



University Resident Theatre Association

Directory of Member Training Programs

2026-2027

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAMS

Boston University – School of Theatre	1
Brooklyn College	2
California Institute of the Arts	3
California State University, Fullerton	4
California State University, Long Beach	5
Case Western Reserve University	6
Drama Studio London	7
East 15 Acting School	8
Florida Atlantic University	9
Florida State University / Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training	10
Illinois State University	11
Indiana University Bloomington	12
Kent State University	13
Louisiana State University	14
Michigan State University	15
Northern Illinois University	16
Northwestern University	17
Ohio University	18
Purdue University	19
San Diego State University	20
Southern Methodist University - Meadows School of the Arts	21
Temple University	22
Texas State University	23
The Ohio State University	24
The Pennsylvania State University	25
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	26
The University of Texas at Austin	27
University of Alberta	28
University of California, Irvine	29
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	30
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music	31
University of Connecticut	32
University of Florida	33
University of Georgia	34
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	35
University of Iowa	36
University of Maryland	37
University of Minnesota	38
University of Missouri-Kansas City	39
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	40
University of Nevada, Las Vegas	41
University of South Carolina	42
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	43
University of Washington	44
Wayne State University	45
West Virginia University	46

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.

Shakespeare Theatre Company Academy	47
University of Central Florida	48

ABOUT URTA	49-50
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OFFER/ACCEPTANCE POLICY	51-52
-------------------------	-------

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America



BOSTON UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Kirsten Greenidge, Director

855 Commonwealth Avenue
Suite 470

Boston, MA 02215

(617) 353-3390

bu.edu/cfa/theatre/

Contacts:

Director of Admissions: Matthew Lupulio,
mlupulio@bu.edu

Costume Design Program Head: Olivera Gajic,
ogajic@bu.edu

Costume Production Program Head: Nancy Leary,
nlleary@bu.edu

Scene Design Faculty: Jon Savage, jcsavage@bu.edu

Sound Design Staff: Ben Sigda, bsigda@bu.edu

Technical Production Program Head: Joel Brandwine,
joelab@bu.edu

Lighting Program Head: Jorge Arroyo, arroyo@bu.edu

Directing Program Head: Wendy Goldberg,
wcg@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

BU School of Theatre offers 60-credit MFA degrees within a two-year degree timeline. Our program focuses on theatre collaboration by fostering inclusive and accessible forms of theatrical creation for the next generation of artists. Our course offerings intentionally strengthen the understanding of theatre as a holistic creation across the disciplines of design, directing, production and management.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All faculty within the School of Theatre are working professionals outside of BU. Students receive individualized mentorship, career planning, and growth and development sessions with their program heads and other faculty members, in addition to regular professional guest artists.

FINANCIAL AID

BU School of Theatre provides all MFA students with scholarships covering the full cost of the 2-year program. BU School of Theatre provides a \$4,500/ year stipend as well as an assistantship that pays around \$3,000/ year.

2026/2027 SEASON

Everybody by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins Vinkensport; *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window* by Lorraine Hansberry; *Violet*, based on the *Ugly Pilgrim* by Doris Betts; *Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Algeria Hudes; *Peerless* by Jiehae Park; *Aurora Borealis: A Festival of Light*; *Le Nozze Di Figaro*; *Sensitive Guys* by MJ Kaufman; *Watch on the Rhine* by Lillian Hellman; *The Old Man & the Old Moon* by PigPen Theatre Co.; *The Rape of Lucretia*

Full season available here: <https://www.bu.edu/cfa/theatre/season/>

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

BROOKLYN COLLEGE



Dr. Laura Tesman, Chair

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

Contact:
Kip Marsh, kmarsh@brooklyn.cuny.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting
Arts Leadership
Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic
Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Info to come

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, LAByrnth Theater Company, Lincoln Center, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, The Tank Theater, Signature Theater Company, The Movement Studio of NYC, SoHo Rep

FINANCIAL AID

There are limited need based tuition waivers available for Graduate students. 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

24700 McBean Pkwy
Valencia, CA 91355
(800) 545-2787
calarts.edu/theater

Contact:
Stacia Marcum, smarcum@calarts.edu



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

The School of Theater 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 metiers, 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 developing the versatility to succeed in a variety of arenas. Theater students are especially encouraged to build professional experiences and relationships while in school, mining every opportunity for them to create effective careers after graduation. The CalArts Center for New Performance, the Institute's professional producing arm, embodies the school's firm commitment to open exactly such possibilities for talented, ambitious students. Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programs are 3 years in length, incorporate a summer break, and require a minimum of 60 credit units to graduate. To further customize their degree, students can pursue MFA "concentrations" (which is essentially a minor) in areas such as integrated media and arts education.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The CalArts School of Theater bridges academic training and professional careers through hands-on industry initiatives. Key programs include the Center for New Performance (CNP), which lets students collaborate with international artists, and specialized tracks in experience design and themed entertainment featuring partnerships with companies like Walt Disney Imagineering. Students gain direct industry exposure through annual events like the Portfolio Review, Actors Showcase, and international showcases at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Additionally, global partnerships and study abroad programs, such as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, provide vital networking, internships, and employment opportunities worldwide.

FINANCIAL AID

CalArts offers graduate financial assistance through institutional, merit-based, need-based, and endowed scholarships to support diverse artistic voices. Funding options may include teaching assistantships, campus employment, and federal aid via the FAFSA. Selection is managed by individual school faculty. Read more on our website: <https://calarts.edu/financial-aid/aid-graduate-students/scholarships>. Graduate students do not qualify for state or federal assistance grants. However, domestic students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may qualify for Federal Work-Study or Federal Unsubsidized Loans. Apply at studentaid.gov using CalArts school code 001132.

