scholarships that can vary in value at the point we make you an offer.

Teaching/Professional
Opportunities: N/A

Program: Central's two MA Acting programmes are creatively, physically and intellectually demanding, advanced-level conservatoire courses, each lasting one year. MA Acting Classical is designed primarily for students with previous training or performance experience who wish to focus intensively on plays from the European classical repertoire. MA Acting Contemporary is designed primarily for students with previous training or performance experience who wish to focus on contemporary writing and the creation of new theatre.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI**

118 College Dr.
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
usm.edu/graduate-programs/theatre-performance.php

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Caitlyn Herzlinger, Assistant Professor
Caitlyn.herzlinger@usm.edu

Recruiting in: Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 3

Financial Assistance: The University of Southern Mississippi offers exceptional financial support to all MFA in Performance students, including an \$11,400 nine-month stipend and a full tuition waiver. Located in Mississippi, the nation's most affordable state, Southern Miss provides value and opportunity. Hattiesburg, the "Hub City," offers a vibrant community and access to major cities like New Orleans, Mobile, Jackson, Dallas, Houston, Montgomery, Atlanta, and Memphis, all within a half-day's drive. Students can take advantage of paid summer performance opportunities through Southern Arena Theatre and apply for travel grants to conduct research, benefiting from Southern Miss's prestigious R1 research institution designation.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Graduate assistants have the opportunity to assist in acting, movement, and voice courses to gain foundational teaching experience. If they wish, they can take on full teaching responsibilities for these courses, as well as theatre appreciation and acting for non-majors. This structure provides valuable experience in a variety of subjects, helping them refine their teaching abilities. In their third year, graduate students work on a creative project that serves as their cumulative performance, allowing them to showcase their artistic vision. Their final year focuses on presenting and defending this project, a significant part of their professional growth and training.

Program: Discover your artistic potential in our Master of Fine Arts in Performance program at the University of Southern Mississippi. This three-year, fully funded program offers a rare combination of conservatory-style training and rigorous academic scholarship, preparing you for a thriving career in professional theatre. All accepted students receive a graduate assistantship stipend and full tuition waiver, ensuring you can focus entirely on your craft.

At Southern Miss, we reject a "cookie-cutter" approach. Instead, we tailor your experience, nurturing your unique strengths and helping you shed what no longer serves you. Our curriculum seamlessly integrates breath, body, voice, and acting, with each class reinforcing connections across your creative process. You'll engage deeply with the artistry of acting while building professional skills that are essential in today's competitive industry.

Our program fosters the development of the Artist and the Professional, offering training grounded in principles that grow with you throughout your career. As you step into this journey, we guide you in holistic growth—nurturing not just your craft, but your confidence, resilience, and vision for the future.

Join a community that celebrates individuality, champions excellence, and pushes the boundaries of what's possible. The MFA in Performance at Southern Miss is more than a degree – it's your opportunity to transform into the artist you were meant to be.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON + ALLEY THEATRE



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

Programs offered: MFA & Conservatory

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

Recruiting in: Philadelphia and Chicago

Positions Available: 8

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

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

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

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

2314 South Floyd Street
University of Louisville
Louisville.edu/theatrearts

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:

Dr. Janna Segal, Director of Graduate
Studies in Theatre Arts
janna.segal@louisville.edu

Professor Shona Tucker, Chair of Theatre
Arts
shona.tucker@louisville.edu

Recruiting in: Chicago

Positions Available: 4

Financial Assistance: All applicants to our program are considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTAship) that includes a full tuition waiver, a monthly stipend (currently \$1,700), and health insurance for each academic year (10 months) of the three-year program. In exchange for this funding, GTAs typically teach classes and/or perform in our Repertory Company.

Our MFA students can also apply to the University of Louisville for funding to attend conferences.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Our MFA students typically teach an introduction to acting course during their time in the program. They may also serve as teaching assistants for other theatre courses. They also typically perform in the Department's Repertory Company, which tours theatre for young audiences shows to area schools and non-profit institutions.

