

# URTA



**Catalog of Guest Programs at the  
2026 URTA Auditions and Interviews**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### GUEST RECRUITING PROGRAMS

<a href="#">Academy of Art University</a>	1
<a href="#">American Conservatory Theater</a>	2
<a href="#">Atlantic Acting School</a>	3
<a href="#">Circle in the Square Theatre School</a>	4
<a href="#">Commonwealth Shakespeare Company</a>	5
<a href="#">D'Youville University</a>	6
<a href="#">Edinburgh Napier University</a>	7
<a href="#">Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Theater Institute</a>	8
<a href="#">Guildford School of Acting (University of Surrey)</a>	9
<a href="#">Herbert Berghof Studio</a>	10
<a href="#">Leeds Conservatoire</a>	11
<a href="#">Mary Baldwin Institution</a>	12
<a href="#">New York Film Academy</a>	13
<a href="#">Performers College – BIMM University</a>	14
<a href="#">Pig Iron Theatre School/Rowan University</a>	15
<a href="#">Powerhouse Theater at Vassar College</a>	16
<a href="#">Randolph College</a>	17
<a href="#">Regent University</a>	18
<a href="#">Rose Bruford College</a>	19
<a href="#">Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, UK</a>	20
<a href="#">Savannah College of Art and Design</a>	21
<a href="#">Shakespeare Theatre Company Academy</a>	22
<a href="#">Stella Adler Studio of Acting</a>	23
<a href="#">Terry Knickerbocker Studio</a>	24
<a href="#">Texas Tech University</a>	25
<a href="#">The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts</a>	26
<a href="#">The Neighborhood Playhouse</a>	27
<a href="#">The New School</a>	28
<a href="#">The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London</a>	29
<a href="#">University of Arkansas</a>	30
<a href="#">University of Houston + Alley Theatre</a>	31
<a href="#">University of Louisville</a>	32
<a href="#">Western Illinois University</a>	33
<b>ABOUT URTA &amp; URTA PROGRAMS</b>	34-35
<b>OFFER/ACCEPTANCE POLICY</b>	36-37

URTA THANKS OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS, WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO SET THE STAGE FOR PROFESSIONAL THEATRE TRAINING AND PRACTICES.



# ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY



ACADEMY *of* ART  
UNIVERSITY®  
DEFY THE ORDINARY. CREATE THE EXTRAORDINARY™

Academy of Art University  
466 Townsend  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
[www.academyart.edu/art-degree/acting/](http://www.academyart.edu/art-degree/acting/)

Programs offered: MA, MFA

Contact:  
Jana Memel, Executive Vice President of  
Schools of Entertainment,  
[jmemel@academyart.edu](mailto:jmemel@academyart.edu)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Live-Virtual, Fullerton  
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\*

We accept the FAFSA (Federal Student Aid) and have a dedicated Veterans Financial Assistance Team. General information about MFA program costs can be found on our website (please note, these figures do not reflect the scholarship). Please note that the MFA application fee is waived for URTA attendees applying through the URTA pathway. <https://www.academyart.edu/finances/cost-of-attendance/>

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.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Students who have successfully completed a class, have the opportunity to shadow that class professor in a subsequent semester. Students in our program have the opportunity to appear in a digital showcase. They are directed by professional directors in soundstage scenes and will graduate with a reel of their work.

Student's work can be nominated to be judged in an annual film festival. The judges of this film festival are professional casting directors, directors, working writers, and producers. This gives student's work early exposure to those who hire.

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.

# AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER



American Conservatory Theater  
415 Geary Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
[www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:  
Kelsey Tremewan, Conservatory Adult Programs Coordinator, [ktremewan@act-sf.org](mailto:ktremewan@act-sf.org); Peter J. Kuo, Director of the Conservatory, [pjkuo@act-sf.org](mailto:pjkuo@act-sf.org); Katie Speer, Conservatory Marketing Manager, [kspeer@act-sf.org](mailto:kspeer@act-sf.org)

Recruiting in: Atlanta, Live-Virtual, Fullerton

Positions Available: 10-20

Financial Assistance: A.C.T. offers a limited number of need- and merit-based scholarships to students enrolled in San Francisco Semester and in Summer Training Congress. A.C.T. Conservatory scholarships create access to A.C.T.'s theater classes and training opportunities for those who have historically been unable to engage with these programs due to financial limitations. Scholarship applicants are asked to assess and understand their personal needs and the potential needs of others when submitting their scholarship request. The scholarship application also offers an opportunity for students to articulate their personal commitment and dedication towards taking a class and to their individual growth and training.

San Francisco Semester Tuition & Fees:

Application fee: \$50  
Tuition: \$15,000  
Early Bird Tuition: \$12,500  
Books, Supplies: \$125  
Cultural Landscapes Course Fee: \$400  
Library fee: \$25

Summer Training Congress Tuition & Fees:

Application Fee: \$40  
Tuition: \$5,500  
Early Bird Tuition: \$4,500  
Library Fee: \$20

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Students in the San Francisco Semester and Summer Training Congress engage directly with A.C.T.'s professional environment. A.C.T. is a Tony Award-winning nonprofit theater serving almost 200,000 people. Students attend exclusive Conservatory Hours, which gives students the opportunity to talk directly with prominent actors, directors, producers, writers, and alumni. Students attend A.C.T. productions as part of their training, and learn from professional guest artists and core A.C.T. faculty and staff through specialized intensives. These experiences provide meaningful exposure to industry practices and professional networks. Students work alongside active practitioners and gain insight into professional expectations, rehearsal processes, and artistic standards.

Program: San Francisco Semester at American Conservatory Theater: The San Francisco Semester is a 15-week full-time intensive actor training program, offered in the Fall and the Spring. The core curriculum includes coursework in acting styles, physical theater, voice, cultural landscapes, and creating original work. The curriculum is enhanced by numerous intensives by visiting artists and meetings with industry professionals.

Summer Training Congress at American Conservatory Theater: The Summer Training Congress (STC) is a 6-week full-time summer intensive actor training program. Training is centered around core skills including acting, movement, voice, speech, text, improvisation, clowning, and audition technique. The session culminates in a showcase attended by A.C.T. faculty and staff.

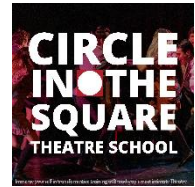
Atlantic Acting School  
76 9<sup>th</sup> Ave Suite 313  
New York, NY 10011  
[www.atlanticactingschool.org](http://www.atlanticactingschool.org)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:  
Heather Baird, Director of Education &  
Recruitment, [hbaird@atlantictheater.org](mailto:hbaird@atlantictheater.org)  
[admissions@atlantictheater.org](mailto:admissions@atlantictheater.org)

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

# CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE THEATRE SCHOOL



Circle in the Square Theatre School  
1633 Broadway  
New York, NY 10019

235 W 50th St.  
New York, NY 10019  
[www.circlesquare.org](http://www.circlesquare.org)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:  
Jeffrey Sundheim, Director of Student  
Affairs, [jsundheim@circlesquare.org](mailto:jsundheim@circlesquare.org)

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

Positions Available: 30

Financial Assistance: You can apply for financial Aid and we have a need based scholarship you can apply friend. With the need based scholarship, you can receive anywhere from \$1000 to a full scholarship.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Our faculty are actively working in the industry; either as directors, producers, actors, choreographers etc. They are your network when you arrive and continue to be as you leave. Along with your cohort, you grow and learn together and become a community that will outlive your time at Circle.

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. Our program is rigorous. We want to help you become the best artist you can be, in the heart of where artistry can be found in New York City. We here at Circle want you to:

Embrace who you are.

And

Become the artist you can be.

