



University Resident Theatre Association

Directory of Member Training Programs

2025-2026

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MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAMS

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MEMBER-IN-PROGRESS PROGRAMS

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

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Kirsten Greenidge, Director

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(617) 353-3350
bu.edu/cfa/theatre/

Contacts:
theatre@bu.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound, Technical
Direction
Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 4, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Sound: 2, Technical Direction: 2, Directing: 0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The graduate programs within the Boston University School of Theatre offer students the potential for tremendous growth and development without sacrificing key educational opportunities, meeting the economic and professional realities of today. Our MFA program is forward-thinking, nimble, and intentional, offering a 60 credit MFA that is designed for two year completion. Classes are taught in state-of-the-art facilities by professors who are experts in the field, allowing students the opportunity to experiment, innovate, and capture their audience.

The MFA in Costume Design enhances artistic expression and communication skills through hands-on, mentored design experience within a wide range of production opportunities and classroom instruction. The MFA in Costume Production encourages students to explore creative collaborations with directors, actors, technicians, and playwrights. They're the creators of new forms of theatrical expression (and fashion) for the next generation.

The MFA in Lighting Design provides developing theatre professionals with the opportunity to cultivate their artistic identities while refining and enhancing their artistic expression and communication skills through hands-on, mentored design experience within a wide range of production opportunities and classroom instruction.

The MFA in Scene Design aims to develop a complete theatre artist by fostering a passion for theatre, storytelling, design, and the collaborative process. Students demonstrate a high level of technical and interpretive scene design skills sufficient to obtain professional positions in the performing arts.

The MFA in Sound Design allows students to conceive creative ideas and solutions for theatrical sound in musical and unconventional ways, while focusing on leadership skills and advanced conceptual and technical skills.

The MFA in Technical Production provides students with a more specific technical production training that will prepare them for the rigors of the professional world. Students are trained in all areas of technical theatre, commercial and industrial, as well as regional.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

The Ceremony, The Eleanors, Thumbprint, Dream, 12 Angry Jurors, Fefu and Her Friends, Top Girls, Flowers for Mrs Harris, Calf Scramble, Aurora Borealis, Islander, Romeo Et Juliette, Medea, The Orestes, Flight, and other TBD lab and festival shows

BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Dr. Laura Tesman, Chair

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MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Arts Leadership

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Arts Leadership: 12, Design/Technology: 8-10, Directing: 4-5

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The professional training in our MFA Acting, Directing, Design & Technical Production, and Performing Arts Management degree programs is comprehensive, rigorous, affordable, and transformative. We are an anti-racist, equitable, and inclusive department that reflects and responds to the diverse identities, cultures, and experiences of our students in the work we create with the guidance of our faculty, who are all respected New York professionals. The Brooklyn College Department of Theater offers the MFA degree in Acting, Directing, Design and Technical Production, and Performing Arts Management. The department also participates with the other Arts departments in offering the MFA in Performance and Interactive Media Arts (PIMA). These programs are designed to prepare graduate students to perform at a high level of professional competence, to take leadership roles, and to achieve distinction in their chosen fields. All MFA programs are 60 credits. The Directing and Design & Technical Production Programs take 3 years to complete, The Performing Arts Management and Acting programs take 2 years to complete.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

There are limited need based tuition waivers available for Graduate students. Students must have a current FAFSA form on file with the college to be considered for them. Assistantships and Fellowships are available for graduate students. Typically these are in the form of work and teaching opportunities in the department and can include the teaching of acting and technical skills courses, paid technician work, marketing and publicity and departmental administrative support. The Department has a number of Scholarships and Awards available for graduate students. Some will cover a full year's tuition. In-state tuition is \$5,545 per semester after 1 year of New York state residency.

2025/2026 SEASON

The Revolutionists, Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet, Devising Short works Festival, Indecent, FLEX, The Thin Place, Crossing Divides One Act Festival

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS

Andrea LeBlanc, Interim Dean

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MFA PROGRAMS

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

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 12, Arts Leadership: 3, Costume: 3, Lighting: 3, Projection/Media: 3, Scenic: 3, Sound: 3, Technical Direction: 3, Directing: 2, Stage Management: 3

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Dedicated to the development of new voices and new forms, the CalArts School of Theater is one of the preeminent theater training grounds in the country, designed to educate the whole person and to prepare fully equipped theater artists to transform the field. It offers students an educational experience that is *experimental, interdisciplinary, international, and diverse*. Each unique Program gives students the flexibility, skills, and critical thinking tools to navigate a rapidly changing field and to pursue their professional goals with maximum agency. Our educational mission is to forge a community of citizen artists who are rigorously trained in their respective métiers and who are able to work effectively and innovatively across a broad spectrum of artistic settings, media, and technologies. As the School is based in Los Angeles, the epicenter of film and media production, the training gives considerable attention to students having the versatility to succeed in a variety of arenas.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CalArts Center for New Performance (CNP) is the professional producing arm of CalArts. CNP provides a unique artist and project-driven framework for the development and realization of original theater, music, dance, media, and interdisciplinary projects. Extending the progressive work created at CalArts into a direct dialogue with professional communities at the local, national, and international levels. Enabling CalArts students to work with celebrated artists and acquire a level of experience that goes beyond their curriculum. Seminal artists from around the world are brought to CNP to develop work that expands the language, discourse, and boundaries of contemporary theater and performance.

FINANCIAL AID

CalArts offers a range of financial aid options including institutional, federal and private funding sources. In some programs, your merit scholarship may also be supplemented through teaching assistantships, work stipends, or other forms of campus employment.

Merit scholarships are the first component of the CalArts financial aid package. All admitted students are considered for merit scholarships based on the admissions portfolio or audition. The size of these scholarships will vary depending on the school and program you have been admitted to.

We aim to help you reach your educational goals by focusing on financial strategies that promote access, affordability, and success. Financial aid comes from a variety of sources, including private, institutional, state, and federal funds, all meant to help cover the costs of attending college. Contact finaid@calarts.edu for more information/questions.

2025/2026 SEASON

The Bald Soprano by Eugène Ionesco; *Property Rites* by Alan Haehnel; *Misanthrope Adapted from Le Misanthrope* by Moliere By Richard Wilbur; *Volver* by Ilse Castro Corona; *Is God Is* by Aleshea Harris; *Half God of Rainfall* by Inua Ellams; *Metamorphosis* by Mary Zimmerman; TBA - Performance Series Projects; TBA - Performance Series Projects

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

Kathryn Wilson, Department Chair

CSU Fullerton, Department of Theatre and Dance
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Projection/Media: Omar Ramos, omramos@Fullerton.edu
Graduate Advisor: Scott Bolman, sbolman@fullerton.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 1, Lighting: 2, Projection/Media: 1, Technical Direction: 2-3

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Nestled between the mountains and the ocean, California State University, Fullerton Department of Theatre and Dance is an acclaimed, award-winning theatre program which has strong relationships with theatres and professionals throughout the theatre, film and media industries. Our Claves Performing Arts Center and the well-equipped department facilities host 8-9 mainstage productions per year as well as numerous smaller productions across eight different venues. Students work with outstanding faculty and guest artists from throughout the profession.

The CSU Fullerton MFA program is for students who desire professionally-oriented education and training in Directing or Design & Technical Production. It is the objective of the department to educate and train highly skilled, motivated individuals for careers in professional theatre (including television and film) or for careers as artist-teachers in college or university theatre. There are a total of 60 credit hours required for the MFA degree, which students typically complete in three years. Students have the opportunity to be Teaching Assistants for our undergraduate classes and some students will teach a class on their own.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our design and technical production students have gone on to great success in the professional world. Our graduates include Emmy-winning designers for film and television, principal designers and lead technicians at Disney Live Entertainment, lead technicians at regional theaters in California, and founders of successful companies such as Bright Ideas Events and Killswitch INC.

Professional guest artists are brought in to direct departmental productions and to mentor students in classes or productions. Students also have access to a variety of internship opportunities at local regional theatres, and in themed entertainment, television, and film.

FINANCIAL AID

The Department can provide Graduate Assistantships of \$15,576 per year. Students receiving a Graduate Assistantship will work for sixteen hours per week each semester. Qualifying work includes supervising undergraduate students in lab spaces, assisting faculty members with their classes, and assisting theater staff in the student's area of specialty. CSU Fullerton has numerous scholarships available, including a number that are specifically for theater students. We are also participant in Disney's Aspire program. More information at: fullerton.edu/scholarships/scholarships/

2025/2026 SEASON

Men on Boats by Jaclyn Backhaus (Physical/Devised); *9 to 5* song/lyrics by Dolly Parton, book by Patricia Resnick (Musical); *The House of the Spirits* by Caridad Svich (Theater); *Opera Scenes* (Opera); *Fall Dance* (Dance); *Rhinoceros* by Eugène Ionesco (Theater); *Once Upon a Mattress* by Mary Rogers, lyrics by Marshall Barer, book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer (Musical); *X-Out* by Jack Novak (Physical/Devised); *Albert Herring* by Benjamin Britten (Opera); *Spring Dance* (Dance)

CSUF

Theatre and Dance
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Technical Direction

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Ezra LeBank, Department Chair

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RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Arts Leadership: 4

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

From the outset, students are immersed in the real-world challenges of managing a theatre company through their involvement with the California Repertory Company, presenting 8 productions annually to thousands of community members. Students focus their work with Cal Rep in an area that furthers their career goals while earning a stipend. Our students engage in internships at renowned arts organizations, gaining invaluable experience and building professional networks. Previous internships include leading arts organizations in the LA area including Tony Award Winning South Coast Repertory Company, LA's Center Theatre Group, Gallup, Inc., Ojai Playwright's Festival, LA Opera, Pasadena Playhouse and more.

FINANCIAL AID

Our flexible structure welcomes students to focus their work with Cal Rep in an area that furthers their individual career goals while earning a stipend that ranges from \$8,000-\$10,000 annually. Cal Rep assignments include House Management, Box Office Management, Fundraising, Marketing, Production Management, Company Management, Event Planning, and Grant Development. Need-based and merit-based scholarships are available university-wide and in the College of the Arts through Beach Scholarships.