2026/2027 SEASON

Improv Show, Directed by Jeff Michalski; *Ubu Roi*, By Alfred Jarry; *Caligula*, By Albert Camus; *Yerma*, By Federico García Lorca; *Three Sisters*, By Anton Chekov; *Agamemnon*, By Aeschylus; *Arcadia*, By Tom Stoppard; *No Exit*, By Jean-Paul Sartre; *Agamemnon Workshop*, By Aeschylus; *Université Côte d'Azur (UniCA) Workshop*, Lead Artist: Hubert Crabieres; Graduating Actor Showcase; XDP Portfolio Review

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

Kathryn Wilson, Department Chair

CSU Fullerton, Department of Theatre and Dance
P.O. Box 34080

Fullerton, CA 92834-9480

(917) 543-0018

fullerton.edu/arts/theatre

Contacts:

Costume Design: Hyun Sook Kim,

hyunskim@fullerton.edu

Lighting Design: Scott Bolman, sbolman@fullerton.edu

Set & Props Design: Fred Kinney, fkinney@fullerton.edu

Sound Design: Hunter Moody, mmoody@Fullerton.edu

Technical Direction: JR Luker, jrluker@Fullerton.edu

Video/Projection/Media Design: Omar Ramos,

omramos@Fullerton.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

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

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 1-2, Lighting: 1-2, Projection/Media: 1, Props: 0, Scenic: 0, Sound: 1, Technical Direction: 1-2, Directing: 0

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 \$14,800 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 a participant in Disney's Aspire program. More information at: <https://www.fullerton.edu/scholarships/scholarships>. In-state tuition is only \$9,576 per year. We are often able to offer in-state tuition even for students who are not California residents.

2026/2027 SEASON

A Monster Calls by Adam Peck, Patrick Ness, and Siobhan Dowd (Physical/Devised); *In the Heights* music/lyrics by Lin Manuel Miranda, book by Quiara Alegria Hudes (Musical); *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (Theater); Opera Scenes (Opera); Fall Dance (Dance); *Blood at the Root* by Dominique Morisseau (Theater); *Anything Goes* by Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse, music by Cole Porter (Musical); *Il Postino* by Daniel Catán (Opera); Spring Dance (Dance)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Ezra LeBank, Department Chair

CSULB Theatre Arts
1250 Bellflower Blvd
Administrative Office TA-221
Long Beach, CA 90840
(562) 985-1533
csulb.edu/theatre-arts



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH
Theatre Arts

MFA PROGRAMS
Arts Leadership

Contacts:

Randall.Belyea@csulb.edu

MFA/MBA: Jeff.Janisheski@csulb.edu

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.

2026/2027 SEASON

*Everybody; Anti-Hero; Revenge of the Sw*fties; The War of the Worlds; The Miser; Wolf Play; Laughs in Spanish; bobrauschenbergamerica; one more production to be announced in November 2026*

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Donald Carrier, Director of the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program

CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program
1901 E13th St, Suite 200
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216) 400-7019
clevelandplayhouse.com/mfa

Contact:
dcc55@case.edu
casemfa@case.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8

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 and Professional Development classes have become important elements of the program. There are no teaching requirements and the Program does not currently run over the summer. All students must graduate with the requisite 82 Credit Hours.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

The Program provides each graduate student with complete financial support. This includes 3-year free tuition as well as a generous living stipend. Free healthcare coverage is also provided to each student in the Program. Each student receives the same stipend. Our yearly stipend is \$17,000.00 given in equal payments over the course of 9 months. There is no teaching or research work associated with the stipend but students are required to help with load-in and strike for 4 undergrad productions per year.

2026/2027 SEASON

Traditionally there are two mainstage MFA Productions each year: This fall, students will be performing in Samuel D. Hunter's *Pocatello*, directed by David Vegh. The Spring production is *Lady Windermere's Fan* by Oscar Wilde, directed by Jerrold Scott. Members of the Class of 2028 will also appear in CPH's mainstage season in *Annie* and *Brave Like My Brother*.



MFA PROGRAMS
Acting

DRAMA STUDIO LONDON

Emma Lucia Hands, Director

Grange Court
1 Grange Road
London, W5 5QNUK
+44 (20) 857-93897
dramastudiolondon.co.uk



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Contacts:

Acting: Dr Michael Fry,
michael.fry@dramastudiolondon.co.uk
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 to perform at a Dublin and US Showcase. There is the opportunity 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 strong 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 of 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 each semester. There are regular classes with casting directors and agents. Students are eligible for a number of FDA opportunities and 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 small number of bursaries and scholarships are additionally available during each year. 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>

2026/2027 SEASON

Repertory Grad Season at Riverside Studios, London: *The Government Inspector* (Nikolai Gogol), *Sex and Mistero Buffo* (Dario Fo), *The Entrance* (Gerald Durrell), *The House of Seven Gables* (Vern Thiessen), *Mary Shelly* (Helen Edmundson), *16 Possible Glimpses* (Marina Carr), *Power* (Nick Dear)

EAST 15 ACTING SCHOOL

Dr. Chris Main, Director

Hatfields Campus
Rectory Lane
Loughton, IG10 3RY
+44 (0) 208 508-5983
east15.ac.uk

Contacts:

Admissions: e15adms@essex.ac.uk
rsneller@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), fulltime, 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: A Three-week residency at Shakespeare's Globe, with a performance on the Globe stage. Five fully professionally supported public shows, including: Two shows performed in Central London theatres, A Devised studio theatre show, A solo self-penned theatre performance, All shows promoted to the Industry, Professionally produced Showreel and Voicereel, included in the MFA International Online Showcase, promoted to industry in the UK and abroad.