# COMMONWEALTH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY



Commonwealth Shakespeare Company  
101 Arch St. 8th floor  
Boston, MA 02110  
[www.commshakes.org](http://www.commshakes.org)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:  
CSC Education Team  
[apprentice@commshakes.org](mailto:apprentice@commshakes.org)

Recruiting in: Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 36

Financial Assistance: To help students offset the cost of tuition, CSC provides a number of work study opportunities for tuition credit and some need-based financial aid as funds last. To be considered for one of these opportunities, applicants must submit an additional application for each opportunity they are interested in. Note: No workstudy assignments will conflict with other program activities. Tuition is \$3,975. Dormitory housing is available through Suffolk University for an extra fee.

See Tuition and Financial Aid tab: <https://commshakes.org/apprentice-program/>

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Apprentices receive individual monologue coaching from members of CSC2 (CSC's emerging artist program) and other CSC professional acting alumni as part of a cross-mentorship program, and scene coaching from the program's teaching staff, to sharpen scene study, self-staging, and text analysis skills.

Interspersed during the program, guest teachers and artists will share their work and expertise in short workshop opportunities and conversations. These offerings are unique each year, but past topics have included: clowning, actor self-care, improvisation, musical theater, auditioning for the camera, stage combat, voice over, and yoga for the actor.

Program: The CSC Apprentice Program is 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. This year's program runs June 16-August 9th, 2026. Info can be found here: <https://commshakes.org/apprentice-program/>

D'Youville University  
320 Porter Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
[www.dyu.edu](http://www.dyu.edu)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Kai Crumley, Office Coordinator,  
[crumleyk@dyc.edu](mailto:crumleyk@dyc.edu)

Recruiting in: Atlanta, Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 7

Financial Assistance: MFA students are eligible to apply for limited graduate assistantships both at the Kavinoky Theatre as well as in other departments on campus. Graduate assistantships vary and are determined by the financial aid office but can include stipends and/or credit waivers. Students are also eligible to apply for Work Study if eligible.

D'Youville does not currently offer academic or merit scholarships for MFA students. Students are encouraged to apply for Graduate Assistantship positions to support financial aid packages.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: DYU's MFA program is in partnership with The Kavinoky Theatre, which provides opportunities for students to learn and work alongside professional artists. Students are eligible to perform and/or work at the Kav starting in their second semester. Faculty are active practitioners who mentor students alongside guest artists who provide supplemental, specialized instruction to students throughout the year.

Program: D'Youville University's Dramatic Arts MFA is a two year program that trains students holistically with a prioritization on individuality, wellness, and agency. At the core of our curriculum is a four semester sequence of acting, voice, and movement courses to develop kinesthetic, creative, and critical awareness. Technique courses are supported by professional development seminars that cultivate enterprising minds that can build sustainable, artistic careers. Seminar topics can include audition technique, personal finance, artistic statements, professional writing, pedagogy, applied theater, arts administration, internships, and more. Theoretical and technical skills are put to practice in Drama Lab, where students develop an original creative work that reflects their individual artistry and goals. DYU's MFA is in partnership with the Kavinoky Theatre, a professional theater company in residence on campus since 1980. The Kavinoky's Main Stage season produces 4-5 professional shows a year, with opportunities for MFA students to work on and off stage. MFA students also perform with the Next Stage Players production, DYU's graduate acting company, in thesis productions, and have the opportunity to audition for select regional theaters. Located in Buffalo, NY, D'Youville's Dramatic Arts program is the first-and only-graduate acting program in Western New York.

# EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY



Edinburgh Napier University  
Sighthill Campus  
Sighthill Court  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4BN  
0333 900 6040  
[www.napier.ac.uk](http://www.napier.ac.uk)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Maddy Lompfrey, International Officer,  
[M.Lompfrey@napier.ac.uk](mailto:M.Lompfrey@napier.ac.uk)

Recruiting in: Chicago

Positions Available: 10-25

Financial Assistance: 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 postgraduate taught master's programme in September 2025 and January 2026.

North American Postgraduate Scholarship. Edinburgh Napier University also accepts US Federal Loans and Aid through the FAFSA. Federal Aid.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: N/A

Program: ENU's MFA Acting for Stage and Screen Program is a two-year practice-based course that will prepare you for an industry in which creative problem solving, advanced practical skills, business acumen, teamworking, and self-generated work are critical. Your first year focuses on screen acting, alongside taught classes in stage, voice and movement technique. You will get a chance to work with staff and MA Film Directors from the Scottish Screen Academy on various projects. You will be completing a short film in your summer term. The second year begins with advanced classes in stage acting, and you will be working with MFA Directors to workshop, develop and hone a production for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which forms part of the largest arts festival in the world.

# EUGENE O'NEILL THEATER CENTER'S NATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE



Eugene O'Neill Theater Center  
305 Great Neck Road  
Waterford, CT 06385  
[www.nationaltheaterinstitute.org](http://www.nationaltheaterinstitute.org)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:  
Rachel Kelsey, Program Representative &  
Admissions Manager,  
[ntirep@theoneill.org](mailto:ntirep@theoneill.org)

- Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Chicago, Live-Virtual
- Positions Available: 25
- Financial Assistance: The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center endeavors to ensure access and opportunity for students regardless of economic circumstance. Available Scholarships: • Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Scholarship, • Hendel Family Foundation Scholarship, • John Gore Scholarship, • Miranda Family Scholarship, • Ron Cowen & Daniel Lipman Scholarship. **Scholarship Application Process:** On your initial application, you will be asked if you intend to apply for scholarships. If the answer is yes, upon receipt of your application, we will provide you with a separate scholarship application. This will allow you to be considered for all available scholarship funds.
- Teaching/Professional Opportunities: All O'Neill educational programs are taught by industry working theater professionals. Previous and current faculty/guest artists include (but not limited to): Madeline Barker, Christopher Bayes, Chris Bell, Adam Bock, Lizzy Brooks, Tatyana Marie-Carlo, Richard Digby Day, Adrian Einspanier, Sara Farrington, Alexander Gemignani, Kolton Harris, Raja Feather Kelly, Melissa Kieveman, Tom Kitt, Kimberly Marable, Forrest McClendon, Brian McManamon, David Adam Moore, Kym Moore, Scott Murphy, Kevin Newbury, Matt Newton, Donna Di Novelli, Eric Ruffin, Ren Dara Santiago, Erica Schmidt, Aimée Steele, Caitlin Sullivan, Vita Tzykun, Marya Ursin, Malik Work, Max Yu.
- Program: Founded in 1970, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Theater Institute's immersive semester-long and summer intensive training programs are designed to serve as enrichment for students at the gap-year, undergraduate, and postgraduate level. The National Theater Institute believes that students can best learn their craft from working theater professionals who provide practical training and skill building for a long life in the profession. The training environment is a simulacrum to a professional schedule, allowing students to build habits and discover the ways in which they work best. The key to the National Theater Institute experience is the realization of theory through practice, where emerging artists are challenged, nurtured, and supported by faculty mentors. It is a time of exploration and self-discovery. The ultimate aim is that all National Theater Institute alumni will utilize the self-awareness, connections, and many skills gained at the O'Neill to the benefit of their professional careers. **National Theater Institute (NTI):** Led by Rachel Jett (NTI Artistic Director), the NTI Semester offers 13 weeks of immersive theater training where you'll be encouraged to join the O'Neill's longstanding legacy of creative risk-taking and bold collaboration. Focuses Offered: • Performance (20 Credit Hours), • Music Theater (20 Credit Hours), • Directing (16 Credit Hours), • Playwriting (16 Credit Hours). **National Music Theater Institute (NMTI):** Led by Alexander Gemignani (NMTI Artistic Director), the NMTI Semester offers 13 weeks of intensive training with industry professionals where you'll master the skills, confidence, and creative insight needed to succeed in professional musical theater. **Theatermakers Summer Intensive:** Led by Rachel Jett (Theatermakers Artistic Director), the Theatermakers Summer Intensive program provides 6 weeks of rigorous theater training and the opportunity to create new work alongside the O'Neill's renowned developmental conferences. Focuses Offered: • Acting (8 Credit Hours), • Directing (8 Credit Hours), • Playwriting (8 Credit Hours)

## GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING (UNIVERSITY OF SURREY)



Guildford School of Acting  
Stag Hill Campus  
Guildford, Surrey  
GU2 7XH, UK  
[www.gsauk.org](http://www.gsauk.org)

Programs offered: MA, MFA

Contact:  
[gsaenquiries@gsa.surrey.ac.uk](mailto:gsaenquiries@gsa.surrey.ac.uk)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Live-Virtual, Fullerton

Positions Available: 24

Financial Assistance: The Guildford School of Acting is part of the University of Surrey and benefits from a range of scholarships and bursaries that students can apply for, including the £5000 International Excellence Award, a number of £1000 bursaries and other scholarships that are targeted at GSA students. Each year, GSA awards over 70 scholarships and bursaries. Learn more: <https://gsauk.org/funding/scholarships-and-bursaries>  
Headshot Photography Bursary by the Association of Professional Headshot Photographers (APHP). Mayflower Theatre Higher Education Bursary Scheme. Learn more: <https://gsauk.org/funding/other-financial-support>

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: GSA maintains strong industry connections with both the West End and the wider UK creative industries. Our students benefit from working with current industry professionals through practical collaborations, professional development and rehearsal sessions, and masterclasses led by leading creatives in their field. At the end of the course, students present a showcase of work that engages major UK casting directors, agents, and directors. This event also provides valuable material for showreels and professional portfolios, supporting their transition into the industry.

Program: GSA is one of the UK's leading drama schools, with over 90 years of excellence, GSA offers world-class actor training in a welcoming, globally minded environment. Our MA and MFA programs provide intensive, practice-based training in a conservatoire-style setting, supported by the academic resources of the University of Surrey. International students benefit from small cohort sizes, personalised mentorship, and expert faculty with deep industry experience. Our staff are active professionals who bring real-world insights and connections into the classroom. You'll develop a full range of performance skills; voice, movement, text, improvisation, screen acting, and rehearsal techniques, through project-based learning. Public productions, screen projects, and an industry showcase connect you directly with UK casting directors, agents, and creatives. GSA alumni work across the globe, from the West End and Broadway to Apple TV, Netflix, BBC, HBO, and more. Many have gone on to win Olivier, BAFTA, and Academy Awards. At GSA, we encourage a supportive, inclusive environment where you can grow artistically, build your network, and prepare for a successful international career, take risks, and grow. GSA is one of the leading schools for postgraduate study in the UK with MA Acting, MFA Acting, MA Musical Theatre, MFA Musical Theatre and MA Stage and Production Management. As part of the University of Surrey, you'll train in state-of-the-art facilities and enjoy access to a vibrant campus community. GSA is ranked 1st in the UK for drama and music (Daily Mail University Guide 2026) and 3rd for dance, drama, and cinematics (Complete University Guide 2026). Guildford School of Acting achieved a 90.3% satisfaction score for teaching quality and 90.7% for academic support in the National Student Survey, highlighting our commitment to excellence in both education and student care. <https://gsauk.org/study-with-us/postgraduate-programmes>

## HERBERT BERGHOF STUDIO (HB STUDIO)



Herbert Berghof Studio  
120 Bank Street  
New York, NY 10014  
[www.hbstudio.org](http://www.hbstudio.org)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:  
Francesca Ferrara  
Co-Executive Director, Programs  
[FFerrara@HBStudio.org](mailto:FFerrara@HBStudio.org)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia

Positions Available: 16

Financial Assistance: Scholarships for the Hagen Core Training and the Hagen Summer Program are awarded through a separate process which is addressed during the application process for those programs, and are awarded based on need, a statement of goals and intent, and instructors' recommendations. The Hagen Core Training Program cost is \$15,500 for 9 months of training and a final production.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: N/A

Program:

### Hagen Core Training:

The Hagen Core Training is a full-time one-year training program for actors who seek full immersion in the practice of their craft. Taught over three terms by world-class faculty/practitioners, this program offers:

- An affordable full-time one-year Actor Training program taught by world-class faculty/practitioners
- An integrated progressive curriculum of essential classes: Acting Technique, Scene Study, Script Analysis, Movement, Alexander Technique, Voice and Speech
- Rooted in the advanced teachings of Uta Hagen, you will probe, practice, stretch, risk, fail, play truthfully and find the courage not to settle for cliché or imitation
- A safe place where you live in a state of constant discovery

### Hagen Summer Intensive:

The Hagen Summer Intensive is a rigorous, 6-week workshop that probes the practical applications of Uta Hagen's technique as discussed in her book *A CHALLENGE FOR THE ACTOR*. Through acting technique, scene study, script analysis, and technical exercises, "The Six Steps" will become an integral part of the actor's craft. When you have strong technique and more confidence in how to find yourself in the role, acting will be joyful. Classes include: Acting Technique, Scene Study, Alexander Technique, Movement & Voice.

- A rigorous, integrated 6-week training that probes the practical applications of Uta Hagen's approach to acting
- A faculty of master practitioners
- A direct, in-depth approach to your work and a safe, supportive, challenging environment

## LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE



Leeds Conservatoire  
3 Quarry Hill  
Leeds  
LS2 7PD  
UK  
[www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk](http://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk)

Programs offered: MA, Conservatory

Contact:  
Erin Carter, Head of the School of Drama,  
[e.carter@lcm.ac.uk](mailto:e.carter@lcm.ac.uk)  
Victoria Barber, Head of International  
Recruitment, [international@lcm.ac.uk](mailto:international@lcm.ac.uk)

Recruiting in:	Chicago, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
Positions Available:	6-8
Financial Assistance:	We offer a Principal's scholarship for international students. If you are awarded the scholarship you will receive £5000 tuition discount.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	Our courses offer an immediate introduction to the industry by working with leading professionals, as well as taking advantage of the richly diverse theatrical community on our doorstep. Partnerships include Leeds Playhouse, Red Ladder, Chapel FM, Opera North and Slung Low.
Program:	<p>Our School of Drama offers majors in Acting, Musical Theatre Company, Creatives and Musical Theatre Direction as well as Dramaturgy. A forward thinking institution in the UK offering practical 1 year Masters study.</p> <p>Through skills classes and project-based learning, you will be given the time, resources and rehearsal room access you need to develop your craft.</p> <p>Teaching will be delivered by industry practitioners and Masterclass guests, with mentorship and placement opportunities. Each is designed to support you in clearly defining your artistic voice, aligning your passions, skills and ambitions ready for a portfolio career.</p>

## MARY BALDWIN INSTITUTION



Mary Baldwin Institution  
101 E Frederick St,  
Staunton, VA 24401  
[www.marybaldwin.edu](http://www.marybaldwin.edu)

Programs offered: MFA, MA

Contact:  
Dr. Matt Davies, Professor and co-  
Program Director,  
[mdavies@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:mdavies@marybaldwin.edu)

Recruiting in:	Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
Positions Available:	15
Financial Assistance:	The S&P program offers merit scholarships (available to all), graduate fellowships (awarded), work study positions (6-12 hours p/w), graduate assistantships (university level), American Shakespeare Center internships (professional development). MFA students can apply for graduate teaching fellowships in the Mary Baldwin undergraduate. The S&P program has moved from a per-credit hour to a flat-rate tuition model, which allows students to "overload" elective courses, with the approval of their academic advisor, at no extra cost.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	MFA students can apply for graduate teaching fellowships paid as tuition reduction (maximum one class per semester) in the Mary Baldwin University undergraduate English and Theatre Departments. M.Litt. and graduating MFA students are encouraged to audition/interview for professional internships at our educational partner institution, the American Shakespeare Center at the Blackfriars Playhouse. Internships are offered in acting (understudy fellowships), assistant directing, costuming and props, and box office and marketing, and education.
Program:	Working in close partnership with the American Shakespeare Center, Mary Baldwin University's unique three-year 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 collaboration, multi-disciplinarity, and entrepreneurial self-determination, our Renaissance pedagogy offers a double degree 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, write about, and stage 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.

