

URTA



**Catalog of Guest Programs at the
2027 URTA Auditions & Interviews**

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



Lighting&Sound
America



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

ATLANTIC ACTING SCHOOL

ATLANTIC ACTING SCHOOL

Atlantic Acting School
76 9th Ave Suite 313
New York, NY 10011
www.atlanticactingschool.org

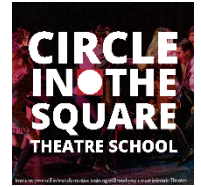
Programs offered: Conservatory

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

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

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

CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE THEATRE SCHOOL



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

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact: Jeffrey Sundheim, Director of Student Affairs, jsundheim@circlesquare.org

Recruiting in:	Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
Positions Available:	Info to come
Financial Assistance:	You can apply for financial Aid and we have a need based scholarship you can apply for. With the need based scholarship, you can receive anywhere from \$1000 to a full scholarship.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	Our faculty are actively working in the industry; either as directors, producers, actors, choreographers etc. They are your network when you arrive and continue to be as you leave. Along with your cohort, you grow and learn together and become a community that will outlive your time at Circle.
Program:	Our actor training connects emotional truth with the power of imagination, cultivating artists with strong technique who will be prepared to thrive in all storytelling platforms. We commit to an inclusive, diverse curriculum and culture, honoring our student's uniqueness while challenging them to expand their perspectives and advance their craft. Our program is rigorous. We want to help you become the best artist you can be, in the heart of where artistry can be found in New York City. We here at Circle want you to: Embrace who you are. And Become the artist you can be.

EUGENE O'NEILL THEATER CENTER'S NATIONAL THEATER INSTITUTE

Eugene O'Neill Theater Center
305 Great Neck Rd.
Waterford, CT 06385

www.nationaltheaterinstitute.org



Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:

Rachel Kelsey, Program Representative &
Admissions Manager, ntirep@theoneill.org

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

Positions Available: 30

Financial Assistance: The O'Neill endeavors to ensure access and opportunity for students regardless of economic circumstance. Available Scholarships: Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Scholarship, Hendel Family Foundation Scholarship, John Gore Scholarship, Miranda Family Scholarship, Ron Cowen & Daniel Lipman Scholarship. Priority Application Incentives: Those who apply early to their program of interest are eligible for \$500-\$2,500 off their program fee. Payment Plans (Student Installation Payments): The program fee broken into four equal payments to be made by the student or financially responsible party monthly. Exceptions and extended payment plans may be granted by written agreement between the O'Neill and student.
<https://www.nationaltheaterinstitute.org/financialaid>
www.nationaltheaterinstitute.org/fees

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: All O'Neill educational training programs are taught by industry working theater professionals. Some previous and current faculty/guest artists include (but are not limited to): Madeline Barker, Christopher Bayes, Chris Bell, Adam Bock, Lizzy Brooks, Tatyana Marie-Carlo, Richard Digby Day, Adrian Einspanier, Sara Farrington, Kolton Harris, Raja Feather Kelly, Melissa Kievman, Tom Kitt, Kimberly Marable, Forrest McClendon, Brian McManamon, Kym Moore, Scott Murphy, Kevin Newbury, Matt Newton, Donna Di Novelli, Robert O'Hara, Eric Ruffin, Ren Dara Santiago, Erica Schmidt, Aimée Steele, Caitlin Sullivan, Marya Ursin, Malik Work, Max Yu, etc.

Program: Founded in 1970, the O'Neill's educational programs provide credit-earning training across multiple theatrical disciplines. We believe that students can best learn their craft from working theater professionals who provide practical training and skill building for a long life in the profession. The training environment is a simulacrum to a professional schedule, allowing students to build habits and discover the ways in which they work best. The key to our educational experience is the realization of theory through practice, where artists are challenged, nurtured, and supported by faculty mentors.

National Theater Institute (NTI) Semester: Led by Rachel Jett, NTI Artistic Director, the NTI Semester offers 13 weeks of immersive theater training where you'll be encouraged to join the O'Neill's longstanding legacy of creative risk-taking and bold collaboration. Focuses: Performance (20 Credit Hours), Directing (16 Credit Hours), & Playwriting (16 Credit Hours).