MFA ACTING (with Digital Media): In Year One of our newly restructured programme, students enjoy a London-based theatre training, training alongside students on the MFA Acting (International) programme, including the Globe Residency. Year Two students relocate to our Colchester 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 industry are built into the structure of our courses. All 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 include specialist workshops and meetings with casting directors and industry experts. **MFA International:** you work with professional playwrights, developing new performance texts. **MFA with Digital Media:** you work with professional voiceover artists and motion-capture directors. **MFA Directing:** you work with a 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>

2026/2027 SEASON

www.east15.ac.uk/productions-and-events

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

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Thomas Shorrock, Professor

777 Glades Rd, AH 114

Boca Raton, FL 33431

(561) 297-3810

fau.edu/artsandletters/theatre

Contact:

Elvira Figueras, efiguer1@fau.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Info to come

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.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY / ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING

Marcus Johnson, Conservatory Director

FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training
5555 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34243
(941) 360-7338
theatre.fsu.edu

Contacts:

Acting (FSU/Asolo Conservatory):
info@conservatory.fsu.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

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

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 12, Arts Leadership: info to come, Costume: info to come, Lighting: info to come, Scenic: info to come, Technical Direction: info to come, Directing: info to come

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training is a competitive, tuition free, three-year Master of Fine Arts (MFA) graduate program. The Conservatory offers an immersive program led by internationally renowned faculty and experienced industry professionals combining rigorous classroom training, guest artist workshops, and professional productions.

Initiated by Florida State University School of Theatre, the Conservatory began in Tallahassee in 1986. Five years later, the program officially moved to Sarasota to establish a permanent relationship with Asolo Repertory Theatre. The program has produced hundreds of talented actors for stage and screen throughout their 53-year partnership.

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory combines a classical academic training program with performance opportunities at Asolo Rep. Students learn alongside experienced actors, participating in performances throughout the season. In the summer of their second year, students take part in an intensive training session with master teachers and international artists at the London Study Center in the historic Bloomsbury area, also tuition free.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory combines a classical academic training program with performance opportunities at Asolo Rep. Students learn alongside experienced actors, participating in performances throughout the season. In the first-year of study, students are cast in understudy roles in the Asolo Rep season. In the third-year, students become a part of the Asolo Rep company, acting on the MainStage as well as an educational touring show.

FINANCIAL AID

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory is a tuition free program (fall and spring semesters, including the semester abroad in London). A stipend of approximately \$12,000 is provided each year (fall and spring semester). The students complete graduate assistantship hours averaging at about 14 hours per week to earn their stipend.

2026/2027 SEASON

Pronoun by Evan Placey; *You Will Get Sick* by Noah Diaz; *Caesar* adapted by Jonathan Epstein from William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*; *Tartuffe* by Molière translated by Richard Wilbur

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

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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



205 N School St
Campus Box 5700
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 438-5859
finearts.illinoisstate.edu/theatre-dance

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic
Directing

Contact:
theatre@ilstu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Info to come

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

Ansley Valentine, Chair

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

Contacts:

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



THEATRE & DRAMA

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6, Costume Design: 2, Costume Technology: 0, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 3, Technical Direction: 2, Directing: 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 Rauch Anderson and others are a regular part of department offerings. When possible, students will assist or shadow faculty on outside professional projects.

FINANCIAL AID

Full 100% waivers on: tuition, program fees, campus fees. We offer performance fellowship/graduate assistant which include 100% tuition for nonresidents and residents alike and a stipend in return for 20 hours of service each week for their three years in the program. 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.

2026/2027 SEASON

How We Got On, A Doll's House, She Loves Me, Faculty Winter Dance Concert, At First Sight New Works Festival, She Kills Monsters, Silent Sky, Crazy for You, Senior Dance B.F.A. Capstone Projects

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Tony Hardin, School Director

School of Theatre and Dance
B141 Center for the Performing Arts
Kent, OH 44242
(330) 672-2082
kent.edu/theatredance

Contacts:

Tony Hardin, ahardi14@kent.edu
Michelle Souza, msouza@kent.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program is a three-year course of study consisting of a minimum of 120 credit hours. Classes are offered in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Graduate teaching assistantships are available, allowing students to teach classes as instructor of record, assist other faculty, or work in the academic shops.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The M.F.A. Design and Technology candidate has numerous opportunities to connect with working professionals beyond the traditional academic environment. Candidates work alongside seasoned design professionals throughout the year and build a professional network vital to future career success. Through the Roe Green Visiting Director Series, connections with guest directors from important venues are forged. Internship opportunities exist with Porthouse Theatre, Northeast Ohio's premiere professional summer theatre.

FINANCIAL AID

Full tuition remission and reduced-cost health insurance (reduction of 70%) are provided. Tuition remission does not cover the cost of fees associated with tuition.

Each assistantship comes with a stipend of \$16,000 annually and is available for all three years of the program.

Teaching assistants assist faculty with instructional responsibilities or serve as the principal instructor of one or more courses.

2026/2027 SEASON

Fall: 1 musical, 1 dance concert, 1 play

Spring: 1 musical, 1 play

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



Kristin Sosnowsky, Director of the School of Theatre & Film

105 Music & Dramatic Arts Bldg
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
(225) 578-4174
lsu.edu/cmda/theatre/index.php

Contact:
nickwe@lsu.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting
Design/Technology:
Costume, Props, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6, Design/Technology: 0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Theatre (Acting) program provides rigorous physical, vocal, emotional, and critical actor training approaches. The training offers daily practice and seeks to develop the actor's body, voice, imagination, and critical thinking, all of which enables actors to live truthfully and playfully within given circumstances. Actors are encouraged to free themselves from unnecessary tensions and to be responsive to the full range of internal and external impulses for action with boldness and courage.