New York Film Academy  
 College of Film, Media and Performing Arts  
 3300 W. Riverside Drive  
 Burbank, CA 91505  
[www.nyfa.edu/](http://www.nyfa.edu/)

Programs offered: MFA, MA,  
 Conservatory

Contact:  
 Joey Zangardi, Director of Domestic  
 Recruitment, [Joey@nyfa.edu](mailto:Joey@nyfa.edu)  
 Angie Scates, Senior Outreach Specialist,  
[Angela.Scates@nyfa.edu](mailto:Angela.Scates@nyfa.edu)

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

Positions Available: 30

Financial Assistance: NYFA strives to make programs affordable to prospective students. The Financial Aid department at NYFA can help assess student needs and consult with students on a financial aid plan.

Students attending NYFA often secure necessary funding through multiple resources. In addition to any personal savings, funding possibilities and tuition assistance may include: Federal Loans, Scholarships & Grants, Private Student Loans.

NYFA's Talent Based Scholarship is designed to identify applicants with exceptional aptitude for their program of study. Scholarships are awarded based on an applicant's audition or creative portfolio and determined by the NYFA scholarship award committee during the admissions process.

NYFA's Need Based Scholarship is designed for students with financial need in order to help reduce the cost of education in New York Film Academy's long-term programs.

<https://www.nyfa.edu/student-finances/scholarships-and-grants/>

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: N/A

Program: During the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Acting for Film Degree program, students build mastery and expertise in the craft of acting through technical, emotional, and physical coursework and projects. Throughout their studies, students master advanced techniques and challenge their range through the rigorous curriculum, moving beyond their comfort zone and developing advanced skills in audition and performance.

In addition to a number of projects they may add to their reel, students also write, produce, act in their own thesis capstone film. The MFA in the Acting for Film program is a great fit for actors with previous training and experience looking to advance their skills in front of the camera, and gain more knowledge in the craft.

Performers College  
Southend Rd, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope  
SS17 8JS  
United Kingdom  
[www.performerscollege.co.uk/postgraduate](http://www.performerscollege.co.uk/postgraduate)

Programs offered: MA

Contact:  
Paul Saunders  
Postgraduate Course Leader  
[paulsaunders@performerscollege.co.uk](mailto:paulsaunders@performerscollege.co.uk)

Recruiting in: Chicago

Positions Available: 20

Financial Assistance: **Early Acceptance Discount – Save £2,000.** International students (outside the EU/EEA) can receive a £2,000 discount per year of study by accepting their offer and paying their deposit by 15 June 2026. How to Qualify: • Be an overseas applicant (outside the EU/EEA) not eligible for home fees. • Apply for and receive an offer to study a BIMM University course. • Accept your offer. • Pay your deposit (if applicable) by 15 June 2026. The discount will be automatically applied to your tuition fees upon enrolment. <https://performerscollege.co.uk/international/fees-finance> Additional Financial Information for International Candidates Tuition Fees: • MA Professional Performance (Acting – Birmingham): £19,500. • MA Professional Performance (Dance – Manchester): £20,500. • MA Professional Performance (Musical Theatre – Essex): £20,500. **Deposit Requirements:** Self-funded students: £4,000 deposit required to secure your place. This deposit will be deducted from your total tuition fee. **Payment Plans:** Flexible payment plans may be available – please contact our Finance Team at [finance@performerscollege.co.uk](mailto:finance@performerscollege.co.uk) to explore options.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: MA students train alongside working professionals from day one. The course mirrors real industry demands, with: • Masterclasses from guest directors, choreographers, and casting agents, specialising in tv, film and theatre. • Agent panels and networking with industry professionals. • Professional showreels shot in multiple styles and formats. Fully produced live and screen performances at showcase level. • This hands-on, industry-facing model ensures graduates leave with a network, portfolio, and performance-ready mindset.

Program: What kind of actor do you want to be? Stage artist, screen storyteller, movement-driven performer, or a fearless musical theatre professional with the versatility to thrive across disciplines? At Performers College, our MA Professional Performance programmes in Acting (Birmingham), Dance (Manchester), and Musical Theatre (Essex) offer conservatoire-style, full-time training for artists who want to build sustainable, long-term careers. With a minimum of 25 contact hours per week, you'll be immersed in rigorous, practice-based learning – voice, movement, screen acting, physical performance, audition technique, and fully produced stage and digital works. Your training is delivered by working professionals at the forefront of performance and production, ensuring you graduate with a portfolio shaped for today's industry. This isn't a course that keeps you in the classroom. It places you in the studio, on set, and on stage – with direct links to London's West End, Manchester's MediaCityUK, and Birmingham's cultural scene. You'll be seen, supported, and prepared for the realities of contemporary performance. We train within a cycle of technique–rehearse–perform, a momentum that mirrors the professional world and prepares you for it. From the moment you begin, you're working in rhythm with the industry: developing audition delivery as well as technique, crafting screen and stage showreels in multiple styles, and performing for panels of industry professionals and agents who provide direct feedback and opportunity. Whether you're refining your craft, returning to performance after time away, or transitioning into new creative ground, this MA gives you the time, tools, and mentorship to grow.

## PIG IRON THEATRE SCHOOL/ROWAN UNIVERSITY



Pig Iron Theatre School/Rowan University  
Pig Iron Theatre Company  
1417 N. 2nd Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
[www.rowan.edu/arts/prospective-students/graduate/pigironmfa.html](http://www.rowan.edu/arts/prospective-students/graduate/pigironmfa.html)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Quinn Bauriedel, Program Director,  
[bauriedel@rowan.edu](mailto:bauriedel@rowan.edu)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Chicago, Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 15

Financial Assistance: One of the four pillars of Rowan University is Affordability. The Devised Performance MFA Program is anchored in the belief that graduate theatre education should be affordable and accessible. The Program consists of 77 credits over 5 semesters. In 2026-27, each credit is \$1200 and each student is eligible for a Rowan scholarship that will lower the overall per semester cost by \$2000-\$3000. Some students take advantage of Rowan's Financial Aid office to secure loans to pay for all remaining tuition balances. The school is set up such that students can work outside of school and many do, helping to pay for tuition and living expenses with earnings. Additionally, there is one work/study position available per cohort.  
<https://sites.rowan.edu/financial-aid/>

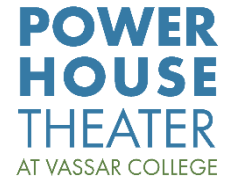
Teaching/Professional Opportunities: MFA students take three semesters of pedagogical study, culminating in a course that is co-taught to the Rowan undergraduate Theatre and Dance students. This is curricular work, preparing students for teaching jobs in Higher Education. We have professional guest artists who work with our students regularly. The Graduate Programs are run alongside Pig Iron Theatre Company, one of the foremost ensemble-devising theatre companies in the country. Students sometimes have opportunities to participate in Independent Studies and Internships that offer ways to get involved in Pig Iron productions. Both teaching and internship positions are curricular and therefore not compensated.

Program: Pig Iron Theatre Company and Rowan University's College of Performing Arts have partnered to offer an MFA/Certificate in Devised Performance designed to train forward-thinking theatre-makers with a desire to forge new boundaries for live performance.

The Pig Iron School/Rowan University Devised Performance MFA is a physical theatre school rooted in Lecoq pedagogy and ensemble theatre practice. It is a space for rigorous experimentation, playful theatre-making, and long-lasting collaboration. The school offers MFA (77 credits, 2.5 years full time) and Certificate programs (39 credits, 2 years full time) in Devised Performance, as well as workshops, residencies, and other training opportunities.

The Graduate Programs are run alongside Pig Iron Theatre Company, one of the foremost ensemble-devising theatre companies in the country. Founded in 1995 as an interdisciplinary ensemble, Pig Iron Theatre Company is dedicated to the creation of new and exuberant performance works that defy easy categorization. The company has toured to 15 countries on 4 continents, have won two OBIE Awards and were called "one of the few groups successfully taking theatre in new directions" by the New York Times.