National Music Theater Institute (NMTI) Semester: Led by Alexander Gemignani, NMTI Artistic Director, the NMTI semester offers 13 weeks of intensive training led by industry professionals to master the skills, confidence, and creative insight needed to thrive in professional musical theater.

Theatermakers Summer Intensive: Led by Rachel Jett, Theatermakers Artistic Director, the Theatermakers Summer Intensive program provides six weeks of rigorous theater training and the opportunity to create new work alongside the O'Neill's renowned developmental conferences. Focuses: Acting (8 Credit Hours), Directing (8 Credit Hours), & Playwriting (8 Credit Hours)

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

GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING (UNIVERSITY OF SURREY)



Guildford School of Acting
Stag Hill Campus
Guildford, Surrey
GU2 7XH, UK
www.gsauk.org

Programs offered: MFA, MA

Contact:
gsaenquiries@gsa.surrey.ac.uk

Recruiting in:	Philadelphia, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
Positions Available:	Info to come
Financial Assistance:	The Guildford School of Acting is part of the University of Surrey and benefits from a range of scholarships and bursaries that students can apply for, including the £5000 International Excellence Award, a number of £1000 bursaries and other scholarships that are targeted at GSA students. Each year, GSA awards over 70 scholarships and bursaries. Learn more: https://gsauk.org/funding/scholarships-and-bursaries Headshot Photography Bursary by the Association of Professional Headshot Photographers (APHP). Mayflower Theatre Higher Education Bursary Scheme. Learn more: https://gsauk.org/funding/other-financial-support
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	GSA maintains strong industry connections with both the West End and the wider UK creative industries. Our students benefit from working with current industry professionals through practical collaborations, professional development and rehearsal sessions, and masterclasses led by leading creatives in their field. At the end of the course, students present a showcase of work that engages major UK casting directors, agents, and directors. This event also provides valuable material for showreels and professional portfolios, supporting their transition into the industry.
Program:	GSA is one of the UK's leading drama schools, with over 90 years of excellence, GSA offers world-class actor training in a welcoming, globally minded environment. Our MA and MFA programs provide intensive, practice-based training in a conservatoire-style setting, supported by the academic resources of the University of Surrey. International students benefit from small cohort sizes, personalised mentorship, and expert faculty with deep industry experience. Our staff are active professionals who bring real-world insights and connections into the classroom. You'll develop a full range of performance skills; voice, movement, text, improvisation, screen acting, and rehearsal techniques, through project-based learning. Public productions, screen projects, and an industry showcase connect you directly with UK casting directors, agents, and creatives. GSA alumni work across the globe, from the West End and Broadway to Apple TV, Netflix, BBC, HBO, and more. Many have gone on to win Olivier, BAFTA, and Academy Awards. At GSA, we encourage a supportive, inclusive environment where you can grow artistically, build your network, and prepare for a successful international career, take risks, and grow. GSA is one of the leading schools for postgraduate study in the UK with MA Acting, MFA Acting, MA Musical Theatre, MFA Musical Theatre and MA Stage and Production Management. As part of the University of Surrey, you'll train in state-of-the-art facilities and enjoy access to a vibrant campus community. GSA is ranked 1st in the UK for drama and music (Daily Mail University Guide 2026) and 3rd for dance, drama, and cinematics (Complete University Guide 2026). Guildford School of Acting achieved a 90.3% satisfaction score for teaching quality and 90.7% for academic support in the National Student Survey, highlighting our commitment to excellence in both education and student care. https://gsauk.org/study-with-us/postgraduate-programmes

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF THEATRE, MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



Manchester School of Theatre
Manchester Metropolitan University
Grosvenor East Building
Cavendish Street
Manchester
England, UK
M15 6BG
mmu.ac.uk/theatre