The program provides in-depth actor training in contemporary and classic texts with a focus in both theatre and film. The LSU School of Theatre & Film is the central home of Seven Pillars Acting, a modern and comprehensive acting technique based in Meisner and Stanislavski teachings. MFA acting students study Seven Pillars Acting in their first year and progress in their second year to focus on application skills, style, and heightened text. Graduate students may have the opportunity to earn a Seven Pillars Acting Teaching Certification.

Movement instruction is informed by techniques such as T'ai Chi, Alexander Technique, Laban, neutral mask work, stage combat, fitness training, contact improv, Viewpoints, and dance. For those interested in a unique physical specialization, the program offers aerial silk courses and workshops. Voice instruction is informed by techniques such as Knight-Thompson Speechwork, Fitzmaurice Voicework, Estill Voice Training, and classical rhetoric. Students who have an interest in voice and accent coaching often have the opportunity to serve in productions as a vocal coach or as an assistant.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The MFA acting students are the primary acting pool for Swine Palace, LSU's Equity resident theatre company, while also available to act in numerous student films.

FINANCIAL AID

The program offers assistantships of \$30,667 annually, along with a waiver of tuition, non-resident fee (if applicable), all other associated fees with enrollment (with the exception of professional program fees), and a 75% health insurance waiver. Graduate students on assistantship become half-time employees of the university, working 20 hours per week, often in a combination of teaching, production, and administrative duties. Graduate students may be required to accomplish their assistantship hours in addition to rehearsing and performing in productions and completing their academic coursework.

2026/2027 SEASON

Seasons are selected after the future cohort has been selected to ensure that every candidate will have the opportunity to perform in the season.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Deric McNish, Associate Chair of Graduate Studies

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: Alexis Black - blackal6@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/Technology: 3 total, any focus area

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Michigan State University Department of Theatre offers fully funded three-year MFAs in Acting and Design within a major research university of more than 50,000 students in Michigan's capital city. Graduate assistantships cover full tuition and provide a competitive stipend for teaching, with additional opportunities for summer funding.

We are uniquely focused on providing each student with a diverse mix of opportunities to grow as both a creative artist and a future educator. Our MFA in Acting recruits on a three-year cycle, with the next cohort beginning in Fall 2028; the MFA in Design recruits annually. Design students choose an area of focus while retaining the flexibility to develop skills and credentials across other areas of design. Students work and present their creative projects in one of six theatre spaces on campus, collaborate with professional partners, and have opportunities to participate in our professional summer theatre, Summer Circle Theatre. Graduates pursue careers as professional artists, educators, and higher-education faculty, carrying with them both the specialized training of an MFA and substantial experience as teachers and collaborators.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MSU maintains a collaborative partnership with an Equity Theatre - Williamston Theatre. Graduate students also 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) is provided as part of the Assistantship. Graduate Assistantship with Annual Stipend of approximately \$23,000 (increases each year), Medical and Dental Insurance provided, a Summer Support Fellowship of \$4,500 (guaranteed one-time, by application afterwards), Research/Professional Development Funding (one-time) and Travel Awards (annually).

2026/2027 SEASON

Discovery (New Musical Lab) - Wharton Center; *Midnite* - Arena Theatre; *Antigone* - Wharton Center; *Rhinoceros* - Studio 60; *MSU Unscripted* - Studio 60; *Mean Girls* - Fairchild Theatre; *The Wolves* - Wharton Center; *Sleeping Giant* - Studio 60; *Night, By Ghostlight* (MSU Creative Catalyst MFA Play Commission with University of Iowa)

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Roxanna Conner, Director of School

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

Contact:
theatreinfo@niu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not seeking students in 2027

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 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 2026-27 full-time graduate stipend was \$16,500.

2026/2027 SEASON

Fall Semester: *Men on Boats* by Jaclyn Backhaus; *Emma* by Kate Hamill; *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* by Moises Kaufman; *Fall Dance Concert* choreographed by NIU faculty and guest artists

Spring Semester: *The School of Wives* by Moliere; *Sender* by Ike Holter; *Pipeline* by Dominique Morisseau; *Spring Dance Concert* choreographed by NIU faculty and guest artists



Northern Illinois University
Your Future. Our Focus.

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Jessica Thebus, Theatre Department Chair

Department of Theatre
70 Arts Circle Dr., 5-160
Evanston IL, 60208
(847) 491-3170

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: 10, Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Directing: 3

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Acting at Northwestern University is an immersive, comprehensive, and collaborative program designed to equip students with the tools and support necessary for success in professional theatre. This fully funded two-year program focuses on intense and concentrated immersion in both the contemporary and classical canon with a keen eye on parity in representation. Candidates emerge prepared for the rigors and demands of a rapidly evolving creative economy. Find out more on our [program website](#).

The MFA in Directing program is a terminal degree based on nine quarters of full-time study, with a minimum course of three classes each quarter. We pursue this goal by guiding each director to discover, develop and apply their individual artistic voice with vision and integrity. We provide a place for this crucial introspection, supported by rigorous scholarship, a fully-funded assistantship, and intensive mentoring. We prioritize each artist's role and opportunity in a professional community. Find out more on our [program website](#).