## POWERHOUSE THEATER AT VASSAR COLLEGE



Powerhouse Theater at Vassar College  
124 Raymond Avenue  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12604  
[www.vassar.edu/powerhouse/training-program](http://www.vassar.edu/powerhouse/training-program)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:  
Ed Cheetham, Producing Director,  
[powerhouse@vassar.edu](mailto:powerhouse@vassar.edu)

Recruiting in:	Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
Positions Available:	30-40
Financial Assistance:	<p>To encourage access to this community, 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A personal statement, detailing your and/or your family's current financial situation.</li><li>2. Supporting documentation from your academic institution or the US Department of Education, such as a FAFSA report.</li></ol>
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	N/A
Program:	<p>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 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 throughout the season. The Professional Season produces developmental workshops of plays, musicals, and readings of works-in-progress.</p>

# RANDOLPH COLLEGE

Randolph College  
2500 Rivermont Ave  
Lynchburg, VA 24503  
[www.randolphcollege.edu/mfa-theatre](http://www.randolphcollege.edu/mfa-theatre)



Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Stephanie Holladay Earl  
Director of MFA Theatre & Artistic  
Director- Endstation Theatre Company  
[searl@randolphcollege.edu](mailto:searl@randolphcollege.edu)

Ally Farzetta  
Assistant MFA Director  
[afarzetta@randolphcollege.edu](mailto:afarzetta@randolphcollege.edu)

Recruiting in: Live-Virtual, Fullerton

Positions Available: Info to come

Financial Assistance: Randolph College is committed to supporting its graduate students by providing financial assistance whenever possible. A limited number of scholarships are available and are awarded based on a combination of merit and financial need. The College offers a comprehensive program of financial aid, and all new M.F.A. applicants who complete their FAFSA will be considered for both scholarships and other forms of assistance.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Paid Teaching Assistant opportunities are available to a limited number of highly qualified students.

Program: The Master of Fine Arts in Theatre (M.F.A.) is a two-year, low-residency, intensive degree designed for working theatre artists, educators, and leaders—as well as those aspiring to become them. As a terminal degree, it cultivates individual artistry and leadership through advanced, specialized training in acting, design, directing, or playwriting.

The Randolph M.F.A. unites a faculty of exceptional practitioners who reflect and champion the full aesthetic and sociological diversity of contemporary theatre. With a focus on diversity, inclusion, mental health, and safe practices, the program embraces an accessible, forward-thinking model of education—intentionally preparing theatre artists who will help build healthier, more sustainable theatre communities.

Over the course of two years, students complete four semesters of virtual one-on-one mentorship and theatre coursework, complemented by five in-person residency sessions in Virginia. Our award-winning faculty participate in each residency to mentor students, offer thought-provoking lectures, facilitate discussions, and lead collaborative workshops.

Throughout the program, every student works closely with a dedicated faculty mentor each semester to create theatre content tailored to their personal and professional goals. This individualized mentorship begins with understanding each student's aspirations and providing access, education, guidance, and opportunities—including collaborations with Endstation Theatre Company, the professional resident theatre at Randolph College. <https://www.endstationtheatre.org/>

## REGENT UNIVERSITY



Regent University  
1000 Regent University Dr  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464  
[www.regent.edu](http://www.regent.edu)

Programs offered: MA, MFA

Contact:  
Michael Hill-Kirkland, MFA, PhD  
Professor of Theater  
Head, MFA Acting Program  
[michhil@regent.edu](mailto:michhil@regent.edu)

- Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
- Positions Available: MFA: 10-12; MA: 12-16
- Financial Assistance: All MFA actors, upon matriculation, have all fees waived as well as a 50% tuition waiver applied. Students who excel are submitted to the dean for additional waivers from 75-100%, at the dean's discretion. On-campus housing is available, plenty of local apartments. Many students share housing. 50% tuition waiver is standard; 75-100% waivers are competitive.
- Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Contingent upon undergraduate enrollments, Teaching Assistantships are available. Faculty sometime produce local summer productions with paid positions available. Professional Guest Artists (actors) are seldom employed, but are utilized upon occasion. Professional Guest Directors are regularly utilized. Intro to Theater, Acting, Movement, Voice available, in year two of the program.
- Program: With a professional faculty dedicated to exploring the intersectionality of faith and artistry, the MFA in Acting offers a two calendar-year program with intensive course work in Acting (Meisner) and Practical Aesthetics, Periods & Styles, Screen Acting, Voice (Linklater & Dialects), Movement (Lugering & Laban), Combat for Stage & Screen (SAFD, multiple forms), Text Analysis, and Scene Study; the sixty (60) credit hour course of study culminates with the Business of Acting, a thesis/creative project, and either an on-campus industry showcase or the development of a marketing "reel".



Rose Bruford College,  
Burnt Oak Lane,  
Sidcup,  
London,  
United Kingdom  
DA15 9DF  
[www.bruford.ac.uk](http://www.bruford.ac.uk)

Programs offered: MFA, MA

Contact:  
Ivan Talijancic, Programme Director,  
[Ivan.Talijancic@bruford.ac.uk](mailto:Ivan.Talijancic@bruford.ac.uk)

Jenny Tait, Head of Student Recruitment,  
[Admissions@bruford.ac.uk](mailto:Admissions@bruford.ac.uk)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Chicago

Positions Available: 30

Financial Assistance: N/A

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Your training will be led by active practitioners from world-renowned theatres and ensembles. Recent tutors and visiting artists have included members of Complicité, Punchdrunk, Cheek by Jowl, Shunt, the Royal Court Theatre, Sasha Waltz & Guests, as well as leading directors, writers and makers such as Katie Mitchell, Dimitris Papaioannou, Martin Crimp and Tim Etchells (Forced Entertainment).

Program: **Acting MA/MFA** - An intensive and dynamic actor training programme preparing you to thrive as a professional, versatile performer.

**Acting for Screen MA/MFA** - An intensive and innovative actor training programme that will equip you with the skills to perform and create original work, with specialisms in new technologies, digital media, audio and screen

**Performance MA/MFA** - An interdisciplinary and collaborative programme that embraces experimentation while preparing you for the future of performance. Choose your specialist pathway to develop a deeper understanding of your area of interest. Specialisms include Actor-Musicianship, Queer Performance, Curation, and Theatre for Children and Young People.

**Linklater Teaching Practice MFA (Voice & Theatre Arts)** - This is a course for actors, theatre makers, voice teachers and others who are interested in deeper study of Kristin Linklater's voice method.

Broadly, our MA programmes last a year, and our MFA programmes last two years, with some slight variation. Please see the website for more information.

## ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE, UK



Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, UK  
Birmingham City University  
200 Jennens Road  
Birmingham  
B4 7XR  
United Kingdom  
[www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/acting](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/acting)

Programs offered: MFA, MA,  
Conservatory

Contact:  
[acting@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:acting@bcu.ac.uk)

- Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
- Positions Available: 10-16
- Financial Assistance: **Can I get financial aid?** Yes you can. Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is part of Birmingham City University, which is included in the FAFSA list of schools and colleges. You can make a financial aid application as you would for a US school or college. For information see [www.fafsaed.gov](http://www.fafsaed.gov).
- Teaching/Professional Opportunities: We bring in numerous professional guest artists and professional directors to both work with our students and give them professional advice. Specific career advice is given for students returning to the United States, or wishing to stay on in the UK after their studies (dependent on current visa requirements).
- Program: The MFA Acting course is designed for graduates who wish to undertake advanced studies to further their knowledge and widen their experience of acting in order to take up a professional acting career upon graduation.
- The delivery of the course is based on the conservatoire model which requires an intensive taught delivery of a minimum of thirty to forty hours per week over a minimum of thirty weeks per year. Its focus is practice-based learning through which the student is enabled to develop the requisite intellectual, imaginative and physical skills of the professional actor. During the course, students form an acting company and each exercise, workshop or production is designed to challenge the student actor and to progressively develop the imaginative, intellectual and creative skills required for acting.
- The MFA Acting course is a full-time programme delivered intensively over two years. The focus of work is European, with an emphasis on texts from within the British tradition. In the first year, studies focus on the ensemble, the tools of Psychological Realism, the demands of classical texts, professional preparation, and the foundations for personal research.
- Initially, in the first two terms of the first year, MA and MFA students have the opportunity to work together in classes and in workshops. In the third term, MFA students normally form their own company and undertake an extended Shakespeare workshop, which provides an opportunity to investigate the demands of classical acting in greater depth.
- In the second year, MFA students undertake research in the form of a Major Project which provides opportunities to create a one person show. They also perform in three productions each selected in order to challenge and further develop the ensemble and the work of the individual. The course also includes acting for the camera and voice over work.