2025/2026 SEASON

Radio Plays Live; Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea; Carrie: The Musical; Stupid F##king Bird; Love Notes; THE ASSEMBLYWOMEN; Crabs in a Bucket; The Pliant Girls

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY/CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE

Donald Carrier, Director

The CWRU/CPH Acting Program
1901 E 13th St.
Suite 200
Cleveland, OH, 44114
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clevelandplayhouse.com/mfa

MFA PROGRAMS
Acting



CASE
WESTERN
RESERVE
UNIVERSITY //
CLEVELAND
PLAY HOUSE
MFA ACTING
PROGRAM

Contact:
dcc55@case.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not seeking students in 2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

Each graduate student receives full financial support: a full 3-year free tuition, a generous living stipend and healthcare coverage each scholastic year. Each student is given the same stipend amount. There is no assistantships associated with this stipend. The stipend is given to each student to offset housing/living expenses. Students have access to specific grants and fellowships offered by the university, including the Eva Pancoast travel fellowship for female students. This is geared toward female students who can apply for up to \$3500.00 for grants associated with overseas training. The stipend is given to the students over the course of 9 months to help defray living expenses. Healthcare is also provided to each student who have the choice whether to take the university's plan or stay on one that might be associated with a partner or family member.

2025/2026 SEASON

Traditionally there are two mainstage MFA Productions each year: This fall, students will be performing in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by guest director, Terri McMahon. The Spring production is *Epipany* by Brian Watkins, directed by Program Director, Don Carrier. The third year Class of 2026 are played significant roles in CPH's mainstage production of *Our Town*, directed by Tony-Award winning director, Mary Zimmerman. Students in the Class of 2026 will also be appearing in *Primary Trust* and playing leading roles in *Tartuffe*, two plays in Cleveland Play House's mainstage season. Members of the Class of 2028 will also appear in *Tartuffe*.

DRAMA STUDIO LONDON

Emma Lucia Hands, Director

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MFA PROGRAMS
Acting

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Max Saunders-Singer,
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Admissions: admissions@dramastudiolondon.co.uk

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 10

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

DRAMA STUDIO LONDON (DSL) is the only UK Federation of Drama Schools to focus solely on actor training. We pride ourselves on the strong sense of community at DSL, with many students, staff and alumni commenting on the welcoming family ethos. The school has a distinctive pedagogy, in which every student is allotted a personal tutor, in addition to the teaching faculty, to guide and support them through their training. Our acting courses are designed to offer a comprehensive preparation for the profession, focusing on a variety of genres and practitioners to enable graduates to confidently perform for stage, screen and audio in the UK and internationally. Each of our faculty is active in the industry, as actor, director or coach. Our visiting directors work regularly at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe, the BBC and Netflix. Our intensive, two-year MFA mixes classes in voice, movement and text with a constant number of live and recorded projects and productions, and a West End Showcase, a Graduate Repertory Season and professional Screen and Audio Portfolio. Eligible graduates also have the opportunity perform at a Dublin and New York Showcase in collaboration with the FDS. There is the option to take part in a range of national and international residencies. In the past these have included Poland, USA, Singapore, Linklater Centre Orkney and at the Royal Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare's Globe. DSL continues to build links for future collaboration, nationally and internationally. Graduates have a high global employment rate and include Forest Whitaker, Olivia Vinall, Emily Watson and Adam Hashmi. DSL is part of the University of West London Group (Top Ten UK University for Teaching Quality, The Times University Guide 2025, University of the Year for Student Satisfaction 2024).

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

There are a limited number of scholarships covering 50% of the fees. A number of small bursaries and scholarships are available.

Please find out more at: www.dramastudiolondon.co.uk/study/funding and <https://www.uwl.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding-international-students/international-scholarships-and-bursaries#:~:text=The%20Scholarships%20are%20open%20to,select%20the%20most%20deserving%20candidates>

2025/2026 SEASON

Playground Theatre (London) Graduate Season: *The Rover (Aphra Behn)*; *Posh* (new version by Laura Wade); *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (adapted by David Edgar); *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (adapted by Deborah McAndrew); *Lenin's Embalmers* (Vern Thiessen); *Love and Information* (Caryl Churchill); *Trelawny of the 'Wells'* (Arthur Wing Pinero); Shakespeare in the Park Summer Season: *Love's Labour's Lost*

EAST 15 ACTING SCHOOL

Dr. Chris Main, Director

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Admissions: e15adms@essex.ac.uk



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 20, Directing: 8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

We regard every actor as an individual and create an environment where they can reach their full potential. **MFA Acting (International)** is one of the longest established MFA programmes in the UK. It is a two-year (20-month), full-time, industry-focused, conservatoire training programme - designed specifically for international students. The course emphasizes the integration and mastery of core acting skills, including Movement (Laban, Somatic, Grotowski), Voice (production and articulation) and Singing. Highlights include: • three-week residency at Shakespeare's Globe, with a performance on the Globe stage to an invited audience • a solo, theatre performance • all shows promoted to the industry • professionally produced Showreel and Voicereel, which are included in the International Online Showcase, promoted in the UK and abroad • five fully professionally-supported public shows, including: ◦ two shows performed in Central London Theatres ◦ a devised project. **MFA Acting (with Digital Media)**: Year One of our newly restructured programme, students enjoy a London-based theatre training, alongside students on the MFA Acting (International) programme, including the Globe Residency. Year Two students relocate to our Southend campus, with the state-of-the-art facilities, and focus exclusively on: • acting for camera • motion Capture performance • advance vocal skills for the voice actor. This course recognizes the opportunities in various recorded media fields and is ideal for a student looking to move into film acting, the gaming industry and/or a career in voice acting. **MFA Theatre Directing** is designed for students who already are or wish to become professional theatre directors. The program benefits from its close ties with the London theatre world, providing expertise of the highest calibre and professional networks vital to launching a Theatre Directing career. Modules include: • Shakespeare • Contemporary British Drama • The Artistic Director • Theatre of the World (modules in Bali and Poland).

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

East 15's ties with the professional industry are built into the structure of our courses. MFA students work with industry professionals. Guest directors have worked in leading UK theatre companies including the RSC, National Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe. Professionalization classes consist of specialist workshops and meetings with casting directors and industry experts. **MFA International**: you work with professional playwrights, developing new texts for performance. **MFA with Digital Media**: you work with professional voice-over artists and motion capture directors. **MFA Directing**: you work with range of theatre directors and artistic directors and have the opportunity to stage productions in London venues.

FINANCIAL AID

East 15 International Excellence Scholarship: up to £5000 off tuition fee. Academic Excellence International Masters Scholarship: US degrees, £3000. If you meet all the eligibility criteria, you will automatically be considered for this award. Students on the MFA Acting International and the MFA Acting (with Digital Media) as eligible for the US Federal Loans (FSA). A full list of scholarships and bursaries can be found at: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/scholarships>.

2025/2026 SEASON

FALL: YEAR TWO: VOX Festival - East 15 Mainstage Corbett Theatre: Self-written and performed solo theatre piece; Theatre for Young People: East 15 Mainstage public productions of *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*. **SPRING**: YEAR ONE: Public performances in the East 15 Studio of three newly devised plays by the students; Globe Residency and performance of *Hamlet* on the mainstage at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. YEAR TWO: Showcase productions at the Bridewell Theatre, Central London of *The House of Bernarda Alba* by Lorca, and *Dive* by Laura Hayes. **SUMMER**: YEAR ONE: Three public productions in the East 15 mainstage Corbett Theatre. YEAR TWO: Two Showcase Productions at Hoxton Hall, Central London, one of which has been commissioned for the company

Brad Brock, Director

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Acting (FSU/Asolo Conservatory):

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For all other MFA programs: Michele Diamonti,

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MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Arts Leadership

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 12, Arts Leadership: 3, Costume: 4, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Technical Direction: 4, Directing: 0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Florida State University School of Theatre is one of the leading comprehensive graduate theatre training programs in the United States as evidenced by the School's consistent national rankings. The School of Theatre is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and is a founding member of the University Resident Theatre Association.

The School of Theatre offers three-year MFA degrees in Acting, Costume Design, Directing, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Technical Production, and Theatre Management.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

All MFA candidates receive a full tuition waiver and graduate stipend as part of their assistantship.

2025/2026 SEASON

Florida State University Main Campus: *Sweeney Todd*; *You on the Moors Now*; *Junie B. Jones the Musical*; *Footloose*; *The Play That Goes Wrong*

FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training: *Emma*; *Wolf at the Door*; *Exit, Pursued by a Bear*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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

205 N School St
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finearts.illinoisstate.edu/theatre-dance

Contact:
theatre@ilstu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 0, Lighting: 1, Scenic: 1-2, Directing: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

Fall 2025: *Action Movie: The Play, Into the Woods, The Art of Dining*, Fall Dance Concert

Spring 2026: *Blood Wedding, Chicago, A Monster Calls*, Spring Dance Concert



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON



THEATRE & DANCE

Linda Pisano, Chair

275 N Eagleson Ave A300
Lee Novelle Drama Center
Bloomington, IN 47408
(812) 855-4503
theatre.indiana.edu

Contacts:

Jennifer Goodlander, jgoodlan@iu.edu
Catherine Richards, car@indiana.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Directing: 0, Costume Design: 2, Costume Technology: 3, Lighting: 3, Scenic: 2-3, Technical Direction: 2-3

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Indiana University's Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance is consistently ranked as one of the top theatre schools in the nation. We believe that theatrical productions and classroom study are of equal importance and give our students broad experience in both. Stage design, costume design, lighting design, technical theatre, playwriting, dramaturgy, theatre history, theory and criticism, and dramatic literature are all considered to be vital and interrelated aspects of the total theatre and drama program at Indiana University. We work collaboratively among these domains to stage exceptionally fine student productions.

Our department is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) and University/Resident Theatre Association (U/RTA) and offers three-year, 60 credit hour Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degrees in Acting, Directing, Playwriting, Dramaturgy, and all of the major Design and Technology areas, including Scenic Design, Costume Design, Costume Technology, Lighting Design, and Theatre Technology.

The M.F.A. program is structured for students who intend to pursue professional careers in theatre as either scholars or artists. At any given time, our department has roughly 55 graduate students and approximately 250 undergraduate majors. These students go on to hold key positions in hundreds of universities and professional theatres throughout the nation. They also excel in related professions such as film and television.

While the program does not officially run through June and July, but students can take six credit hours each summer. There are teaching opportunities for graduate students.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students have an opportunity to work with a wide variety of emerging and established artists, creating connections with lifelong collaborators and colleagues. Professional guest artists often come to the department for workshops and production assignments. These include guest designers, actors, directors, playwrights and others. Artists like actor Glenn Close, costume designer Jerrilyn Duckworth, director Melissa Rainn Anderson and others are a regular part of department offerings. When possible, students will assist or shadow faculty on outside professional projects.