Programs offered: Conservatory, MA

Contact:
Professor Anna McNamara,
a.mcnamara@mmu.ac.uk

Recruiting in: Chicago, Philadelphia

Positions Available: 10

Financial Assistance: Manchester Metropolitan University offers a range of financial support opportunities to help international students manage the cost of studying in the UK. These include international scholarships, tuition fee discounts, and country-specific awards designed to recognise academic achievement and potential. Students may also benefit from flexible payment plans that allow tuition fees to be paid in instalments. Additionally, MMU provides access to budgeting advice, financial wellbeing resources, and guidance on managing living costs in Manchester, one of the UK's most affordable major student cities, helping students focus on achieving their academic and career goals. www.mmu.ac.uk/study/international

Teaching/Professional Opportunities: Manchester School of Theatre is a founding member of the Federation of Drama Schools (FDS), reflecting our commitment to the highest quality professional training in the UK. Students benefit from regular engagement with industry professionals, including guest artists and practitioners, and gain opportunities to develop their professional networks throughout their studies. Our graduates are eligible for both Equity and Spotlight membership, providing valuable access to industry representation, casting opportunities, and professional support as they begin their careers in the performing arts.

Program: The Manchester School of Theatre at MMU, offers an exceptional environment for aspiring actors and performance professionals. Situated in the heart of Manchester's dynamic cultural quarter, the Manchester School of Theatre provides rigorous, industry-focused training delivered by experienced practitioners and academics. Students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities, strong partnerships with leading organisations, and a curriculum designed to foster creative and professional growth. Our MA Acting programme is a one-year intensive conservatoire, practice-led training designed to refine and extend students' acting skills through advanced work in voice, movement, text, performance creation, and screen acting. Students engage in rigorous studio-based learning, while developing the critical and reflective practices expected at this level of training. A strong emphasis is placed on professional preparation, independent artistic enquiry, and sustainable career development within the contemporary creative industries. Our students undertake a carefully scaffolded programme of advanced actor training through five core practical modules focused on skills development, application through several public performance opportunities, and professional development. Learning progresses from the refinement of technique towards public performance, industry engagement, and independent practice-based research. Proudly named for two consecutive years by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide as Modern University of the Year 2026 and 2027, choosing Manchester Metropolitan University means becoming part of a globally connected community in Manchester, a thriving international city that offers exceptional education, unrivalled creative and cultural experiences, and a supportive environment for students from around the world. With a distinguished and well-established reputation for producing award-winning graduates who excel across stages, screens, and contemporary performance for over 50 years, the Manchester School of Theatre is committed to enabling, elevating and empowering the next generation of artists and innovators.

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

MARY BALDWIN INSTITUTION



Mary Baldwin Institution
101 E Frederick St,
Staunton, VA 24401
www.marybaldwin.edu

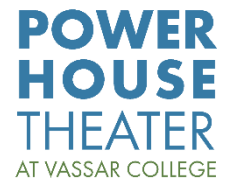
Programs offered: MA, MFA

Contact:
Dr. Matt Davies, Professor and co-Program
Director, mdavies@marybaldwin.edu

Recruiting in:	Chicago, Philadelphia, Live-Virtual
Positions Available:	Info to come
Financial Assistance:	The S&P program offers merit scholarships (available to all), graduate fellowships (awarded), work study positions (6-12 hours p/w), graduate assistantships (university level), American Shakespeare Center internships (professional development). MFA students can apply for graduate teaching fellowships in the Mary Baldwin undergraduate. The S&P program has moved from a per-credit hour to a flat-rate tuition model, which allows students to "overload" elective courses, with the approval of their academic advisor, at no extra cost.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	MFA students can apply for graduate teaching fellowships paid as tuition reduction (maximum one class per semester) in the Mary Baldwin University undergraduate English and Theatre Departments. M.Litt. and graduating MFA students are encouraged to audition/interview for professional internships at our educational partner institution, the American Shakespeare Center at the Blackfriars Playhouse. Internships are offered in acting (understudy fellowships), assistant directing, costuming and props, and box office and marketing, and education.
Program:	Working in close partnership with the American Shakespeare Center, Mary Baldwin University's unique three-year MLitt/MFA in Shakespeare and Performance (S&P) offers a radical approach to training for the classically focused theatre maker in the new economy. Built on the cornerstones of collaboration, multi-disciplinarity, and entrepreneurial self-determination, our Renaissance pedagogy offers a double degree program that marries classical rhetorical training with contemporary physical practices and professional pragmatism. Anchored in the liberal arts tradition, the two-year Master of Letters (MLitt) blends practicum and scholastic classes on Shakespeare and his contemporaries within the broader context of production histories, performance practices, and critical studies. Final-year MFA students work within a Renaissance company model to select, develop, write about, and stage a season of five or six early modern and early modern-inflected shows that respond to social concerns and the needs of local communities. During the year-long, immersive program, company members hone skills within their primary and secondary concentrations - from acting and directing to marketing and costuming - and, in the process, prepare themselves for today's dynamic job market.