SCAD  
P.O. Box 2072  
Savannah, GA 31402  
[www.scad.edu](http://www.scad.edu)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Scott Woodyard, Senior Assistant Director  
of Admission: [swoodyar@scad.edu](mailto:swoodyar@scad.edu)  
Scott Smith, Professor of Acting and  
Graduate Program Coordinator:  
[sasmith@scad.edu](mailto:sasmith@scad.edu)

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

Positions Available: No cap

Financial Assistance: Scholarships are available. Application fee waivers are available. Scholarships are available for incoming students. Please see scholarships page for more information - <https://www.scad.edu/admission/financial-aid-and-scholarships/scholarships>

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Professional and mentorship opportunities are available for students.

Program: SCAD students flourish in acclaimed projects on stage and screen, including multicamera comedy series, stage productions, student-produced films, improvisational performances, dance concerts, original works, new interpretations of classical and modern plays, musicals, and senior projects and M.F.A. thesis shows. SCAD students receive focused instruction from professors with years of success and impressive credentials — accomplished actors, directors and casting directors at broadcasters like ABC, AMC, CBS and NBC, and recent selections to Variety's Best Teachers in Film list. Most students complete the program in two years. Learn more at [scad.edu/acting](http://scad.edu/acting).

## SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY ACADEMY



The George Washington University  
STC Academy Studio  
2129 G St. NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Shakespeare Theatre Company  
516 8th St. SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
[academy.shakespearetheatre.org/](http://academy.shakespearetheatre.org/)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Maddie Caldis, STC Academy Program  
Coordinator  
[academy@shakespearetheatre.org](mailto:academy@shakespearetheatre.org)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago

Positions Available: 16-18

Financial Assistance: Tuition for the full year is approximately \$51,000, divided across three academic terms. All applicants who audition and complete the GWU application are automatically considered for merit awards from the STC Academy Emerging Scholars Fund, typically ranging from \$3,000–\$12,000.

We encourage candidates to research outside scholarships and loan options to support their training. The George Washington University Office of Student Financial Assistance provides guidance for federal aid, private funding, and external awards. Accepted students may also request letters of recommendation from the Academy Director to support applications for independent scholarships or grants.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: As a program run in partnership with the Shakespeare Theatre Company, students audition for the resident casting director and may be considered for understudy or role assignments in STC's mainstage season. These opportunities never conflict with degree requirements and allow students to gain professional experience within a major regional theatre. Throughout the year, members of STC's artistic staff, guest artists, and alumni lead workshops, master classes, and conversations that connect Academy training to the broader industry and to the working lives of professional actors.

Program: The Shakespeare Theatre Company Academy for Classical Acting is a one-year Master of Fine Arts program housed at George Washington University and run in partnership with the Shakespeare Theatre Company. The Academy is built on a simple premise: an actor who can handle Shakespeare's architecture, complexity, and emotional range can handle anything the profession throws at them. Over twelve intensive months, a cohort of 12–18 actors trains in Acting, Text & Rhetoric, Voice, Speech, Mask, Movement, and Stage Combat, engaging directly with Shakespeare as well as with writers such as Chekhov, Sophocles, and Homer. Training and performance are deliberately intertwined. During fall and spring, students move from the studio into project work, applying technique in front of an audience while continuing daily classes. The summer term is dedicated entirely to rehearsal and performance: two full productions in rotating repertory at The Klein Theatre, offering each actor sustained, high-level practice under real repertory conditions. The result is a year defined by rigor, focus, and collaboration — an immersion in classical technique that prepares actors not just for Shakespeare, but for contemporary theatre, film, and the increasingly hybrid language of 21st-century performance.

## STELLA ADLER STUDIO OF ACTING



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

Programs offered: Conservatory

Art of Acting Studio  
1017 North Orange Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90038  
[www.classes.stellaadler.com](http://www.classes.stellaadler.com)

Contact:  
Ryan Chittaphong, Director of Artistic and  
Student Engagement  
[ryan@stellaadler.com](mailto:ryan@stellaadler.com)

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

Positions Available: 28

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 \$7500-\$10,500 per semester. There are two semesters in one year.

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



Terry Knickerbocker Studio  
68 34th Street. 4th Floor,  
Brooklyn, NYC 11232

[www.terryknickerbockerstudio.com](http://www.terryknickerbockerstudio.com)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:

Marena Dunnington, Director of  
Admissions,

[admissions@terryknickerbockerstudio.com](mailto:admissions@terryknickerbockerstudio.com)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Chicago, Live-Virtual

Positions Available: 20

Financial Assistance: The TKS Equity in Acting Excellence Scholarship offers awards of up to \$1,000 for Conservatory students from marginalized backgrounds. After getting accepted into the program, you may request the application to apply for this scholarship. In addition to our EiAES Scholarship, we provide flexible payment plans at no extra cost and a Work Study program for students who need additional support with tuition. Students may apply for Work Study after their first semester. Tuition prices can be found on our tuition page: <https://terryknickerbockerstudio.com/tuition/>

Teaching/Professional  
Opportunities: N/A

Program: Terry Knickerbocker Studio (TKS) is a professional acting conservatory in Brooklyn, NY dedicated to training the passionate actor committed to excellence. We offer 6–9 week Intensives in the Fall, Spring, and Summer that include Acting, Voice, and Movement, as well as an Online Acting Intensive. Our longer-term programs include Part-Time Acting, a two-year “acting-only” program meeting twice weekly, and the Conservatory, which offers three levels of study: Fundamentals, Essentials, and Complete. The Conservatory curriculum integrates Acting, Voice, Movement, Theatre History, Script Analysis, Clown, Alexander Technique, and Emotional Processing, along with specialty classes such as Shakespeare, Chekhov, Stage Combat, On-Camera, and more in the second year. Our training is designed to develop your whole instrument—body, voice, and imagination—and equip you with the tools to be a confident actor for the rest of your life.

Founded by renowned acting teacher and coach Terry Knickerbocker (coach of actors like Sam Rockwell, Natasha Lyonne, Jurnee Smollett, Emmy Rossum, and more), TKS offers a rigorous, conservatory-style training program grounded in the Meisner technique, emphasizing authenticity, imagination, and craft. Students train in small, intensive classes led by working professionals across Acting, Voice, Movement, Clown, Alexander Technique, and more.

What sets TKS apart is its deep commitment to fostering an inclusive, supportive community where artists encourage one another in creative risk-taking and growth. Our goal is to equip actors to tell the most important stories of our time with excellence, heart, confidence, and a finely tuned instrument, while cultivating the discipline and artistry necessary for a sustainable creative life.

# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



## SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE

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

Texas Tech University  
1801 Flint Ave  
Lubbock, TX 79410  
[www.depts.ttu.edu/theatre-dance/](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/theatre-dance/) .

Programs offered: MFA, MA

Contact:  
Abigail Wright, Lead Administrator,  
[abigail.wright@ttu.edu](mailto:abigail.wright@ttu.edu)  
Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston, Associate  
Professor, [rachel.hirshorn@ttu.edu](mailto:rachel.hirshorn@ttu.edu)

Recruiting in: Chicago

Positions Available: 10

Financial Assistance: Graduate students receive financial support in the form of tuition waivers and competitive graduate assistantships and fellowships. Graduate students may also receive travel support to present their research at conferences. Graduate students may also receive travel support to present their research at conferences. Priority applicants will be eligible for additional internal scholarships.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Most students leave the program with college-level teaching experience as graduate part-time instructors, as well as scholarly and performative research experience alongside faculty.