FINANCIAL AID

We offer assistantships and instructorships which include 100% tuition for nonresidents and residents alike and a monthly stipend in return for 20 hours of service each week for their three years in the program. Graduate students are eligible for medical and dental benefits. Students holding graduate appointments are eligible for fee scholarships that pay the cost of tuition for 12 fall credit hours and 12 spring credit hours of study during the academic year and six credit hours in the summer, with the exception of certain non-remittable fees. To supplement departmental financial aid, various scholarships, fellowships, and loans may be available through the University Graduate School or the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

2025/2026 SEASON

Dance Nation; The Prom; The Legend of Georgia McBride; Body To Body Faculty Winter Dance Concert; At First Sight New Works Festival 2026; Pride and Prejudice; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Merrily We Roll Along; 2026 Senior Dance B.F.A. Capstone Projects

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Tony Hardin, School Director

School of Theatre and Dance
1325 Theatre Drive
Kent, OH 44242
(330) 672-2082
kent.edu/theatredance

Contacts:

Tony Hardin, ahardi14@kent.edu
Michelle Souza, msouza@kent.edu
Jakyung Seo, jseo1@kent.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

Teaching assistantships are available with full tuition waiver, stipend (\$16,000/year) for 20 hours work per week. Merit-based scholarships are available for continuing graduate students and range from \$250 - \$1000. Reduced-cost Health Insurance available.

2025/2026 SEASON

Kentucky by Leah Nanako Winkler; *Fall Faculty Dance Concert: ReUnite; Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella; Something Rotten!; The Book of Will*



MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

Kristin Sosnowsky, Director

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

Contact:
lsuthtr@lsu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not seeking students in 2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Acting Program is an accelerated, two-year, year-round training program designed for professional actors who generally have two to four years of professional experience after earning their undergraduate degree and provides rigorous physical, vocal, emotional, and critical actor training approaches. The MFA acting students are the primary acting pool for the LSU Equity resident theatre company, Swine Palace.

LSU's MFA in Technology and Design specializations are three-year programs which include: Costume Technology and Design; Properties Technology; and Scenic Technology and Design. Each program is three years and provides a solid foundation of costume construction techniques, design, rendering, and management skills. Classroom instruction is complimented by hands-on experience in a variety of areas including draping, flat patterning, millinery, crafts, tailoring, etc. Properties Technology: The course of study includes a detailed examination of the many and varied items considered properties, and different techniques and materials that can be used to create them. The intention of this course of study is to develop advanced skills in woodworking, metalworking, paper-mâché, mold making & casting, foam carving, upholstery, sewing, and management. Scenic Technology and Design prepares the theatre artisan/manager to undertake positions with a wide scope of responsibility. The intention of the course of study is to develop skills in scenic technology and design especially in the areas of structural analysis and design, entertainment rigging, theatre machinery and automation, production management, set and lighting design, and theatre safety.

All students undertake production positions on LSU Mainstage and Swine Palace productions. Teaching, Design and Management opportunities are available to the qualified student.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The School of Theatre is home to Swine Palace, a professional Equity theatre company. The MFA acting cohort is eligible for competitive casting in all Swine Palace productions having the opportunity to work alongside professional directors, actors and designers. Students in the Technology and Design specializations have design and management opportunities on Swine Palace and LSU Theatre mainstage productions.

FINANCIAL AID

The School of Theatre offers full-time graduate assistantships of \$30,667 (12-month, Acting specialization) or \$23,000, (9-month, Technology/Design specializations); full tuition remission; waivers of associated fees with enrollment and 75% health insurance waiver. Graduate students on assistantship are required to work 20-hours per week. Duties include teaching, production and administration.

2025/2026 SEASON

The Courtship of Winifred Edwards; Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley; The Totality of All Things; Take Film Festival; Spring Dance Concert and Physical Theatre Showcase

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Props, Scenic

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Kirk A Domer, Interim Chairperson

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

Contacts:

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

Acting: Deric McNish, mcnishde@msu.edu



Department of Theatre
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic,
Sound

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Design: 1-3 (any area)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MSU maintains a collaborative partnership with a local Equity Theatre (Williamston Theatre; Tony Caselli, Artistic Director). Graduate students have the opportunity to work at MSU's professional summer theatre, Summer Circle Theatre. This decades-old tradition produces a variety of shows of varying styles for mid-Michigan audiences. MSU also has a strong commitment to bringing in guest artists each year to direct, design, and collaborate with graduate students and to offer networking opportunities for students. Professional internships are also available throughout the country and the globe as part of the Spartan alumni network.

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

Taking Off! (New Musical Laboratory); *The Seagull and Stupid Fucking Bird* (in rep); *Othello*, *Chemical Imbalance* (Storefront Series); *MSU UnScripted*, *Echoes from the Banks of the Red Cedar* (Dance Concert); *Recorded in Front of a Live Studio Audience* (WKAR Public Media and MSU School of Journalism collaboration); *Jane Austen's Persuasion*, *Dandelion* (Storefront Series)

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Roxanna Conner, Director of School

NIU - School of Theatre and Dance
1425 W. Lincoln Hwy
Stevens Building - RM 221
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-3020
niu.edu/theater

Contact:
theatreinfo@niu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not seeking students in 2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

A limited number of Artistic Talent Waivers covering up to 9 hours of coursework each semester are available based on an audition/portfolio and interview process. A limited number of Graduate Assistantships are available each year. Stipends vary based on hourly obligation and appointment. For reference, the 2025-26 full-time graduate stipend was \$16,500.

2025/2026 SEASON

Fall: *Julius Caesar*, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, and new works in Dance

Spring: *Antigona Furiosa*, *Comedy of Errors*, and new works in Dance



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Henry Godinez, Theatre Department Chair

Theatre Graduate Programs

70 Arts Circle Drive

5-160

Evanston IL, 60208

(847) 491-3589

communication.northwestern.edu/academics/theatre/

Contact:

David Kleineick, David.Kleineick@northwestern.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Directing: 3

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students profit from the real-world experiences of more than thirty department faculty members as they develop their own innovative practice and scholarly pursuits upon our stages and in our classrooms. The faculty's expertise encompasses acting, dancing, voice, directing, choreography, stage management, playwriting, storytelling, music theatre, children's theatre, devised theatre, theatre history and criticism, and costume, set, and light design.

The department's award-winning alumni and faculty make up the extensive fabric of the vibrant, groundbreaking theatre and dance communities in cities across the country. Our proximity to Chicago gives students the opportunity to witness and discuss current productions with the minds that are shaping theatre arts practices today.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our MFA Programs in their final year may spend up to one quarter of their residency working with a professional theatre company or observing a particular artist or company as driven by their interests. In addition, Students are eligible for a research grant in their third year, which may be used to research a particular project, an area of interest pertaining to the thesis, or a company in which the student is interested.

FINANCIAL AID

Each of our MFA programs offers full tuition remission (\$18,689 per quarter based on 2025-2026 rates) for full duration of the program. Each of our MFA programs offers Assistantship and Fellowship stipends (\$3,863 per month based on 2025-2026 rates) for the full duration of the programs (9 months per year for Directing and Stage Design and 12 months per year for Acting). We also offer a full health insurance subsidy each year. Additional financial assistance may be available to eligible students through the Office of Graduate Financial Aid.

2025/2026 SEASON

[Imagine U: Doctor De Soto](#) by Idris Goodwin, based on the Book by William Steig; [The Addams Family – A New Musical Comedy](#) book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa, orchestrations by Larry Hochman, based on characters created by Charles Addams; [MFA Collaboration Series: Among the Dead](#) by Hansol Jung; [MFA Collaboration Series: Hand to God](#) by Robert Askins; [The Caucasian Chalk Circle](#) by Bertolt Brecht, translated by Alistair Beaton; [How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying](#) musical by Frank Loesser, book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock, and Willie Gilbert; [Imagine U: Theatre for the Very Young presents Imagine That! & Splish, Splash: A Day on the Lake](#); [Danceworks 2026: Semiquincentennial](#); [Love & Information](#) by Caryl Churchill; [MFA Collaboration Series: David's Redhaired Death](#) by Sherry Kramer; [In The Time of the Butterflies](#) by Caridad Svich, based on the novel by Julia Alvarez

OHIO UNIVERSITY
Merri Biechler, Director



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

Contacts:
theater@ohio.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology
Costume, Lighting, Props, Scenic, Sound,
Technical Direction
Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume Design: 2, Costume Technology: 2, Lighting: 2, Props: 2, Scenic: 2, Sound: 2, Technical Direction: 2, Directing: 0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

There are two degree tracks: Production Design and Production Technology. Design areas include scenic, costume, lighting and sound design. Production Technology areas include technical direction, costume technology and crafts, and props technology (artisanship). The program is structured to allow specialization and to encourage dual area interests. With a graduate population of 25-30 design and technology students, classes tend to be small and intense, so students get a lot of individual attention and mentoring.

Each semester ends with a review by all of the faculty of recent student work. Over the course of the three years, emphasis is placed on professional portfolio development that synthesizes classes, production and resume-building employment. Classes in Performance Photography and Portfolio support this emphasis. This is a three year program with a 90 credit hour requirement for graduation. There are no summer sessions however summer work in the field is required in addition to a professional internship. For those students that are interested in teaching there are Teaching Assistant opportunities as well as some opportunities to teach an undergraduate class as the professor of record.

In our Production, Design, and Technology programs, we provide theater-based skills that are applicable to many industries and art forms. Students are offered a host of experiential learning opportunities to hone their craft: from classroom paper projects to realized productions. Our faculty and staff mentor students closely and holistically, giving each student individualized attention based on their life and artistic journey, professional goals, and growth areas. Our emphasis on self-care practices, matched with our commitment to inclusivity, help nurture a sense of community at the School of Theater. Looking ahead, the PD&T program is dedicated to adapting to changes in our industry and move theater-making into the future.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our program regularly places students in theaters for summer/academic breaks. Graduation requires internship, which we facilitate at venues including major regional theaters like Santa Fe Opera, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Arena Stage, Williamstown Theater Festival, and Pittsburgh Public Theater. Recent placements include The Public Theater and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and students intern with Broadway designers such as Greg Barnes and David Lander. We expect students to attend national conferences like USITT or LDI for portfolio reviews/job interviews/design competitions. Exceptional students are invited to the National Design Portfolio Review or Hemsley Lighting Review in NYC, and international events like the Prague Quadrennial.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial support is competitive. Stipends and scholarships are contingent on weekly work agreements. Continuation of funding is merit based.

Full Tuition Waiver \$4,175 - Full Stipend \$5,618 = 20 hours/week
Full Tuition Waiver \$4,175 - Half Stipend \$2,809 = 10 hours/week
Half Tuition Waiver \$2,087 - Half Stipend \$2,722 = 8 hours/week
Partial Tuition Waiver \$3,200 - Partial Stipend \$975 = 5 hours/week

2025/2026 SEASON

Not yet available

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Rich Dionne, Chair

552 W. Wood St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907
(765) 494-3074

cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/theatre-and-dance

Contact:

theatre@purdue.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound, Technical
Direction

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

The department is committed to maintaining a culture of equity and diversity in all programming, courses, and production-related activities, and encourages applicants who are committed to and embody these values.