The Masters of Fine Arts in Stage Design Program at Northwestern University exists to prepare, a select group of scenery, costume, and lighting designers for professional careers in the American Theatre, international theater and related design fields. Central to this three-year fully funded program of study is an emphasis on intensive collaboration between designers and directors, rigorous analysis of texts, thorough research and a fervent effort to nurture unique artistic voices. It is our belief that passionate, insightful artists immersed in a team-based environment, will generate bold, compelling theatrical works. Find out more on our [program website](#).

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our Acting, Directing, and Stage Design graduate students work on a variety of shows produced by the [Wirtz Center](#) on campus and, in year two and beyond, may have opportunities to work with our award winning faculty and Chicago area theatre-makers on shows outside of Northwestern. We actively engage Chicago's professional theatre community, one of the most vibrant centers for theatre-making in the world.

FINANCIAL AID

Our assistantships provide tuition coverage for three years (9 quarters) for Directors and Designers, and two years (8 quarters) for Actors. Our assistantships provide a monthly stipend for the duration of each programs' length. Directors and Designers receive 9 monthly payments, September-May for three years and Actors receive 12 monthly payments, September-August for two years. For reference, the stipend rate for the 2026-2027 AY is \$3979 per month. Graduate student mail be eligible for additional financial assistance based on need. Those request are handled by our Graduate Financial Aid Department. In addition to stipend and tuition support, our students also receive a full health insurance premium subsidy for the duration of their program when they enroll in NU-SHIP (our student health insurance program).

2026/2027 SEASON

Fall: [IMAGINE U: Grace and the Butterfly Effect](#); [She Loves Me](#); [Feeding Beatrice](#)

Winter: [Execution of Justice](#); [Vladimir](#); [Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical](#); [Danceworks 2027: My Conscience is Clear](#)

Spring: [Taming of the Shrew](#); [Our Dear Dead Drug Lord](#); [Cyrano de Bergerac](#); [Imagine U Theatre for the Very Young: In The Loop](#)

OHIO UNIVERSITY
David Haugen, Director

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

Contacts:
Brian Evans, Performance, evansb1@ohio.edu
David Russell, Production Design and Technology,
russeld1@ohio.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

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

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 12, Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Props: 2, Scenic: 2, Sound: 2, Technical Direction: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PD&T Program Description: The Production Design and Technology Program has two degree tracks: Production Design and Production Technology. Design areas include scenic, costume, lighting and sound design. Technology areas include technical direction, costume technology/crafts, and props technology. The program is structured to allow specialization and to encourage dual-area interests. We provide theater-based skills that are applicable to many industries and art forms. With a graduate population of 15-20 design and technology students, classes tend to be small and intense, so students get a lot of individual attention and mentoring. 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.

Acting Program Description: Graduating MFA Actors from Ohio University are well-rounded and skillful with a distinct, personal approach to the craft of acting. In the first year, the acting studio utilizes Meisner Technique with rigorous emphasis on the authentic use of self, the reality of doing, and the awakening of the emotional life. Movement work develops strength, alignment, body/mind connection and expressivity. Fitzmaurice Voicework and Knight-Thompson Speechwork are studied. The second year focuses on creating complex characters through the application of the first-year foundation. The movement studio explores the psychophysical connection and the embodiment of text. Accents and dialects are applied in voice and speech courses. Students take skills proficiency tests offered with the Society of American Fight Directors. Third-year studies include ensemble and solo devised work, audition technique, and acting for the camera. Specialized areas of speech include heightened language and voiceover.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Tantrum Theater is a professional company and serves as a training ground providing apprenticeships for students in the School of Theater. Our students have the opportunity to work alongside professional directors, performers, designers, and technicians. Actors in Tantrum productions receive credit towards AEA membership and participate in workshops and discussions with guest professionals. Our Production Design and Technology program regularly places students in theaters for summer/academic breaks. Graduation requires internship at professional venues across the country, including major regional theaters like Santa Fe Opera and Utah Shakespeare Festival.

FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students receive a full tuition remission.
Full Stipend \$5,618 and Full Tuition Waiver \$4,094, requires approximately 15-20 hours/week (Acting and PD&T).
Half Stipend \$2,809 and Full Tuition Waiver \$4,094, requires approximately 8-10 hours/week (PD&T).
<https://www.ohio.edu/fine-arts/theater/graduate/financial-aid>

2026/2027 SEASON

Real Girls Can't Win; Working; Peter and the Starcatcher; Ubu the King; Cabaret; Three Sisters; TartuffeNation; Present Laughter

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:

Beth Daugherty, bbessler@purdue.edu



Department of Theatre and Dance

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound, Technical
Direction

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

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. Assistantships include a stipend of \$23,000, tuition waiver, and affordable healthcare options.

2026/2027 SEASON

The Hunchback Of Seville, by Charise Castro Smith; *Pride & Prejudice*, by Jane Austen, adapted by Deanna Jent; *Amélie*, Book by Craig Lucas, Music by Daniel Messé, Lyrics by Nathan Tysen and Daniel Messé; *Neighborhood 3: Requisition Of Doom*, by Jennifer Haley

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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



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

MFA PROGRAMS

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

Contact:

Anne E. McMills, amcmills@sdsu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

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 beyond is an important element of the program. Southern California is proud to be the home of some of the most prestigious 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, Universal Studios, and the Hollywood film industry – 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 and Production Design, Costume Design and Technology, Lighting Design, and Technical Direction. Our curriculum spans theatre, television and film, themed entertainment, immersive design, and many other areas of the entertainment industry. 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. Additionally, students are required to participate in an outside professional experience, often working as an assistant to a professional designer or in a television or film studio. Professional guest directors from Southern California consistently work with our students in class on design projects or on mainstage productions. SDSU partners with three professional theatres in San Diego (including The Old Globe) 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 then auto-matches eligible applicants to applicable scholarships for award consideration.