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

POWERHOUSE THEATER AT VASSAR COLLEGE



Powerhouse Theater at Vassar College
124 Raymond Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York 12604
www.vassar.edu/powerhouse/training-program

Programs offered: Conservatory

Contact:
Ed Cheetham, Producing Director,
powerhouse@vassar.edu

Recruiting in:	Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
Positions Available:	Info to come
Financial Assistance:	To encourage access to this community, the Powerhouse program makes available financial aid to applicants based on need. To apply for limited financial assistance, please include the following at the time of application: 1. A personal statement, detailing your and/or your family's current financial situation. 2. Supporting documentation from your academic institution or the US Department of Education, such as a FAFSA report.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	N/A
Program:	For five weeks every summer the Powerhouse Theater comes to life on the Vassar College campus to provide a nurturing environment for both students and professional practitioners to learn from one another. The Powerhouse Theater Training Program provides aspiring theater professionals a chance to immerse themselves in the study of acting, directing, or playwriting. The Training Company also offers free performances throughout the season. The Professional Season produces developmental workshops of plays, musicals, and readings of works-in-progress.

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

RANDOLPH COLLEGE

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



Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Stephanie Holladay Earl
Director of MFA Theatre & Artistic Director-
Endstation Theatre Company
searl@randolphcollege.edu

Ally Farzetta
Assistant MFA Director
afarzetta@randolphcollege.edu

Recruiting in: Atlanta, Live-Virtual, Fullerton

Positions Available: Info to come

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCAD (SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN)



SCAD
P.O. Box 2072
Savannah, GA 31402
www.scad.edu

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Scott Woodyard, Senior Assistant Director of
Graduate Admission: swoodyar@scad.edu

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

Positions Available: No cap

Financial Assistance: Scholarships available for graduate students in addition to Federal Financial Aid
<https://www.scad.edu/admission/financial-aid-and-scholarships/scholarships>

Students may use application promo code to waive application fee: URTA 2027

Federal Financial Aid
<https://www.scad.edu/admission/financial-aid-and-scholarships>

Teaching/Professional
Opportunities: N/A

Program: Looking for your starring role? In SCAD production studios and theaters, acting students perform in sitcoms, films, plays, musicals, TV shows, and immersive themed experiences, or find jobs in professional productions via the SCAD Casting Office. Through it all, students are led by professors with impressive credentials — accomplished actors, directors, and casting directors at major studios and networks — and connect with iconic Hollywood stars at SCAD signature events celebrating the best of film, television, and streaming each year. SCAD is one of The Hollywood Reporter's "Top 25 Undergraduate Drama Schools" and is the only university selected in all five of its academic program rankings. Learn more at scad.edu/acting.

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

STELLA ADLER STUDIO OF ACTING



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

Programs offered: Conservatory

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

Contact:
Ryan Chittaphong, Director of Artistic and
Student Engagement
ryan@stellaadler.com