The MFA program in acting offers intensive training in voice, movement, and acting, complemented by course work in script analysis, theory and criticism, and directing, with multiple opportunities for performing. The MFA programs in design and technology offer curricula that foster the development of aesthetic responses to scripts and skills to collaborate as part of a production team, through courses in script analysis, theory and criticism, and in design, crafts, and technology specific to each area. Programs require a minimum of 60 credit hours, over 3 years (fall and spring semesters).

The Department of Theatre and Dance is one of three units (with Art and Design, and Music) in the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Design, Art, and Performance in West Lafayette, Indiana, close to Chicago (2 hours) and Indianapolis (1.5 hours), with exceptional facilities and equipment, including two innovatively designed theatres and studios. Faculty and staff are professionally active artists, technicians, and scholars committed to maintaining industry standards and work-life balance for students, alongside excellent teaching and mentoring.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The department engages professional guest artists every season. The acting curriculum includes a course with professional guests and regional tour in the third year. Design and technology programs require an internship. Recent internships include Theatre Aspen, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, First Folio/Chicago, Des Moines Metro Opera, Contemporary American Festival, Shakespeare & Company, Disney Imagineering, Steppenwolf, Electronic Arts, Texas Shakespeare Festival and Chautauqua Opera.

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

Horse Girls, The Snow, Galinthis, Our Town

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Stephen Brotebeck, Director

San Diego State University
School of Theatre, Television, and Film
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-7601
(619) 594-5091
tff.sdsu.edu/

Contact:

Anne E. McMills, amcmills@sdsu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 2-3, Lighting: 1-2, Scenic: 3-4, Technical Direction: 3-4

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA Program in Design and Technology in the School of Theatre, Television, and Film at San Diego State University accepts students who are seriously interested in achieving the artistry and skills necessary to become practicing professionals in the fields of Theatre, Television, and/or Film. A balance of theoretical coursework, studio work, and production is achieved through the curriculum and close consultation with faculty advisors. Our learning environment enables our students to develop competitive skills as both designers and technicians, and direct exposure to the diverse and richly active theatre life of San Diego and its environs is an important element of the program. After all, Southern California is proud to be the home of some of the most important regional theatres in the country including The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Rep, and Center Theatre Group as well as entertainment giants like Disney and the Hollywood film industry – most of which employ our students and alumni. Our 60- to 63-unit MFA in Design and Technology is a three-year program with emphases in Scenic, Costume, and Lighting Design and Technology, and Technical Direction. The program does not run during the summer months. Our program includes many teaching opportunities ranging from practicum to fundamentals of design courses.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the MFA in Design and Technology program at SDSU work with entertainment professionals both within and outside the academic environment and in the community. Students are also required to participate in an intensive internship, often working as an assistant to a professional designer or in a television or film studio. Professional guest directors are brought in consistently to work with our students in class on weeks-long design projects. SDSU partners with three professional theatres in San Diego to provide exclusive fellowships to our graduate students in assisting, design, and technical direction.

FINANCIAL AID

Students interested in teaching may be eligible for half in-state tuition remission based on the class load taught for each semester that they qualify. Graduate Assistantships and/or Teaching Assistantships are available every semester for students in all disciplines. Competitive out-of-state tuition waivers are also available, as well as numerous awards of merit, university scholarships, and professional fellowship opportunities with local theatres. The University and the state of California provide the opportunity for scholarships for need-based individuals, and the School has several merit-based scholarships that are voted on by the scholarship committee and Design and Technology faculty each year. San Diego State University has over 700 scholarship opportunities to support our students' educational goals. Our application portal, "Aztec Scholarships," allows students to apply for university scholarships via one application. Aztec Scholarships automatically filters eligible applications and sends them to SDSU scholarship committees for award consideration.

2025/2026 SEASON

Fall 2025: *Merrily We Roll Along in Concert*, Book by George Furth, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim (Rights Pending); *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare. **Spring 2026:** *She Becomes the Moon* by Mabelle Reynoso; *Elektra* by Sophocles, Translated and Adapted by Timberlake Wertenbaker; *Tomorrow The Island Dies* (World Premiere) Book, Music, and Lyrics by Ryan Scott Oliver



San Diego State
University

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

Blake Hackler, Professor, Chair, Head of Acting

Meadows School of the Arts, SMU
6425 Boaz Lane,
Dallas, TX 75205
(214) 768-3328

smu.edu/meadows/areasofstudy/theatre/graduatestudies

Contacts:

Acting: Kristi Dana, kdana@smu.edu; Blake Hackler,
jhackler@smu.edu

Design: Cole McCarty, rmccarty@smu.edu; Steve Woods,
steveuw@smu.edu; Sarah Brown, sbbrown@smu.edu

Admissions: Ryan Cole, rcole@smu.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8, Costume: 1, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 1

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Division of Theatre awards graduate and undergraduate degrees in a nationally recognized training program. Graduate students receive M.F.A. degrees in Acting or Design, while undergraduates complete a B.F.A. degree in either Acting or Theatre Studies. Classes and studios combined with participation in a robust production season prepare our graduates to move successfully into the performance industry. During their time at SMU, graduate and undergraduate students often work at Dallas area theatres as well as for top regional companies.

MFA Acting: The M.F.A. Acting Program at Southern Methodist University seeks to prepare serious, dedicated artists for a life in the profession. The curriculum combines broad-based and inclusive actor training with rehearsal and performance of classical, contemporary, ensemble-based and self-created works. Our unique relationship with the award-winning Dallas Theater Center provides students with the ability to collaborate with artists of national and international stature. (3-year program, 66 credit hours)

MFA Stage Design: The M.F.A. in Theatre with a specialization in Design is intended for students who wish to pursue careers as professional designers. The program is committed to the philosophy of supporting the development of artists who passionately embrace the interpretation of words into visual imagery. It emphasizes the process of artistic collaboration, especially with directors; the pursuit of artistic skills, including drawing, painting, and drafting necessary for communication; the development of critical thought and the ability to articulate ideas; and the acquisition of professional standards that will prepare the student for a meaningful and productive life in the theatre. (3-year program, 66 credit hours)

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The MFA Acting program at SMU partners with the Tony Award-winning Dallas Theater Center (DTC), offering graduate actors professional casting, rehearsal access, and the chance for a Brierley Resident Acting Company residency. Students also perform at leading local theaters including Shakespeare Dallas, Undermain, Theatre Three, Fair Assembly, Bombshell Dance Project, and Second Thought Theatre. With 80+ Dallas/Fort Worth companies, students gain wide professional exposure. Design students assist at Baylor, Kitchen Dog, Trinity Shakespeare, Dallas Opera, and nationally at venues such as La Jolla Playhouse, Guthrie, Williamstown, Public Theater, Old Globe, and Ars Nova, fostering artistic growth and networks.

FINANCIAL AID

All students at SMU receive a full tuition waiver. In addition, students receive a living stipend of \$12,000 per year for both MFA Acting and MFA Design. MFA Acting also gets teaching opportunities (Intro to Acting for undergrad and non-majors).

2025/2026 SEASON

By the Way, Meet Vera Stark by Lynn Nottage; *See Me* - devised production; *The Government Inspector* by Nikolai Gogol; *Mary Jane* by Amy Herzog; *The Antipodes* by Annie Baker; *Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung; *Ragtime* - co-production with Dallas Theater Center

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Fred M Duer, Chair

210A Tomlinson Hall
1301 W Norris Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122
(215) 204-2804
fma.temple.edu/theater

Contact:
Design/Technology: Fred Duer, fmduer@temple.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 0, Lighting: 0, Scenic: 1, Directing: 0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Advance your career building the visual experience of contemporary theater with the **Master of Fine Arts in Design** in Temple's School of Theater, Film and Media Arts. Specialize in costume, lighting and scene design, and develop your creative passion for bringing a story to life on the stage. Graduates with an MFA in Design primarily go on to work in theater, as well as the entertainment industry and higher education.

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students will work alongside professional faculty.

FINANCIAL AID

Department offers fully funded assistantships with tuition remission, health insurance and a stipend for work in the respective shops - scenic, lighting and costume.

2025/2026 SEASON

Silent Sky, Beating a Dead Horse, Titanic, Handmaid's Tale (opera), Detroit '67, The Anastasia Trials, The Prom



MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic
Directing

Sarah EC Maines, Director

School of Theatre Dance Film
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 245-2147
sotdf.txst.edu/

Contacts:

Design/Technology: Cheri Prough DeVol,
cpdevol@txstate.edu

Directing: Andy Park, andypark@txstate.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The School of Theatre, Dance, & Film at Texas State University fosters a relationship with ZACH Theatre, the leading professional theatre in Austin, Texas. Many students engage in internships with ZACH and many more work alongside the faculty on professional engagements across the country. Most students leave Texas State with significant teaching experience. Graduates of the program work as freelance artists nationally, faculty at universities, and work as assistants for major professional artists.

FINANCIAL AID

Texas State University offers scholarships which cover all tuition costs and fees for the students in our MFA program. Students in the MFA program receive Graduate Assistantships. Assignments range from Instructor of Record, Teaching Assistant, and production support staff, based on the needs of the Theatre division and each student's skills and interests. To remain eligible, students need a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must remain in good standing. Supplemental scholarship opportunities (in addition to our full tuition/fees scholarship) are available annually via the Graduate College.

<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/funding.html>

2025/2026 SEASON

Prometheus Bound; Collective Rage; Dracula, A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really; Sweeney Todd "The Demon Barber of Fleet Street; Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island; Hedda Gabler; Resucit6; Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. E.J. Westlake, Chair

1932 College Rd N
Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 292-5821
theatreandfilm.osu.edu

Contact:
cormier.5@osu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 1, Lighting: 0, Projection/Media: 0, Scenic: 1

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The three-year MFA in Theatre emphasizes professional training in design. The MFA program is dedicated to scholarly and artistic achievement made possible by an excellent faculty with diverse skills and interests, the exceptional opportunities for research provided by the university's libraries, the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute, the department's active production schedule, and yearly guest artists and residencies. International opportunities are available with special theatre programs in London and the Czech Republic. Students encounter a vast array of academic and cultural resources at The Ohio State University, such as the Wexner Center for the Arts, and in Columbus, such as the King Arts Complex, The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, and the Lincoln Theatre.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The department regularly brings guest artists and scholars to campus to work with our students. In the past five years, this has included Lea Hoffman, Olwen Fouéré, Paul Bae, Jack Reuler, Ted Lange, Teatro Navieso, Nushin Arbabzadah, Natalie Alvarez, Albany Park Theater Project, Carlyle Brown. Our students are also able to engage with the artists and companies in residence and performing at the Wexner Center for the Arts.