2026/2027 SEASON

The Wild Party; Book, Music, and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa, Based on the poem by Joseph Moncure March; 100th Season Gala Opening Night; *The Maids*; By Jean Genet; *An Exciting New Broadway Comedy!*; *Seussical*; *Theatre For Young Audiences Version*; Music by Stephen Flaherty, Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, Based on the Works of Dr. Suess; *King Lear*; By William Shakespeare

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY – MEADOWS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Blake Hackler, Chair and Head of Acting



SMU Division of Theater
6101 Bishop Boulevard Room 1164
Dallas, Texas 75275

smu.edu/meadows/areasofstudy/theatre/graduatestudies

Contacts:

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

Design: Sarah Brown - sbbrown@smu.edu; Steve Woods - steve@smu.edu

Admissions: Mikaela Brooks - mbrooks@smu.edu

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Design/Technology: 3

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 opportunities for a Brierley Resident Acting Company residency. Students also perform at leading local theaters, including Shakespeare Dallas, Undermain, Theatre Three, Fair Assembly, and Second Thought Theatre, gaining exposure across the Dallas/Fort Worth theater community. MFA Design students assist at DTC, Kitchen Dog, Trinity Shakespeare, and Dallas Opera, as well as nationally at venues including La Jolla Playhouse, Guthrie, Williamstown, Public Theater, Old Globe, and Ars Nova, building professional experience, artistic growth, and networks.

FINANCIAL AID

All students at SMU receive a full tuition waiver. In addition, students receive a living stipend of \$20,000 per year. Students also receive health-care coverage.

2026/2027 SEASON

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, adapted by Christopher Sergel; *Orlando* by Sarah Ruhl, adapted from the novel by Virginia Woolf; *Something Wicked* — an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* by Sasha Maya Ada; *A House That Will Not Stand* by Marcus Gardley; *Our Lady of 121st Street* by Stephen Adly Guirgis; *Witch* by Jen Silverman; *27/27/27* — a co-production of new dance works with the Division of Dance

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Fred M Duer, Chair

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

Contact:

Scenic and Costume Design: Fred M Duer
fmduer@temple.edu

Lighting and Projection Design: Jason Norris,
jason.norris@temple.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic
Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 1, Lighting/Projection: 2, Scenic: 0, 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/projections 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, 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 draping and drafting, drawing and rendering, projection design, model making and design for TV & film. Starting in your first year, and continuing 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 stipend for work in the respective shops - scenic, lighting, and costume.

2026/2027 SEASON

Macbeth, Alice By Heart, Giulio Cesar, Triangle, Imaginary Invalid, Der Vampyr, The New Voices Festival, and Urinetown

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Theatre, Dance & Film

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

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 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 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, or some combination thereof.

FINANCIAL AID

Texas State University provides scholarships which cover all tuition costs and fees for the students in our MFA Directing and MFA Design programs. Qualified students also 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>

2026/2027 SEASON

All My Sons by Arthur Miller; *Deep Blue Sound* by Abe Koogler; *Primary Trust* by Eboni Booth; *Mean Girls* by Tina Fey, Nell Benjamin, and Jeff Richmond; *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen adapted by MFA Directing candidate Megan Codling; *School Girls or The African Mean Girl Play* by Jocelyn Bioh, *Mystic Pizza* by Sandy Rustin and various artists, *A New Brain* by William Finn and James Lapine.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. E.J. Westlake, Chair

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

Contact:
theatreandfilm@osu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Theatre is a three-year program (64–65 credits) emphasizing professional training in scene, costume, lighting, or media design. Our program is dedicated to artistic and scholarly 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 Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design, the Wexner Center for the Arts, the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library, and Historic Costume and Textiles Collection, and in Columbus, such as the King Arts Complex, The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, and the Lincoln Theatre. Graduate teaching associates gain practical experience working in our studios. Our program runs during the academic year (August - May) and offers some teaching opportunities for those interested in teaching.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Graduate students engage with the profession in a variety of ways designed to complement students' educational and professional goals. Our visiting artists series invites guest artists and scholars from many backgrounds and specialties to present lectures and participate in artistic residencies. In recent years our students have collaborated on design teams led by professional guest directors and worked alongside professional artisans in our production studios. Off-campus, with faculty guidance and support, students connect with professional organizations around Columbus including The Contemporary Theatre, Columbus Opera, Weathervane Playhouse, and Columbus Children's Theatre.

FINANCIAL AID

Our graduate associate financial package includes full instructional and general fees (\$14,365) and non-resident fees (\$31,191). Our graduate associates work 20 hours/week in our studios and receive a 9-month stipend of \$26,073. We guarantee funding for three years as long as they are meeting program requirements and remain in good academic standing. Graduate students are also able to apply for funding to support professional development including attending conferences and workshops. www.theatreandfilm.osu.edu/gradstudies/financial-assistance

2026/2027 SEASON

Dead Man's Cell Phone by Sarah Ruhl; *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde; *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare; *The Bedridden Prince* adapted by Mandy Fox



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES

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

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Kikora Franklin, Director

School of Theatre, Penn State

116 Theatre Building

477 Allen Road

University Park, PA 16802814

(814) 865-7586

arts.psu.edu/academics/school-of-theatre/

Contact:

Dan Robinson - dir2@psu.edu - general inquiries;

Milagros Ponce de Leon - mxp62@psu.edu - Scenic Design

Richare St Clair - rhs18@psu.edu - Costume Design

Laura Robinson - lkr13@psu.edu - Costume Production

Christine O'Grady Roberts - christineogradyroberts@psu.edu



PennState
College of Arts
and Architecture

MFA PROGRAMS

Directing

Design/Technology:

Costume, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Directing: 2, 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 \$25,000+ 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.