Program: Dedicated to Art in Action and offering the only Graduate Certificate in African American Theatre in the United States, our Master of Fine Arts in Performance program offers a three-prong approach. We train actors to act, teach, and make theatre that resonates locally, nationally, and internationally. Our students push boundaries of thinking and challenge conventions of theatre and society through exploration of classical, contemporary, and global dramatic forms. Marrying theory, practice, and engaged outreach, we encourage the application of research, creativity, and sustainability in embodied, socially-conscious performance. The three-year course of study includes classes in acting, movement, voice, drama, and performance theory. Students perform in shows directed by faculty and guest artists and staged in our two main theatres. They may also perform in our Repertory Company's touring productions and/or mount their own performance projects. The Graduate Certificate in African American Theatre, which can be completed alongside the MFA in Performance, features classes in the craft and theory of acting and directing African American theatre.



800 E Lancaster Ave,
Villanova, PA 19085
villanova.edu/university/liberal-arts-sciences/programs/theatre-studio-art/graduate-programs

Programs offered: MA

Contacts:
Dr. Valerie Joyce, Dept. Chair
Valerie.Joyce@villanova.edu

Recruiting in: Philadelphia

Positions Available: 2-4

Financial Assistance: The program offers a number of graduate Tuition Scholarships and Graduate Assistantships. The Tuition Scholarships cover the cost of tuition, while the Graduate Assistantships cover tuition plus a stipend. To be considered for these funding sources, you should apply for admission in the fall semester.

Graduate Assistants are considered "full-time" or "half-time," as reflected by the stipend awarded and the time commitment required. Full assistantships come with a stipend of \$18,780 per academic year and require 300 hours/semester; half assistantships come with a stipend of \$9,390 per academic year and require 200 hours/semester (22-23 rates). In addition, both provide full tuition remission.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Theatre Department assistantships are available in set, costumes, props, and marketing & public relations. Please review the job descriptions below to learn more.

There are also assistantships offered by other Villanova departments and offices. If you apply for other University assistantships, you will still be considered for internal department funding.

Program: Villanova Graduate Theatre is one of the few theatre MA programs in the United States that places equal emphasis on scholarly and creative work. The 2-year program is designed for students who appreciate both the practical and the academic aspects of theatre, and our students come from a variety of academic backgrounds, spanning the humanities and sciences. The result is a vibrant, diverse community of students with a passion for theatre as the common denominator.

Students enrolled in the program undergo a two-pronged course of study that combines scholarly and practical approaches to theatre and works toward a thesis defense in the second year.

The MA degree provides crucial tools for the developing theatre practitioner, performer, educator or scholar.

ABOUT URTA

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

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

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

STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

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

URTA MEMBER PROGRAMS

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

THE URTA AUDITIONS AND INTERVIEWS

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

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

GUEST AUDITIONS

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

CANDIDATE AWARDS

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

SOUND DESIGN

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

ARTS LEADERSHIP

URTA is committed to supporting the education and training of the future leaders of the arts and entertainment industry. For those seeking training in areas including arts administration, theatre management, producing and arts entrepreneurship, URTA offers a Candidate Award to all candidates in Arts Leadership.

KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

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

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

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

PAY-IT-FORWARD CANDIDATE AWARDS

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

SARAH NASH GATES AWARD

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

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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

POLICY ON OFFERS AND ACCEPTANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After this 2-week period, recruiters may rescind their offer if a candidate has not formally responded. Additionally, after this date, offers may be made and responses required on a timeline of the program's choosing, though it is essential that the recruiting programs make these deadlines clear to candidates in writing and provide reasonable time for a candidate to receive and respond to correspondence.

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

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

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

Candidates are free to accept or reject an offer at any time during the 2-week offer/acceptance period (see dates above). Should a candidate accept an offer and then change their mind during this period, they must immediately email this decision to the recruiter, and they will be released.

If the candidate changes their mind after the 2-week period, they must immediately request a written release from the recruiter, and should not be admitted to another program until this step is completed.

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

RECRUITING FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS

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

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

APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSING FEES

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



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URTA 2025 Catalog of Guest Recruiters

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