FINANCIAL AID

50% appointment at \$24,138 a year paid over a 9-month period. Appointments carry out-of-state tuition and fee waiver worth >\$60,000 for 3 semesters. There is also a 100% subsidy of student health insurance.

2025/2026 SEASON

The Squirrels by Robert Askins; *After the Blast* by Zoe Kazan; *Acute Exposure* by August Hakvaag; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Revised)* by Clark Gesner



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES

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

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Kikora Franklin, Interim Director

School of Theatre
116 Theatre Building
477 Allen Road
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-7586
theatre.psu.edu

Contact:
bx5226@psu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 0, Costume: 2, Scenic: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Assistantship is \$23,000+ per year for 3 years and full tuition remission. Design and Production students work 20 hours per week in our shops and Directing students either TA or teach undergraduate courses.

2025/2026 SEASON

Fall: *Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco; *Crazy for You*, Music by George Gershwin, book by Ken Ludwig; *Antigone* by Sophocles

Spring: *The Morris and Essex Line*, Music by Joshua Salzman. book by Ryan Cunningham; *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder; *Detroit 67* by Dominique Morisseau; *My Fair Lady*, Music by Frederick Loewe, Book by Alan Jay Lerner



PennState
College of Arts
and Architecture

MFA PROGRAMS

Directing
Design/Technology:
Costume, Scenic

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Kathy Hunter-Williams, Department Chair

120 Country Club Rd, CB #3230
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3230
(919) 962-1132

drama.unc.edu/programs-of-study/graduate-studies/

Contact:

Acting: Julia Gibson, gibju@email.unc.edu



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not seeking students in 2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MFA Acting: The Professional Actor Training Program (PATP) is a nationally ranked, intensive three-year program committed to the development of seriously playful and playfully serious actors in an environment in which each actor can discover, embrace and develop their own voice. Classes are taught by resident master teachers who remain active in the field professionally. Training includes professional rehearsal and performance practice with North Carolina's premier regional theatre, PlayMakers Repertory Company. The program develops professionally prepared, technically disciplined, expansive, versatile and authentic actors. No summer courses. There are teaching opportunities in the second and third years of training. **MFA Costume Technology:** is a three-year degree encompassing a broad range of costuming experience through a unique blend of course work and production responsibility. Students study all aspects of costume making including history and digital applications. We focus solely on technology, not design. For more information, please visit <https://drama.unc.edu/programs-of-study/graduate-studies/costume-production-mfa/>. **MFA Technical Production:** The purpose of this program is to train candidates for careers in professional and university theatre. The three-year program is organized to prepare the candidate to assume responsibility for the entire production process from technical drawings through strike. (Costume Technology and Technical Production do not recruit through URTA). The department, the programs and the theatre are all committed to access, equity, diversity and inclusion.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY (Vivienne Benesch, Producing Artistic Director) is a nationally regarded LORT theatre in residence at UNCCH. It has a resident company of actors, directors, and designers, as well as acclaimed costume and technical production teams. During their time in the program, all MFA students are company members. Actors are given the opportunity to play leading, supporting, and ensemble roles alongside and professional company members and guest artists. They work with established directors on classical, contemporary and new works. PlayMakers' Mobile Unit tours the campus and neighboring areas. In their final year, actors are paired with a professional mentor.

FINANCIAL AID

Most MFA actors receive Teaching Assistantships for all or most of their time in the program. Teaching Assistantships come with Tuition Remission, Graduate Student Health Insurance, and a competitive stipend. Stipend is currently just over \$21,000. Other financial assistance, usually in the form of cash awards, is also possible.

Teaching Assistantships: Aid professors with grading and proctoring exams Teaching Assistantships with full responsibility: Teacher of record for an undergraduate course. Available in 2nd and 3rd years of study. Research Assistantships: Each graduate program awards a Research Assistantship to one student at a time.

The University and Graduate School may have other needs-based forms of scholarship. And we usually have one or two merit-based scholarships available.

2025/2026 SEASON

PlayMakers Repertory Company: *The Royale; The Wolves; You Can't Take It With You; Primary Trust; MacBeth; Steel Magnolias.* **PlayMakers/PATP Mobile Unit:** *King James.* **PATP Ground Floor Productions:** *Back Back Back;* plus two additional titles TBA

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Dr. Peter Carpenter, Chair

300 E 23rd Street D3900
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
(512) 471-5793
theatredance.utexas.edu

Contacts:

mhabeck@austin.utexas.edu
kjsanchez@austin.utexas.edu
andrea.grapko@austin.utexas.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume Design: 2, Costume Technology: 2, Lighting: 2, Projection/Media: 2, Scenic: 2, Directing: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

[UT Austin Live Design and Production](#) is a 60 credit master of fine arts degree program that offers graduate students multiple realized opportunities in a program of foundational skills and technique development in Scenic, Costume, Costume Technology, Lighting and Integrated Media. Students may create work within their chosen discipline and explore other disciplines within this program. Live Design and Production crosses traditional boundaries of performance and technology leans into the creation of original performance work. As artist-scholar-citizens, we engage with students in solving complex problems through high-impact learning experiences that develop critical thinking, an appreciation for complexity and context, and the ability to communicate clearly in a variety of languages (verbal, visual, aural, spatial, behavioral, and kinesthetic). [The M.F.A. in Theatre with a specialization in Directing Program](#) is a vital, ascendant, highly selective professional training program targeted at mid-career theatre artists of proven expertise who embrace the evolving role of the 21st-century director. This degree plan combines rigorous immersion in the tactical craft of directing with a bold embrace of collaborative theatre models. As part of our focus on new work, M.F.A. directing students work closely and regularly with the university's award-winning M.F.A. in Theatre playwriting program, directing/developing aesthetically diverse new work in classroom, workshop, and production settings. In addition to preparing our directors for scripted work (by both established and emerging playwrights), we expect them to be conversant and accomplished in various non-traditional approaches to creating new theatre: generative, adaptive, devised, and community-based. Live Design and Production Graduates show work in NY and LA and other national and International venues, including USITT, National Design Portfolio Review, World Stage Design, Design Showcase West, and the Hemsley Portfolio Review. UT Austin Graduate directors can access targeted professional residencies nationwide.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

[UT Live Design and Production](#) students have opportunities to work with multiple producing companies in Austin, including the Zach Theatre and the Austin Shakespeare Festival, SXSW, Austin Lyric Opera, Austin City Limits, Austin Film projects, Creek Show, Texas Performing Arts, and Fusebox International Performing Arts Festival. [UT Graduate directors](#) can access targeted professional residencies nationwide, such as Soho Rep, Southern Rep, Kitchen Dog theaters, and ongoing summer observerships. Students have observed venues such as Clubbed Thumb, Steppenwolf Theatre, The Orchard Project, O'Neill Theatre Center, PlayPenn, the Contemporary American Theatre Festival, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

FINANCIAL AID

We support all graduate students with a combination of assistantships, tuition remission, and scholarships. Financial aid shifts year to year but we aim to provide a combination of 25%-50% teaching appointments, fellowships and scholarships to cover the first year's tuition and course costs. Funding increases in year 2 and 3 to 50% appointments that includes increased tuition reductions and health insurance. Scholarships are offered to all Live Design and Production and Directing Graduate students. The program endeavors to assist students with program related travel funds when available.

2025/2026 SEASON

[UT Theatre and Dance](#): *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing, Cabaret, Rooted In Motion, UTNT UT New Theatre* (4 original plays by student playwrights), *Equinox, Ain't No Mo*; [Studio Series](#): Titles will be announced throughout the Season; [Butler Opera Center Collaborations](#): *Cinderella, Downwind, Il Trittico*

April Viczko, Chair

Department of Drama
3-98 Fine Arts Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2C9 Canada
(780) 492-2271
ualberta.ca/en/drama/index

MFA PROGRAMS

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

Contacts:

Directing: David Kennedy, david.kennedy@ualberta.ca
Design/Technology: Guido Tondino gtondino@ualberta.ca

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Directing: Canada's leading MFA in Directing offers a two-year program—plus a thesis project in the fall of the third year—with significant directing opportunities, including five practical projects ranging in scale from a small studio show with limited tech to a full-scale thesis production on the mainstage in the Timms Centre for the Arts, a fully equipped 300-seat proscenium theatre. Students receive guidance from master teachers with extensive experience as professional directors, who offer diverse approaches to directing through four in-depth directing seminars and close supervision/mentorship on all practical projects. Approaches include fundamentals of the directing process; contemporary theatre practice, heightened text and theatrical styles, and a semester-long practicum on devised theatre; detailed tools for working effectively with actors; skills for working with designers and other members of the collaborative team; tools for effective use of the rehearsal process; leadership and collaboration skills; and professional development in preparation for entering the professional theatre landscape. While the program does not run through the summer, significant prep work on practical projects is required during the off months.

Design: Canada's foremost Masters in Fine Arts program in production design for professional theatre designers training to Associated Designers of Canada standards, allowing our students to be flexible collaborators with a strong interest in experimentation. Normally a two-year degree with a thesis production in the third year (usually in the fall); a one-year degree is available if qualifications are met (normally reserved for students who have graduated with a BFA in Design from the University of Alberta). Our program also offers a three-year qualifying program for candidates who are lacking in production design experience. Our program normally begins in the fall of the academic year, though exceptions can be made. A full-time residency is required.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

Studio Theatre: *A Harvest Truce* by Serhiy Zhadan, translated by Nina Murray; *The Moors* by Jen Silverman; *antigone lives** by Susanna Fournier; *Tartuffe* by Molière, translated by Christopher Hampton; *Deserters* by Kenneth T. Williams; **Bleviss Laboratory Theatre:** *Antigone* by Sophokles, translated by Anne Carson; *Mermaid* by Polly Teale

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Prof. Joel Veenstra, Chair of Drama

University of California
Irvine Department of Drama
249 Drama Building
Irvine, CA 92697-2775
(949) 824-6614
drama.arts.uci.edu

Contact:
drama@uci.edu

UCIrvine Claire Trevor
School of the Arts
Department of Drama

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting
Design/Technology:
 Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound
Directing
Stage Management

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8, Design/Technology: 0, Directing: 0, Stage Management: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The New Swan Shakespeare Festival is Orange County's only professional Shakespeare festival performed outdoors in a sustainable, portable mini-Elizabethan theatre, the New Swan Theater, where the audience and actors inhabit the same dynamic, in-the-round space. Each summer season features a wide range of festivities and educational opportunities as well as two dynamic fully produced productions of Shakespeare's greatest works. The New Swan Shakespeare Festival is hosted and produced in collaboration with the University of California, Irvine, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, and the Department of Drama.