2026/2027 SEASON

Fall: *Sister Act*, *The Wolves*, *Tyrants*

Spring: *Guys and Dolls*, Penn State Centre Stage Theatre Festival, *Noises Off*

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Kathy Hunter-Williams, Department Chair

120 Country Club Rd, CB #3230
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 962-1132
drama.unc.edu

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

Acting: 6, Costume: 0, Scenic: 0

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 where 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 the Master of Fine Arts degree in Technical Production is to train the candidate for a career in corporate, regional, or educational Theater. The three-year program is organized to prepare the candidate to assume responsibility for the entire production process from technical drawings through strike. This is achieved through classes and modules that include training in AutoCAD, construction, structural design, metalworking processes, rigging, electronics, mechanical systems and shop management. PlayMakers Repertory Company, a professional Equity theater and a member of the League of Resident Theaters, is affiliated with the Department of Dramatic Art. The candidate's work with the PRC shop is an integral part of the training. The candidate participates as if they are a member of the professional staff of PRC. <https://drama.unc.edu/programs-of-study/graduate-studies/technical-production-mfa>. (Costume Technology and Technical Production do not recruit through URTA).

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY (Vivienne Benesch, Producing Artistic Director) is a nationally regarded LORT theatre in residence at UNCCH with a resident company of actors, directors, designers, and acclaimed costume and technical production teams. While in residence all MFA students work directly on productions as part of their training. Actors have opportunities to play leading, supporting, and ensemble roles alongside professional artists. They work with established directors on classical, contemporary and new works. PlayMakers occasionally produces a Mobile Unit that tours the campus and neighboring area. In their final year actors are paired with a professional mentor.

FINANCIAL AID

Most MFA candidates receive Teaching Assistantships for all or most of their time in the program. Assistantships come with Tuition Remission, Graduate Student Health Insurance, and a competitive stipend. Full tuition remission all three years requires students to gain North Carolina residency by their second year. Teaching Assistants aid professors with grading papers and proctoring exams. In the second and third years of study they may be listed as Teach of Record for an undergraduate course. Each program also has one Research Assistantship awarded to a second- or third-year student. Research assignments vary. The University and Graduate School may have other needs-based forms of scholarship and we often have one or two available merit-based scholarships.

2026/2027 SEASON

PlayMakers Repertory Company: *Oedipus/King Colonus; Angry, Raucous and Shamelessly Gorgeous; Our Town; The Piano Lesson; John Proctor is a Villain; 39 Steps*. **PlayMakers Mobile Unit:** A devised project exploring themes of mental health.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Dr. Peter Carpenter, Chair

The University of Texas at Austin
The Department of Theatre and Dance
300 East 23rd Street, Stop D3900
Austin, Texas 78712
(512) 471-5793

theatredance.utexas.edu

Contacts:

mhabeck@austin.utexas.edu

kjsanchez@austin.utexas.edu



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

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 real-world opportunities to develop foundational skills and techniques 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 between performance and technology and leans into creating 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 year 1 graduate students through TA appointments, tuition remission (in-state for all candidates), and scholarships to cover year 1 tuition and course costs. Year 2 & 3 50% appointments include increased tuition reductions and health insurance. Scholarships are offered to all Live Design and Production and Directing Graduate students. TA and work appointments, Scholarships, and tuition reductions are offered for all 3 years. The program endeavors to assist students with program-related travel funds when available. We encourage all students to fill out the FAFSA. We award scholarships to all students accepted into the program.

2026/2027 SEASON

UT Theatre and Dance: The Miraculous Story of Edward Tulane, *The Visit*, *Pulse*, *UTNT UT New Theatre* (4 original plays by student playwrights), *Equinox*, *UT Cohen New Works Festival*; Studio Series: Titles will be announced throughout the Season; Butler Opera Center Collaborations: *I Capuletie I Montecchi*, *Ainadmar*, *Falstaff*, *Song Re-Imagined*

Contacts:

Directing: Melanie Dreyer-Lude: dreyerlu@ualberta.ca

Design: Guido Tondino gtondino@ualberta.ca

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Design/Technology: 2-4, 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 small studio exercises 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 MFA 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 fall of the third year. We also offer 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.

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. Although international tuition is higher than domestic tuition at the University of Alberta, the costs are reasonable when compared with institutions of a similar caliber in the USA. Reasonable tuition prices, coupled with financial aid, make these programs quite affordable.

2026/2027 SEASON

Studio Theatre: 1) Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen, October 8 - 17, 2026; 2) The Extractionist by Michaela Jeffrey, December 3 - 12, 2026; 3) Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare, February 4 - 13, 2027; 4) Unity (1918) by Kevin Kerr, April 1 - 10, 2027; We also offer four smaller stage productions and two undergraduate productions over the course of the season.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Joel Veenstra, Professor & Chair of Drama

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

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: 0, Directing: 0, Costume: 0, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Sound: 2, 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.

2026/2027 SEASON

Continuity; Titanic: The Musical; Machines Like Me; Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812; Clowns & Masks; The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)



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

Info to come

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)

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE – CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Rebecca Bromels, Division Head, Division Head

Division of Theatre Arts, Production, and Arts
P.O. Box 210003
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0003
(513) 556-5803
ccm.uc.edu

Contact:
Deborah Neiheisel-DeZarn, Program Manager
dezarnidl@ucmail.uc.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Props, Scenic, Sound
Arts Leadership (MA)
Stage Management

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Info to come

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.