Program: The M.F.A. degree with a track in Performance & Pedagogy is a terminal professional degree designed for those pursuing careers in both professional theatre and academia. This three-year, 60 credit hour program offers a breadth of specialized training and education that prepares students for creative practice (acting and directing), scholarship, and pedagogy. Completion of the degree requires either a written thesis or thesis project, developed in consultation with faculty advisors, and an oral defense.

The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA)  
Mount Street, Liverpool, L1 9HF  
UK  
[www.lipa.ac.uk](http://www.lipa.ac.uk)

Programs offered: MA

Contact:  
Ryan Duncan, Head of International  
Recruitment & Marketing,  
[r.duncan@lipa.ac.uk](mailto:r.duncan@lipa.ac.uk)

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

Positions Available: 22

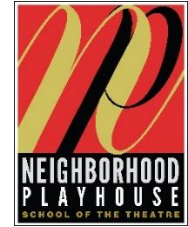
Financial Assistance: The cost of training in the UK is often significantly cheaper than the US - partly because graduate school is typically one year - rather than two - in duration. Tuition fees are typically around \$29,000 USD (subject to the exchange rate). In addition to this we recommend around a further £28,000 USD for all living costs. Liverpool is a very student orientated, and therefore relatively cheap city to live in as student - significantly cheaper than London or major US cities such as New York or LA. We are able to authorise US Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) and Sallie Mae loans.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: You will experience an intensive rehearsal, technical and production process, as you embark upon a fully supported production with technical crew, set, costume, lighting, and sound design to a public audience. Working with a professional director to further develop creative and technical skills within a professionally simulated production environment, you continue to develop an acute understanding of the industry standards required of the contemporary professional creative artist. The industry showcase provides an opportunity to present yourself to an invited audience of agents, casting directors and creative organisations in London and Manchester.

Program: The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) is internationally renowned for our high calibre university-level training in performing and creative arts. Our intensive and highly practical one year MA Acting course (taking just 20 to 22 students per year) will enable you to develop and enhance your acting skills to a professional level by studying in our creative and collaborative community. You will hone and develop your acting techniques 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. Course highlights include: • Cultivate your specialised practise in professional performance, • Get industry ready through a series of masterclasses and mock auditions, • Work with practising professionals including casting directors, talent agents and theatre and film directors, • Graduate with a professional voice reel, showreel and experience an industry showcase.

Collaborating with leading industry professionals, you will generate a live public production, plus a digital portfolio and industry showcase. A final practical research project allows you to interrogate and focus upon an area of the creative industries to deepen your knowledge and engagement as you embark upon your professional career. MA Acting sits within LIPA's School of Performance - home to over 400 students training across Foundation, Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses across Acting, Dance and Musical Theatre. Alongside the School of Performance are the School of Music and the School of Creative Technologies, Design & Enterprise allowing students to collaborate on fully realised productions and performances for a truly unique experience.

# THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYHOUSE



The Neighborhood Playhouse  
340 East 54th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
[www.neighborhoodplayhouse.org](http://www.neighborhoodplayhouse.org)

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:  
Anthony Reimer, Director,  
[areimer@neighborhoodplayhouse.org](mailto:areimer@neighborhoodplayhouse.org)

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

Positions Available: 40

Financial Assistance: The Neighborhood Playhouse offers tuition assistance for students in the Two-Year Certificate Program through federal aid and a variety of dedicated scholarships funded by alumni and friends of the School. Students with financial need may apply for the Joanne Woodward First Year Scholarship or Second Year awards such as the John Erman, Matt McCoy, and Tony Randall Memorial Scholarships. Additional endowed and current-use scholarships are available, along with federal programs including Pell Grants, SEOG, Stafford Loans, and PLUS Loans. All applicants are encouraged to submit the FAFSA to maximize eligibility for support.

Students should be aware that all financial assistance is need-based, and awards vary depending on available funding each year. While scholarship support is limited and not guaranteed, many students receive some form of aid. We encourage candidates to apply early, complete the FAFSA, and explore outside scholarship opportunities to help supplement costs. Payment plans are also available to assist families in managing tuition.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Students at The Neighborhood Playhouse benefit from training with distinguished faculty who are working professionals in theatre, film, and television. The curriculum integrates opportunities to perform in front of industry guests, and students gain exposure to professional-level rehearsal and performance standards throughout their training. Many graduates go on to work with faculty and guest artists beyond the conservatory, and the school's strong alumni network provides connections across the entertainment industry.

Program: The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre is a full-time acting conservatory in the heart of New York City, internationally recognized as the home of Sanford Meisner's legendary technique. Our programs focus on the artistic growth of the actor through rigorous training in acting, movement, speech, and voice, coupled with the practical skills needed to build a professional career. As the only conservatory whose faculty were trained to teach directly by Sanford Meisner himself, the Playhouse carries a nearly 100-year tradition of excellence. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST), it remains one of the most respected professional actor-training institutions in the country.



The New School  
151 Bank Street  
New York, New York 10014  
[www.newschool.edu/drama/mfa-contemporary-theatre-performance-curriculum](http://www.newschool.edu/drama/mfa-contemporary-theatre-performance-curriculum)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Cecilia Viveiros, Assistant Director of Admissions, [vivec580@newschool.edu](mailto:vivec580@newschool.edu)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Fullerton

Positions Available: 20

Financial Assistance: All students are automatically considered for a merit based scholarship determine by the application and audition. Aside from the merit scholarship we use the FAFSA and external scholarships are welcome as well.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: The School of Drama has creative partnerships with renowned organizations and groundbreaking performers across New York City, giving students access to real-world industry experience and training. Recent and current collaborators include the Drama League, Baltimore Center Stage, St. Anns' Warehouse, Rattlestick Theatre, HERE Arts Center, and Arts on Site. Recent guest artists and artist residencies include Bill Rauch, Jim Nicola, Dael Orlandersmith, Hank Azaria, Nick Lehane, Diana Son, and ensemble members from Pink Fang (formerly Ping Chong & Company).

Program: The MFA in Contemporary Theatre and Performance at The New School is a three-year, 60-credit, multidisciplinary graduate program that trains actors, writers, directors, and multi-hyphenate artists to become versatile, socially engaged leaders in the 21st-century.

Students work in selective, ensemble-based cohorts where they devise original works and reimagine existing texts — blending writing, acting, directing, digital media, and performance on stage, screen, and in site-specific performances.

In a dynamic curriculum that combines theater history, performance training, directing, voice and movement, writing for the stage and screen, social-practice/community engagement, and media technologies, the MFA program fosters extensive creative research, deep collaboration, and boundary-crossing artistry.

Guided by acclaimed faculty and guest artists rooted in New York's vibrant performing arts community, students refine their craft and build the versatility necessary to work across mediums and forms. The experience culminates in a capstone project — ranging from traditional theatre to film to site specific performance — offering students an opportunity to synthesize and present their unique and highly-developed artistic vision.

The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama  
University of London  
Eton Avenue, London  
United Kingdom  
NW3 3HY  
[www.cssd.ac.uk](http://www.cssd.ac.uk)

Programs offered: MA, Conservatory

Contact:  
[admissions@cssd.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@cssd.ac.uk)

Recruiting in: Atlanta, Live-Virtual, Fullerton

Positions Available: 20

Financial Assistance: If a candidate is made an offer of a place on the course before 15th May 2026, you will be invited to apply for a bursary or scholarship. This is a competitive process and we encourage candidates to not base their financial planning for graduate study on receiving a scholarship or bursary.

Full information about the available awards are available at Scholarships, Bursaries & Awards | The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: N/A

Program: The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama offers two MA Acting programmes, one specialising in classical works and the other on contemporary plays. Both of these programmes are conservatory-style graduate degrees which provide intensive training, preparing actors for careers on both stage and screen. We consider auditionees for both programmes through the URTAs, and will recall students for specific pathways, inviting a formal application to our one-year graduate programme.

## UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



619 Kimpel Hall  
Department of Theatre  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701  
[www.theatre.uark.edu](http://www.theatre.uark.edu)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Amy Herzberg, Head of MFA Acting,  
[herzberg@uark.edu](mailto:herzberg@uark.edu)

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

Positions Available: 8-10

Financial Assistance: We offer graduate assistantships to every student accepted into our program. Our assistantships pay for full tuition and include an additional \$17,325 stipend each academic year. Assistantship responsibilities generally include teaching opportunities, support for faculty-led classes, and serving in the acting company for the MFA Directing program.

A limited number of graduate fellowships, awarded competitively by the Graduate School, offer an additional \$4000 each year to select students.

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: We have a close connection with TheatreSquared, an Obie Award-winning regional theatre, where students have worked alongside professional theatre artists. This spring, our department is partnering with TheatreSquared on *Pride and Prejudice*, featuring the entire MFA acting cohort. Other professional opportunities have included work with Arkansas Classical Theatre, Arkansas New Play Festival, and independent film and commercial work. Our vibrant guest artist series allows students to forge professional connections. Recent guests have included: Liz Callaway, Crystal Dickinson, Brandon Dirden, James Ijames, Moisés Kaufman, Mary Louise Parker, and extensive devising training with Tectonic Theatre Project leading to certification in Moment Work.

Program: Our three-year MFA program in acting offers extensive training to prepare candidates for professional careers in theatre. It focuses on leading from the heart and exploring *why* we do theatre—what we have to say as theatre artists about our unique perspectives and common humanity. It's a rigorous and *positive* program that includes close work with our expert faculty—each of whom are professionally active in their respective areas. Intensive exploration in the studio is designed to awaken the rich inner life of each student—developing a vibrant way to live truthfully and actively on stage, and to expertly tell stories that reveal the depth, breadth, and complexity of the human experience. Students engage in numerous production experiences, including performance of a thesis role, creation and presentation of a one-person show, and development of a professional reel. Throughout our varied curriculum we strive to maintain an inspiring, supportive environment, essential to the kind of intensive work we do with our students. Fayetteville, Arkansas, where the U of A is located, consistently appears on lists of the best places to live in the country. Nestled in the foothills of the Ozark mountains, Fayetteville and environs offer a nationally recognized arts and culture scene, exceptional outdoor activities and beauty, and a warm and welcoming community.

## UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON + ALLEY THEATRE



University of Houston  
Kathrine G. McGovern  
College of the Arts School of Theatre & Dance  
3351 Cullen Blvd  
Houston, TX 77204  
<http://uh.edu/kgmca/sotd/home>

Programs offered: MFA & Conservatory

Contact:  
Adam Noble Head of MFA Acting  
[asnoble@central.uh.edu](mailto:asnoble@central.uh.edu)

Recruiting in: Philadelphia, Chicago

Positions Available: 8

Financial Assistance: MFA Acting candidates receive a full tuition waiver as well as a teaching stipend for all three years. Houston's cost of living is below the national average:  
[houston.org/houston-data/cost-living-comparison](http://houston.org/houston-data/cost-living-comparison)

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.

Throughout their time in the PATP, students hone their skills in front of artistic directors from around the country. These yearly auditions often lead to summer work at professional companies, but also serve to build a professional network for our graduates. This network is now augmented by a year in residence at the Alley Theatre, working alongside the world-class artists employed by 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.

University of Louisville  
2314 South Floyd Street  
Thrust Theatre  
Louisville, KY 40208  
[artsandsciences.louisville.edu/academics-programs/academic-departments/theatre-arts](https://artsandsciences.louisville.edu/academics-programs/academic-departments/theatre-arts)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Ariadne Calvano, Associate Professor of  
Acting & Movement, Director of Graduate  
Studies, [ariadne.calvano@louisville.edu](mailto:ariadne.calvano@louisville.edu)

Recruiting in: Chicago

Positions Available: 2-4

Financial Assistance: All applicants to our program are considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTAs) 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, assist in research or production, and/or perform in our Repertory Company which focuses on theatre for young audiences.

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.



Western Illinois University  
1 University Circle  
Macomb, IL 61455  
[www.wiu.edu/](http://www.wiu.edu/)

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:  
Dr. Hadley Kamminga-Peck, Head of  
Directing & Theatre History,  
[H-Kamminga-Peck@wiu.edu](mailto:H-Kamminga-Peck@wiu.edu)  
DC Wright, Head of Movement & Stage  
Combat, [DC-Wright@wiu.edu](mailto:DC-Wright@wiu.edu)

Recruiting in: Chicago

Positions Available: 6-8

Financial Assistance: Financial assistance is available through departmental assistantships. An eight month stipend and a full waiver of tuition is awarded with an assistantship in an academic year. Duties are related to the student's area of concentration, which must be declared at the time of application. Generally, acting students serve as teaching assistants or teach their own sections of Intro to Theatre, Analysis, some introductory performance courses, or as publicity assistants. [https://www.wiu.edu/graduate\\_assistantships/](https://www.wiu.edu/graduate_assistantships/)

Paying For Graduate School: WIU students pursuing a graduate degree can be considered for the following types of aid:

- **Student Employment: Funds that the student earns while enrolled.** Opportunities include regular student employment.
- **Assistantships & Tuition Waivers: Funds that the student earns while enrolled.** Assistantships vary, but can include technical/support services, clerical assistance, research, and teaching opportunities.
- **Scholarships: Funds that are not repaid.** Scholarships at WIU are awarded through the Scholarship Office or University departments and generally require an additional application.
- **Loans: Funds that must be repaid.** Both Federal Direct and GradPLUS loans are available for graduate-level students.

[https://www.wiu.edu/business\\_services/billing/costs/](https://www.wiu.edu/business_services/billing/costs/)

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: The strengths of the program include: The expertise and very effective collaboration and cooperation between all the performance faculty; The unique programs such as Unrehearsed Shakespeare Performances and the stage combat curriculum in which students can achieve SAFD certification in combat skills; The depth and breadth of the curriculum – including courses in voice, movement and acting as well electives in acting for the camera; The close mentorship and guidance from the theatre faculty; Opportunities for students to gain experience teaching theatre courses; Opportunities for students to audition annually for professional summer stock companies on campus.

Program: The Department of Theatre and Dance is a community of professional artists, scholars, and educators who value and practice the most collaborative art forms—art forms that explore the human condition, stimulate and engage our audience, and connect to a global, diverse community. Our standard of excellence demands the celebration of individuality within the collaborative process, empowering the student to begin a lifelong career of artistic risk-taking and self-discovery. These commitments are reflected in the curriculum and the multitude of opportunities we provide for students to develop skills and apply their craft in the crucible of production.

## 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 articulating the highest standards for professional training, helping to match potential students with the graduate 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 & Interviews—widely known as “the URTAs”—bring together faculty from dozens of top training programs and hundreds of prospective graduate 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. Guest programs are quality institutions that are not current members of URTA. Many highly regarded training programs (including several international schools) have taken part in the Guest Auditions in previous years.

## CANDIDATE AWARDS

URTA Candidate Awards provide free registration for the URTA Auditions & 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 & 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 having worked in a costume related field. 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 & 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 16, 2026 (12:00 am Eastern Time)
- Design & Technology: February 2, 2026 (12:00 am Eastern Time)
- Directing/Stage Management/Arts Leadership: January 26, 2026 (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: March 2, 2026 (12:00 am Eastern Time)
- Design & Technology: February 16, 2026 (12:00 am Eastern Time)
- Directing/Stage Management/Arts Leadership: February 9, 2026 (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.

### 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 & 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.



YOUR ONE-STOP  
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SOURCE •



*URTA 2026 Catalog of Guest Recruiters*

**UNIVERSITY RESIDENT THEATRE ASSOCIATION**

1560 Broadway, Suite 1103, New York, NY 10036  
p 212-221-1130 info@urta.com theurtas@urta.com

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