FINANCIAL AID

Out of state tuition is covered by the department in year one of the program. Annual registration fees are covered throughout all three years of the program. Stipends and/or teaching assistantship salary are provided through all three years of the program. Scholarship application calls go out to students yearly.

2025/2026 SEASON

Little Women: The Broadway Musical; The Green Knight; Noises Off; at the very bottom of a body of water

Jeff Burke, Chair

East Melnitz Bldg.
225 Charles E Young Dr. E
Rm 303
(401) 528-7482
tft.ucla.edu/academics/theater

Contact:
vstewart@tft.ucla.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic
Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

There are a limited amount of assistantships each year, based on funding. For students who qualify, they earn a salary and receive tuition remission for the quarter they received the TA-ship. Assistantships may consist of teaching undergraduate students through lectures or lab sections and include grading support or production support. We have several student awards that are awarded annually. Students can apply for the award if they meet the criteria. Here is the financial aid website: grad.ucla.edu/funding/financial-aid/funding-for-entering-students

2025/2026 SEASON

Fall: Bruin Fringe Fest (BFF), undergraduate new play festival; Turn of the Screw - Opera

Winter: First MFA directing project (title TBA); A Turner Prize (MFA New Play Festival); Bad Breath (MFA New Play Festival); Emma (No One But Herself (new musical)

Spring: Girl on an Altar, MFA directing project; Mad Forest, MFA directing project; Trojan Women, MFA directing project; Undergraduate One-Acts, directed by our undergraduate students; MFA Ones, directed by MFA students (TBA)

Dr. Peter Justras, Dean

University of Cincinnati
College-Conservatory of Music (CCM)
290 CCM Blvd
PO Box 210003
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0003
(513) 556-5803
ccm.uc.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

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

Contact:

Design/Technology: Emily Porter,
portere4@ucmail.uc.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 4, Lighting: 3, Props: 2, Scenic: 5, Sound: 2, Stage Management: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CCM offers comprehensive training programs for arts managers, designers, technicians, opera singers, coaches, directors, musical theatre performers, and actors. CCM's programs in theatre design and production, opera, musical theatre, acting, dance, and arts administration attract remarkably talented students from around the world who enroll at CCM to learn and work alongside a superb faculty of professional artist-teachers. Students in the Division of Theatre Arts, Production, and Arts Administration (TAPAA) have the opportunity to participate in a wide-ranging scope of degree programs, classes, mainstage productions, studio productions, master classes, summer projects and professional internships.

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

PERIOD OF ENGAGEMENT

3 years MFA: 72-75 semester credit hours.
2 years MA/MBA: 45 – 65 semester credit hours.
4 years BFA, 120 - 122 semester credit hours
2 years AD, Opera Singers min. 48 semester credit hours
2 years AD, Opera Coaching min. 46 semester credit hours
2 years AD, Opera Stage Direction, min. 48 semester credit hours

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

Current mainstage season includes Fall 2025 productions of *Pride & Prejudice* (Acting); *Cendrillon* (Opera) *Lightning Thief* (Musical Theatre); and *Just Desserts: Selections from The Nutcracker and Faculty Works* (Dance). The Fall 2025 studio season includes *The World Goes Round* (Musical Theatre) and *Student Choreographer Showcase* (Dance). Spring 2026 mainstage productions include *Rope* (Acting); *Danceworks* (Dance); and *Sweeney Todd* (Musical Theatre/Opera). The Spring 2026 studio season includes *Tiresias/Songspiel* (Opera); *Antigone* (Acting) and an *Acting Workshop*. Please see <https://ccmonstage.universitytickets.com> for more details on the 2025-2026 CCM Season.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Megan Monaghan Rivas, Department Head

UConn Dramatic Arts
802 Bolton Rd., Unit 1127
Storrs, CT 06269-1127
(860) 486-1635
drama.uconn.edu

Contact:
drama@uconn.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 1, Lighting: 3, Scenic: 3, Technical Direction: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

Living Dead in Denmark by Qui Nguyen; *As You Like It* Adapted by Shaina Taub & Laurie Woolery, Music and lyrics by Shaina Taub; *Darling* by Harley Walker; *Three Musketeers: 1941* by Megan Monaghan Rivas; *Comedy Tonight: An Evening of One-Acts*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Tiza Garland, School Director

School of Theatre and Dance

Nadine MCGuire Pavillion

1800 McCarty Dr.

Gainesville, FL 32608

(352) 273-0500

arts.ufl.edu/academics/theatre-and-dance/

Contact:

Design: Jennifer Dasher, jdasher@arts.ufl.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 1, Lighting: 3, Scenic: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

Harvest, Rent, Agbedidi, F. Punk Junkies, The Visit, Spring Into Dance

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Julie Ray, Head of Department

308D Fine Arts Building
255 Baldwin St.
(917) 544-4862

drama.uga.edu/design-technology-mfa

Contact:

ivani@uga.edu



Department of Theatre and Film

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Projection/Media: 0, Scenic: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The UGA Design MFA program is a 3 year program that emphasizes designing for theatre, film/ television, theme parks, and live entertainment with a minor emphasis in technology. The department also features a Digital Media component with electives in computer animation and modeling. MFA candidates will design a minimum of two shows in their major area of interest plus the possibility of additional productions in secondary areas in opera and dance. Graduate Assistantships are available each year for qualified incoming graduate students covering full tuition waiver and stipend of \$16,500. 63 credit hours are required for successful completion as well as passing 3 benchmark portfolio reviews. Located 90 minutes from downtown Atlanta, we are connected with a number of professional theatres including the Alliance Theatre (LORT) and the 2nd largest professional theatre, The Aurora theatre company. Both institutions are populated with numerous alumni from our program. Athens, Georgia has been recognized as a top college town in numerous publications and the college's proximity to the vibrant theatre and film industries in around Atlanta are a vital component of the student's experience at UGA.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Each semester our program hosts professional directors and designers from around the country and southeast. Students get to work alongside these artist in creating designs for our productions as well as lasting connections for future employment. In the Spring 26 we will host Stanley Meyer as scenic designer for *Sense and Sensibility*, directed by Rachel May, Artistic Director of Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta.

FINANCIAL AID

A full tuition waiver is a part of the offer for those on assistantship. The Stipend for 2025-26 is set at \$16,500. Typically this amount is raised each June by June when FYO 27 begins. This is for 13 hours/week.

2026/2027 SEASON

Fall: *Constellations; Guys and Dolls*

Spring: *Men in Boats; The Importance of Being Earnest*

Valleri Robinson, Associate Professor and Head

500 S. Goodwin Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 300-4367
theatre.illinois.edu

Contacts:

Acting: kmckea1@illinois.edu

Design/Technology: robperry@illinois.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

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

Stage Management

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8-10, Costume Design: 2, Costume Technology: 2, Lighting: 2, Sound: 2, Projection/Media: 2, Props: 1, Scenic Design: 2, Scenic Technology: 2, Sound: 2, Stage Management: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Don't just imagine your professional theatre career. Begin it. Our rigorous, dedicated training empowers you with the practical skills to become a working theatre professional, whether your art lives onstage, backstage, or somewhere beyond. Each MFA program is three years full-time with the summers off. There are assistantships available.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

We often have guest directors, designers, and actors that work alongside our current graduate students. We also host many Shakespeare festival casting directors who are looking for not only actors, but design, management, and technology students.

FINANCIAL AID

Full tuition could be covered if a student receives an assistantship. This is renewable for the three year term depending on funding. Assistantships of 25% or higher come with a full tuition waiver for the three year program and a monthly stipend. Fellowships and scholarships are separate requests from area chairs or the Graduate College. There are some scholarships available for creative research and students can apply for those once contacting their area.

2025/2026 SEASON

Daniel J. Sullivan Artists-in-Residence Third Rail Immersive Theatre Workshop; *The Play That Goes Wrong*; *A View from the Bridge*; *Everybody*; *Radium Girls*; *The City and the City*

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Mary Beth Easley, Chair

University of Iowa
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Design: Bryon Winn, bryon-winn@uiowa.edu
Jason Simms, jason-simms@uiowa.edu
Directing: Mary Beth Easley, mary-easley@uiowa.edu
Dramaturgy: Art Borreca, art-borreca@uiowa.edu
Playwriting: Lisa Schlesinger, lisa-schlesinger@uiowa.edu
Stage Management: Melissa Turner, melissa-turner@uiowa.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 1, Lighting: 1, Projection/Media: 0, Props: 0, Scenic: 1, Sound: 0, Technical Direction: 0, Directing: 4, Stage Management: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

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

2025/2026 SEASON

Romeo and Juliet, Argonautika, How to Defend Yourself, Head Over Heels, Uncle Vanya; New Play Festival; 18 gallery/workshop productions, mostly new plays.



MFA PROGRAMS

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

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

Jill Bradbury, Director

School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies
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College Park, MD 29405
(301) 405-6676
tdps.umd.edu

Contacts:
amith@umd.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costumes: 2, Lighting: 2, Projection/Media: 2, Scenic: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Design at the University of Maryland is a 3 year, 60 credit hour program, with the option for more credits during the winter term. Students are not in classes during the Summer sessions and are encouraged to engage in summer design opportunities. UMD offers a full assistantship that includes tuition remission for 10 credits per semester, a full benefits package, and a generous stipend. Assistantship opportunities include design lab management, in-class teaching of design classes, and design assistant placements.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All of the UMD MFA Design faculty are working professionals in the Washington, DC area as well as nationally and internationally. Students are brought along to shadow and/or assist on numerous professional productions. Professional guest directors are brought in to direct many of the school productions. Students also have the opportunity to design a local professional production in their 3rd year.

FINANCIAL AID

Full tuition remission for 10 credit hours per semester plus the choice of 4 credit hours during the winter term. Assistantships are for 20 hours per week for a variety of assigned tasks and is compensated with a generous stipend of, currently, just under \$30,000. If accepted into the program, it is assumed the assistantship is for 3 years. Students also receive full benefits matching what the rest of the faculty and staff receive.