Recruiting in:	Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
Positions Available:	Info to come
Financial Assistance:	A limited number of scholarships are available in various award amounts. Work study becomes available after the first year of study. Payment plans are also available. Tuition for the professional conservatory programs range from \$7500-\$10,500 per semester. There are two semesters in one year.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	Teaching Artist training is a possible option through the studio's robust Arts Justice Division. Upon graduation, actors interested in a career in teaching can become teaching assistants and shadow instructors. The studio also provides a program to train theater educators in Stella Adler's acting technique to incorporate into their curriculum. Professional opportunities include an industry showcase distributed to 3000+ industry guests in NYC and LA, a demo reel, one-on-one sessions with agents, managers and casting directors, and in-house auditions for various theater companies.
Program:	The Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City and its sister school, the Art of Acting Studio in Los Angeles, are holding auditions for their acclaimed Professional Conservatory programs. These include the immersive 3-Year Conservatory, Evening Conservatory, and LA Conservatory-rigorous training alternatives to traditional MFA programs, designed for actors committed to a complete, industry-focused education in film, television, and stage. Since 1949, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting has developed generations of groundbreaking American actors, earning a reputation as one of New York City's most vibrant cultural institutions. Guided by the mission to foster theater artists who place humanity at the center of their craft, the Studio also provides meaningful arts and educational programming to the wider community. Since 2010, the Studio's tradition of excellence has expanded to Los Angeles with the Art of Acting Studio. Across both locations, legendary actors such as Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro, Elaine Stritch, and Warren Beatty have honed their skills under the Studio's guidance. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the Stella Adler Studio of Acting and Art of Acting Studio stand as beacons for serious actors pursuing their passion and potential.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



SCHOOL OF
THEATRE & DANCE

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

School of Theatre & Dance
Box 42061
2812 18th Street
Lubbock, TX 79409-2061
depts.ttu.edu/theatre-dance

Programs offered: MA, MFA

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

Recruiting in:	Chicago
Positions Available:	10
Financial Assistance:	Assistantships with tuition waiver, fellowships, and scholarships.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	Students have the opportunity to teach our undergraduate students by their second year as Instructor of Record.

Faculty who teach in the Performance & Pedagogy program are nationally and internationally recognized scholars and creative artists who maintain active practices. Students often work with faculty on meaningful opportunities, such as organizing an international conference, attending significant performance training experiences, or assisting with research and creative activity.

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

The Performance & Pedagogy program attracts students who are looking for a graduate education that allows them to balance their passion for theatremaking with their interest in scholarship and teaching. Unlike MFA programs or conservatories that focus on a single discipline (e.g., training in acting or directing), the Performance & Pedagogy program prepares our students for careers in academic theatre and the field through a wide range of learning experiences. For example, through thoughtful use of elective credits, students have found ways to include studies in specialized interests relevant to their research. A robust production season and abundant extracurricular and student-led activities provide multiple avenues to get involved.

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

THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS



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

Programs offered: MA

Contact:
Ryan Duncan, Head of International Recruitment
& Marketing, r.duncan@lipa.ac.uk

Recruiting in:	Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Live-Virtual, Fullerton
Positions Available:	Info to come
Financial Assistance:	The cost of training in the UK is often significantly cheaper than the US - partly because graduate school is typically one year - rather than two - in duration. Tuition fees are typically around \$29,000 USD (subject to the exchange rate). In addition to this we recommend around a further £28,000 USD for all living costs. Liverpool is a very student orientated, and therefore relatively cheap city to live in as student - significantly cheaper than London or major US cities such as New York or LA. We are able to authorise US Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) and Sallie Mae loans.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	You will experience an intensive rehearsal, technical and production process, as you embark upon a fully supported production with technical crew, set, costume, lighting, and sound design to a public audience. Working with a professional director to further develop creative and technical skills within a professionally simulated production environment, you continue to develop an acute understanding of the industry standards required of the contemporary professional creative artist. The industry showcase provides an opportunity to present yourself to an invited audience of agents, casting directors and creative organisations in London and Manchester.
Program:	The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) is internationally renowned for our high calibre university-level training in performing and creative arts. Our intensive and highly practical one year MA Acting course (taking just 20 to 22 students per year) will enable you to develop and enhance your acting skills to a professional level by studying in our creative and collaborative community. You will hone and develop your acting techniques by using a variety of practitioner approaches and techniques across stage, screen, movement, and voice. To extend your range of technical performance skills you will experiment with contemporary stage and screen texts and classical texts. Course highlights include: • Cultivate your specialised practise in professional performance, • Get industry ready through a series of masterclasses and mock auditions, • Work with practising professionals including casting directors, talent agents and theatre and film directors, • Graduate with a professional voice reel, showreel and experience an industry showcase. Collaborating with leading industry professionals, you will generate a live public production, plus a digital portfolio and industry showcase. A final practical research project allows you to interrogate and focus upon an area of the creative industries to deepen your knowledge and engagement as you embark upon your professional career. MA Acting sits within LIPA's School of Performance - home to over 400 students training across Foundation, Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses across Acting, Dance and Musical Theatre. Alongside the School of Performance are the School of Music and the School of Creative Technologies, Design & Enterprise allowing students to collaborate on fully realised productions and performances for a truly unique experience.