2025/2026 SEASON

Fall Dance Thesis; *She Loves Me*; *Home*; Faculty Dance Concert; *MacBeth*; Spring Dance Thesis; *Fearless New Works Festival*; *El Ciclón*



SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, & PERFORMANCE STUDIES

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Margaret Werry, Chair

540 Rarig Center
330 21st Avenue South,
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-6699
theatre.umn.edu

Contacts:

Fred Kennedy, fkennedy@umn.edu
Matt LeFebvre, lefeb001@umn.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 1, Lighting: 1, Scenic: 1, Sound: 1

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Design & Technology students are in constant demand by the large Twin Cities professional theatre and arts community, where internships and over hire opportunities are consistently available. UMTAD alumni are active in performing arts organizations locally and nationally.

The UMTAD Professional Scene Shop builds scenery for Penumbra Theatre, a nationally recognized theatre institution in Saint Paul, MN, whose mission is to "illuminate the human condition through the prism of the African American experience."

Our program partners with the Chemistry Department to produce Energy & U, an interdepartmental bi-annual event that teaches the 1st Law of Thermodynamics and world energy use

FINANCIAL AID

The Assistantship Package includes a full tuition waiver, full health benefits, and a teaching assistantship with financial award. The teaching assistantship contract begins the last week of August and runs through the last week of May. Annual awards are offered through an application process within the department for opportunities to travel to conferences. Graduate Assistants who hold a Teaching Assistant position are offered full health and dental benefits.

2025/2026 SEASON

Please see our departmental website for our 2025-2026 Season Overview: cla.umn.edu/theatre/performances-tickets



Department of
Theatre Arts & Dance
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - KANSAS CITY

Dr. Collin Vorbeck, Interim Chair



4949 Cherry St
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Contact:
cvorbeck@umkc.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

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

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Projection/Media: 2, Scenic: 2, Sound: 2, Technical Direction: 0, Stage Management: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

UMKC's MFA programs provide rigorous training, working in classrooms and alongside industry professionals. This 3-year, 60 credit-hour program includes cross-cohort foundational courses and discipline-specific offerings, providing students with laboratory-style learning that emphasizes risk-taking, experimentation, and creativity. Our studio-based education prioritizes both theoretical and practical experiences. Students will have the opportunity to engage with productions on a variety of scales, with assistantship duties ranging from shop hours, production assignments, administrative tasks, and graduate teaching.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The third year of our program provides opportunities for MFA students to work with many of our UMKC Conservatory's Theatre Division local professional theatre producing partners, including Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Actors Theatre, the Unicorn Theatre, the Coterie Theatre, the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, the New Theatre and Restaurant, KC Melting Pot, among others.

FINANCIAL AID

Students invited to our program receive tuition remission; students are responsible for university fees. Students receive an annual stipend, details of which can be found on the UMKC Conservatory website, under the Scholarships and Assistantships page.

2025/2026 SEASON

Pippin, Dead Man's Cell Phone, Carmen, The Arsonists, Birthday Candles

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN

Hank Stratton, Director



Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film
Temple Building
1209 R St Suite 215
Lincoln, NE 68588
(402) 472-2072
arts.unl.edu/theatre-and-film

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

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jbullins@unl.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Hone your skills and explore your craft as a visionary artist and designer in an exciting, innovative theatre and film school with award-winning faculty seeking to reshape how theatre is made in the 21st century. The Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film is a premier intensive, three-year training program for theatre and film artists, with an alumni network stretching from New York to L.A and beyond. Your 60-credit hour degree is built to fit your unique journey and build upon your strengths and challenge your capacity. As a professional training program our focus is industry preparedness, however we also embrace that many want and need experience in academic teaching environments and many opportunities are present to develop those pedagogical skills as well.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Nebraska Repertory Theatre is housed in partnership with the Carson School and provides opportunities for students to work with seasoned guest artists directors, performers and designers. Along with faculty members who continue to work professionally and maintain standings in the industry's professional unions and networks. Students travel with faculty members as assistants and associates in their professional work, have the opportunity to network with conferences attendance, as well as guest presenters and instructors brought in house.

FINANCIAL AID

Acceptance into the program with financial assistance will provide full-tuition remission covering 12 credit hours a semester, for a total of 72 credit hours possible. In addition to the tuition remission a generous stipend through a combination of graduate teaching assistantships and fellowships is offered with the total stipend offer being approximately \$19,000 for the 9 month contract. In addition to tuition and stipend, students may also access university health benefits for themselves and their dependents. The cost of living index for Lincoln Nebraska allows for those funds to be more effective in covering living costs.

2025/2026 SEASON

Eurydice by Sarah Rhule; *Murder on the Orient Express* by Ken Ludwig; *Tigers be Still* by Kim Rosenstock; *Bright Star* by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Kirsten Brandt, Chair and Executive Director

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

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Stage Management: M. William Shiner,
mwilliam.shiner@unlv.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

Stage Management

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 10, Costume: 2, Lighting: 1, Scenic: 2, Technical Direction: 1, Stage Management: 1

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The UNLV theatre department's Master of Fine Arts programs emphasize craft, professionalism, and practical experience. Classes are small and there is a great deal of one-on-one mentorship. The department faculty has extensive professional experience and guest artists regularly work with students.

Each discipline has a series of core classes and electives and all graduate students must attend a graduate seminar once a week. Each MFA program requires a minimum of 72 credit hours and takes three years to complete. The Master of Fine Arts is a three-year program offering advanced concentrations in Design/Technology: (Scenic Design, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Technical Direction, Performance, and Stage Management).

Actors, designers, stage managers, and technicians receive comprehensive and specialized training in preparation for careers in the professional theatre. While deeply committed to the individual theatre artist, the program fosters and encourages an integrated and collaborative approach to theatre. In each semester of training, graduate students share a two-credit graduate seminar committed to progressive and practical exploration of the essential theatre.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Nevada Conservatory Theatre (NCT), founded by theatre faculty in 2000, stands as a model for the intersection of research, pedagogy, and professional practice. NCT is the applied artistic and technical producing arm of the Department and a national model for theatre training programs that bridge the gap between academic practice and professional theatre.

Built on a professional theatre model, NCT engages working professionals to create alongside advanced students. NCT provides students with a professional working laboratory that transcends traditional internships or apprenticeships, placing students in artistic and technical leadership roles that most closely mirror their future professional careers.

FINANCIAL AID

Assistantships, available to all graduate students, allows you to teach classes, work in the scene and costume shops, house manage, and perform other administrative services. Currently, assistantships provide a nine-month stipend of \$25,200, as well as a tuition waiver. Scholarship opportunities can be found: <https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/financing>. Additionally, the department offers competitive scholarships for development and travel.

2025/2026 SEASON

Hedda Gabler, by Henrik Ibsen, world premiere adaptation by Kirsten Brandt; *The Underpants* by Carl Sternheim, adapted by Steve Martin; *A Christmas Carol 1941* a play by D.W. Jacobs from the Charles Dickens; *Shorts: The Worker*: world premiere short plays by Eugenie Chan, Josephina Lopez, Amanda Schaar, Kartina Wong, Maya Malan-Gonzalez, and Lisa Marie Rollins; *Passage* by Christopher Chen, a co-production with A Public Fit Theatre; *Giants Have Us In Their Books* by Jose Rivera



Longstreet Theatre
1300 Greene St,
Columbia, SC 29208
(803) 777-5208

sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/theatre_and_dance/theatre/index.php

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MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 7, Directing: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of South Carolina offers an MFA in theatre with an emphasis in acting, directing, and lighting, costume, or scenic design, so you can achieve the highest degree possible in theatre design or performance. The MFA is a three-year, intensive program of study designed to provide professional-grade training with hands-on production-based work and collaboration with professional faculty and visiting artists. Each student's program of study is tailored to align with the student's professional goals and past education and experience in anticipation of completing a thesis project at the conclusion of study. In the third year, students complete a professional internship in their area of study while continuing to receive university financial support.

The MFA in Acting at the University of South Carolina provides comprehensive physical, vocal, and imaginative preparation for working as a professional in theatre or film. The MFA in Scenic Design offers a unique hands-on approach to learning the art of scenography, which balances high quality production work with rigorous studio and academic study. The MFA in Costume Design is designed to provide professional-grade training in the areas of costume, hair, and makeup design, supported by comprehensive technology coursework. The MFA in Lighting Design is intended to broaden student competences and experiences down the multiple avenues that spring from the convergence of art, commerce and technology. The MFA in Directing prepares students with a holistic vision of the director as a leader, artist, and creator of community through a combination of coursework, mentorship, and production opportunities.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In the third year of the MFA degree, students complete a semester-long internship working at a reputable professional theatre, or other artistic organization, honing and practicing their craft. Professional internships are pursued with the assistance of faculty mentors who have connections with nationally recognized venues across the country. The University of South Carolina engages nationally/internationally reputable guest artists each year to direct mainstage productions in theatre that appear in the historic, arena-style Longstreet Theatre, Drayton Hall Theatre, a proscenium theatre, and the Lab Theatre, which is a flexible black box space.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receive an out-of-state tuition waiver upon acceptance of a graduate assistantship while enrolled in at least 12 credit hours per semester in the first and second years and 9 credit hours in the third year. The graduate assistantship includes a competitive salary, tuition supplement, and graduate student health insurance subsidy. The assistantship consists of a 16-hour work week teaching or designing for productions and supporting the needs of the department. Students work collaboratively under the guidance and mentorship of full-time faculty supervisors in their area of expertise. Selected students are also eligible for an additional departmental scholarship, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Enhancement, or a Presidential Fellowship.

2025/2026 SEASON

The Seeing Place; The Importance of Being Earnest; The Grown Ups; The Metamorphosis Project, Orlando; Antelope Party

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Kenneth Martin, Chair

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kmartin@utk.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic,
Sound

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 1, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Sound and Projection/Media: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Theatre Design at the University of Tennessee is a three-year, 60-credit program that combines rigorous artistic training with professional production experience. Students concentrate in scenic, costume, lighting, or sound design, working closely with faculty mentors to develop their craft, vision, and professional portfolios.

Graduate designers gain extensive hands-on experience through realized productions at the Clarence Brown Theatre, a professional theatre in residence at UT. This unique partnership gives students the opportunity to collaborate with faculty, staff, and guest artists on productions that meet the scale and quality of leading regional theatres.

The program is structured with no summer commitments, allowing students to pursue professional work, internships, or independent creative projects. Throughout the academic year, design studios are balanced with courses in theatre history, criticism, and theory, offering both artistic depth and academic grounding.

MFA candidates also have the chance to teach undergraduate courses or serve as teaching assistants. These opportunities strengthen communication skills and prepare graduates for future careers in higher education as well as professional design.

Professional development is central to the program. Students receive ongoing mentorship, attend conferences such as USITT, and present their work in regional and national design forums. The program's emphasis on collaboration, innovation, and community fosters a supportive environment where designers are encouraged to take creative risks.

Graduates of the MFA in Theatre Design program are well-prepared for professional careers as designers, assistant designers, and educators. Alumni of UT have gone on to successful work in regional theatres, commercial productions, film and television, and university teaching across the country.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MFA Theatre Design students at the University of Tennessee gain extensive professional experience through realized productions with the **Clarence Brown Theatre**, a LORT theatre in residence. They collaborate with faculty, staff, and guest artists on mainstage and studio productions, building portfolios that reflect professional standards. Students also develop teaching experience as instructors or assistants in undergraduate courses, preparing them for academic careers. With summers free for outside work, students often secure internships, assistantships, and design jobs nationwide. Mentorship, national conference participation, and portfolio reviews ensure graduates leave with strong professional networks and multiple industry-level credits.

FINANCIAL AID

Full tuition remission, fee remission. Assistantships that are no less than \$26,000 per year. Students are expected to work as members of the company of the Clarence Brown Theatre.

2025/2026 SEASON

Sense and Sensibility; The Harvest; A Christmas Carol; Cabaret; The Royale; You Can't Take it With You

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Scott Magelssen, Chair

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SCHOOL OF DRAMA
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting
Design/Technology
Costume, Lighting, Scenic
Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Design/Technology: 6, Directing: 0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Design (3-year program, No summer enrollment, 95 credits)

The three-year Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Washington School of Drama in Seattle brings together set, costume, lighting, and multi-disciplinary artists to train in wide-ranging design for theater and performance. The heart of this program is a commitment to storytelling, collaboration, and community.

Within the design department, all students take classes in set, costume, lighting, and sound design as well as text analysis, dramaturgy, and figure drawing. Discipline specific design courses include fabric identification, drafting, and advanced lighting design. MFA actors, directors, and designers take classes together on collaborative, generative, and devised storytelling.

Relationships built in these classes fuel creative work in our classroom, on our stages, and beyond. Students design alongside faculty, alumni, and guest artists on creative teams supported by our professionally staffed scenic, costume, lighting, and sound shops. We prepare designers to work in the industry as it currently exists and train artists capable of broadening the field by proposing new forms of art making.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Design faculty work in Seattle and beyond and regularly bring on MFA students to assist or sit or observe with us in tech and rehearsals. We maintain close connections with the vibrant theater community in Seattle as well as our national Alumni network. Professional guest artists often visit class, teach workshops, and work on our productions.

Spring quarter of their second-year, students explore the professional field through an internship working with designers, directors, companies, or other artistic pursuits. Previous internships have included event design, opera, architectural lighting, concerts, theme parks, tv and film.

FINANCIAL AID

Students are offered a combination of support in the following areas: production shop assistantships and teaching assistantships (these include a monthly stipend, tuition waiver, and insurance), and fellowships that carry a monthly stipend and a non-resident differential, which waives the out-of-state portion of tuition. Some fellowships include insurance. For quarters in which students are offered an academic student employee assignment (staff assistantship or teaching assistantship position), these assignments include tuition waiver for the quarter, a stipend and insurance. Every spring, the School of Drama awards scholarships to current undergraduate and graduate students for the next academic year. Award amounts vary.

2025/2026 SEASON

OMNIA Break Room – Devised production; *They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay!* By Dario Fo; *The Seagull* By Anton Chekhov; *Bunny* By Hannah Moscovich; *Everybody* By Branden Jacobs Jenkins; *Producing Artists Labs* – The Producing Artists Lab is an opportunity for us to share some of these exciting exploratory or developmental projects with the public. Audience members may see a wider range in the levels of production and often more vigorous artistic risk-taking in these Lab productions; *New Works Festival* – featuring works by Drama students and others in the UW community

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Michael Barnes, Chair

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Detroit, MI 48201

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theatreanddance.wayne.edu

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Lighting: Matt Taylor, matt.taylor@wayne.edu

Scenic: Sarah Pearline, sarah.pearline@wayne.edu

Costume: Erin Routh-Smith, erinrouthsmith@wayne.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6, Costume: 2. Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Theatre at Wayne State University is a three-year, intensive program that prepares students for professional careers in acting, scenic design, costume design, and lighting design. As a terminal degree, the MFA provides advanced training through a balance of coursework, studio practice, and extensive production experience in the Hilberry Gateway, a state-of-the-art multi-venue performing arts center that includes two theatres, a full complement of production support studios (scenery, costumes and lighting), and state-of-the-art technology.

Students work closely with faculty mentors and guest artists, collaborating on a wide range of productions that sharpen artistic skills while building professional portfolios. The program emphasizes both creative growth and applied practice, encouraging students to develop their unique artistic voice while mastering the technical and collaborative skills required in the industry.

Located in the heart of Detroit's vibrant arts scene, Wayne State's MFA in Theatre connects students to a dynamic professional community, equipping graduates with the expertise and experience to thrive as artists, designers, and educators.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MFA Theatre students at Wayne State enjoy outstanding professional opportunities both on and off campus. In addition to collaborating with faculty on external projects, students gain access to leading theatres such as Detroit Public Theatre, Detroit Repertory Theatre, The Purple Rose, The Inspired Acting Company, Plowshares Theatre Company, Planet Ant Theatre. Students also attend major touring productions at local venues and work alongside guest directors, choreographers, and other professionals, building invaluable industry connections and real-world experience that prepare them for successful careers in theatre.

FINANCIAL AID

All admitted graduate students receive a full tuition waiver as part of their assistantship. All admitted graduate students receive an assistantship that includes a full tuition waiver, stipend of \$23,750.00, and access to medical, vision and dental insurance.

2025/2026 SEASON

The Play That Goes Wrong; Seven Guitars; Violet; December Dance Concert; Julius Caesar; To Sangana, Dance Workshop; Paradise Lost; The Spongebob Musical; Spring Dance

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Joshua Williamson, Director

School of Theatre & Dance
1436 Evansdale Drive, PO Box 6111
Canady Creative Arts Center
Morgantown, WV 26506
(304) 293-6806
theatre.wvu.edu

Contacts:

radhica.ganapathy@mail.wvu.edu
steven.neuenschwander@mail.wvu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Through a partnership with West Virginia Public Theatre, graduate actors interact with professionals from the professional theatre world. WVPT produces 4-5 productions a year with 2-3 Actors Equity contracts per show. A significant and accomplished guest artist, including actors, designers, directors, and technicians, will join the School of Theatre & Dance for at least one production a year. These guest artists in residence interact with the MFA students both in rehearsal and in the classroom/studio. For design/tech students, the School will pay for your registration at SETC and/or USITT for three years to take advantage.

FINANCIAL AID

All MFA students are offered a Graduate Teaching Assistantship package that includes a full waiver of university tuition, stipend of \$15,000, and health insurance. The teaching stipend of \$15,000 is paid over 9 months. Graduate Teaching Assistantships offer student real-world teaching experience in the fundamental levels for our BA and BFA theatre majors. This is approximately 20/week. GTAs work under the direct mentorship of our senior faculty.

2025/2026 SEASON

Theater Season: *Luna Gale, Dracula, Amour, Sueño, Something Rotten*

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

*Significant MFA design/technology participation in the dance season.

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



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY – MEMBER IN PROGRESS

Thomas Shorrock, Professor

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MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

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RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 10, Costume: 2-4, Lighting: 0, Scenic: 0, Technical Direction: 2-4

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MFA in Performance is a 2-year, 60 credit program that includes 2 summers working on our Festival Rep productions. In addition to voice, speech, and movement, all students will take multiple classes in acting for the stage and acting for camera.

MFA in Technical Direction is a 2-year, 60 credit program that includes 2 summers working on our Festival Rep productions and also includes an internship.

- The MFA Costume Design track works in a collaborative, production-focused environment. Students in Costume Design develop strong conceptual and rendering skills, grounded in historical research, fabric knowledge, and digital design techniques, while integrating creative artistry with practical construction methods.
- The MFA Technical Direction track emphasizes advanced problem-solving, drafting, and project management for live performance production. Students gain hands-on experience with evolving technologies in scene automation, materials, and computer-aided design, preparing them for leadership roles in regional, educational, and professional theatres.

All graduate students will have the opportunity to work with our resident, professional, theatre company, Theatre Lab. All graduate students receive a full-tuition waiver and monetary stipend. Most students will receive teaching experience.

FAU has 3 performance spaces including a 450-seat proscenium theatre, a 150-seat black box, and a 50-seat black box with a large LED wall. FAU is also home to the resident, professional theatre company, Theatre Lab, that is dedicated exclusively to the development of new work.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to working with our resident, professional company, Theatre Lab, many students have the opportunity to meet and work with local industry professionals and companies through the close ties many of our faculty have with these outside organizations.

Frequently, FAU brings guest artists to campus for masterclasses and workshops.

FINANCIAL AID

Full tuition waiver for all credits taken. Each student will receive an annual assistantship stipend of approximately \$11,500. Students are required to work for the department for 20hours/week (a 5-hour/week "credit" is given to all students for rehearsal). There are other scholarships in various dollar amounts available.

2025/2026 SEASON

Tartuffe by Moliere; *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan; *The Tempest* by Shakespeare; *By Any Other Name* by Deborah Zoe Laufer and Daniel Green; The two summer productions have not yet been selected but, typically, include one musical and one non-musical play.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA – MEMBER IN PROGRESS

Michael Wainstein, Chair



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MFA PROGRAMS
Acting

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RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 10

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA Acting Track is a NAST-accredited pre-professional actor training program. Through intensive practical and theoretical classwork and production experience, students are prepared physically and vocally as artists to succeed in this demanding profession.

The first two years are spent on campus in classes and performing in [Theatre UCF productions](#). MFA Theatre students will serve as Graduate Teaching Assistants in the first and second years, and some will have the opportunity to be instructor or record for undergraduate classes in year two. The third year is spent as a resident company member at [Orlando Shakes](#) where students perform in mainstage and theatre for young audience productions, teach, study and assist with the operations of the theatre.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The third year is spent as a resident company member at [Orlando Shakes](#) where students perform in mainstage and theatre for young audience productions, teach, study and assist with the operations of the theatre.

FINANCIAL AID

Full tuition remission, health insurance and an assistantship are offered. \$10,000 annual payment for assistantship. One \$5,000 Provost's fellowship for one student in their first year. Students are responsible for paying student fees, and handling their own housing.

2025/2026 SEASON

Current Season: *River Bride; Urinetown; Vanya, Masha, Sonya and Spike; One Man, Two Guv'ners; The Bacchae; Legally Blonde; New Play Festival*

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 & 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.

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, Accepted.

SARAH NASH GATES AWARD

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



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