The following program is recruiting at the 2027 URTAs. Updated information to come.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

2002 Bryce Main
200 Bryce Lawn Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
theatredance.ua.edu/graduate/mfa-in-theatre

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Info to come

Recruiting in:	Atlanta
Positions Available:	Info to come
Financial Assistance:	Info to come
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	Info to come
Program:	Info to come

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON + ALLEY THEATRE



3351 Cullen Blvd
Houston, TX 77204
uh.edu/kgmca/sotd/degrees-programs/areas-of-study/acting.php#mfa-acting

Programs offered: MFA

Contact:
Adam Noble, Associate Professor of Acting &
Movement, Head of MFA Acting
asnoble@central.uh.edu

Recruiting in:	Chicago, Philadelphia
Positions Available:	8
Financial Assistance:	MFA Acting candidates receive a full tuition waiver for their education, as well as a teaching stipend each year. Most of our students graduate without federal loans or student debt. Houston still resides below the national average for cost of living, which affords students the opportunity to live simply on their teaching stipend. The full tuition waiver allows students to focus on earning their degree, rather than earning for their degree.
Teaching/Professional Opportunities:	MFA Acting candidates serve as Teaching Assistants for large, foundational Theatre courses; limited opportunities are also available for students to be instructors of record or TAs for Acting, Voice & Speech, and/or Stage Combat courses.
Program:	The University of Houston + Alley Theatre MFA <i>Professional Actor Training Program</i> is an immersive three-year program designed to prepare actors for work at leading regional theatres and in major commercial markets around the country. Two years of intensive training housed within the University of Houston culminates in a year in residence at the prestigious Alley Theatre, our partners in this new, innovative MFA program. The combination of intensive studio training, diverse production experience, and professional networking launches our graduates into the industry like no other program available.

ABOUT URTA

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

URTA has grown to include many programs and services, all working toward that same goal. Whether it's 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, as listed below. 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.

AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

For 50 years, the American College Theatre Festival has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. ACTF is a natural partner with URTA and to underscore our overlapping missions, URTA provides Candidate Awards to the following qualified ACTF 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 ACTF national festival.

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 Theatre 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 instructors, coaches, mentors, and their respective institutions for excellence in the training and preparation of undergraduate theatre artists. URTA recognizes a number of individual instructors/coaches for their mentorship of candidates attending the URTAs in Acting and Design/Technology. Recipients are selected by teams of adjudicators, based on a review of candidates' materials and preparedness at the URTAs. URTA also recognizes two institutions annually, one in Acting and one in Design/Technology. Each institution receives a Candidate Award for a student attending the following year's URTA Auditions & Interviews.



URTA 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 the URTAs recruiting events in their discipline. The first/earliest dates that offers may be extended for each recruiting discipline are:

- Acting: February 15, 2027 (12:00 am Eastern Time)
- Design/Technology: February 1, 2027 (12:00 am Eastern Time)
- Directing, Stage Management, Arts Leadership: January 18, 2027 (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 1, 2027 (12:00 am Eastern Time)
- Design & Technology: February 15, 2027 (12:00 am Eastern Time)
- Directing/Stage Management/Arts Leadership: February 1, 2027 (12:00 am Eastern Time)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

RECRUITING FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS

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

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

APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSING FEES

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



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URTA 2027 Catalog of Guest Recruiters

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