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>

2026/2027 SEASON

Fall 2026 productions of *Brigadoon in Concert* (Musical Theatre); *Intimate Apparel* (Acting); *LaBoheme* (Opera); *Rent* (Musical Theatre); *Student Choreography Showcase* (Dance); *Carrie*, a collaboration with Musical Theatre and The Carnegie Theatre in Covington, KY; *Fall Danceworks* (Dance); and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, a collaboration with The Mercantile Library of Cincinnati. **Spring 2027 productions include** *Much Ado* (Acting); *Spring Danceworks* (Dance); *Cabaret* (Musical Theatre), and *Ariadne* (Opera). Please see <https://ccmonstage.universitytickets.com/> for more details on the 2026-2027 CCM Season.

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

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

Info to come

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 Pavilion

1800 McCarty Dr.

Gainesville, FL 32611

(352) 273-0500

arts.ufl.edu/programs-schools/school-of-theatre-dance

Contact:

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



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA degrees challenge and focus the advanced artist-scholar through professionally oriented exploration in the classroom, studio, and in a public production/performance. They require full-time extensive sequential study, preparing students for professional practice in theatre, film, television, and live entertainment. 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 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

54 of 60 credit hours are waived by the University. Most MFA students are supported by a 9-month graduate assistantship. Additional scholarship opportunities and graduate travel for conference presentation is also offered every year.

2026/2027 SEASON

Fall: *She Kills Monsters*, *Rent*, *Agbedidi* (West African & African Diasporic Dance)

Spring: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Fedra*, *Queen of Haiti*, *Spring Into Dance* (various dance styles)

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

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

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Info to come

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.

2025/2026 SEASON

Fall: *Constellations; Guys and Dolls*

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



**Department of
Theatre and Film**
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Andrew Freeman, Professor and Head

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

Contacts:
theatre@illinois.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

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

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume Design: 1-2, Costume Technology: 1-2, Lighting: 1-2, Projection/Media: 1-2, Props: 1,
Scenic Design: 1-2, Scenic Technology: 1-2, Sound: 1-2, Technical Direction: 1-2, Stage Management: 1-2

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 three years depending on funding. Assistantships of 25% or higher come with a full tuition waiver for three years and monthly stipend. Fellowships and scholarships are separate requests from area chairs of the Graduate College. Assistantships of 25% or higher comes with a full tuition waiver for the three-year program and a monthly stipend. There are some scholarships available for creative research and students can apply for those by contacting their area chair.

2026/2027 SEASON

Daniel J. Sullivan Artists-in-Residence Third Rail Immersive Theatre Workshop; Fairview; Sense and Sensibility; Third Rail Projects: There's a Ghost in Everything; Pippin; Julius Caesar

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Mary Beth Easley, Chair

200 N. Riverside Drive
107 TB
Iowa City, IA 52242
(319) 335-2700
theatre.uiowa.edu

Contacts:

Paul Kalina, Head of Acting, paul-kalina@uiowa.edu
Jason Simms, Head of Design, jason-simms@uiowa.edu
Mary Beth Easley, Head of Directing mary-easley@uiowa.edu
Melissa Turner, Head of Stage Management, melissa-turner@uiowa.edu
theatre@uiowa.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

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

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8, Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Directing: 0, 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 \$11,600 to \$23,300. There is no tuition charge; most fees are covered. All students are on assistantships or full scholarships. Scholarships are available from \$1,500 to \$5,000, with one of \$18,500.

2026/2027 SEASON

The Government Inspector, 16 Winters or a Bear's Tale, to the yellow house, Urinetown the Musical, Untitled Devised Project; New Play Festival; 18 gallery/workshop productions, mostly new plays.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Amith Chandrashaker, Head of Graduate Design

8270 Alumni Dr. Room 2745
College Park MD 20742
USA

(301) 405-6643

tdps.umd.edu/academic-programs/mfa-design

Contacts:

Ivania Stack, Costume Design, istack1@umd.edu

Mikhail Kachman, Scenic Design, mkachman@umd.edu

Kelly Colburn, Media Design, colburnk@umd.edu

Andrew Cissna, Head of Design, acissna@umd.edu



SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, & PERFORMANCE STUDIES

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MFA in Theatre Design is a three-year program with concentrations in costume, scenic, lighting, and multimedia/projections. The program prepares students to enter the professional theatre industry and teach in programs at colleges and universities.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students benefit from the knowledge and professional practice of faculty alongside on-campus and off-campus opportunities for creative activity, and access to Washington, DC, a world-class cultural hub home to nationally renowned venues and artists.

FINANCIAL AID

We provide Graduate Assistantships with full tuition remission. Students are able to apply for financial aid.

2026/2027 SEASON

Mr Burns, a Post Electric Play; Fall Dance Thesis Concert; A Raisin in the Sun; Spring Dance Thesis Concert; A Monster Calls; The Wolves; The Rape of Lucretia; Iolantha; Gianni Schicchi

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Michal Kobialka, Department Chair

Theatre Arts & Dance
540 Rarig Center
330-21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-6699
cla.umn.edu/theatre

Contacts:

Fred Kennedy, fkennedy@umn.edu
Brandon Wardell, bwardell@umn.edu
Matthew LeFebvre, lefeb001@umn.edu

Department of
Theatre Arts & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MFA PROGRAMS

Design/Technology:
Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Costume: 1, Lighting: 1, Scenic: 1, Sound: 0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Anchored in the Twin Cities theatre hub, the Design & Technology at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities program trains global artists and makers of tomorrow. The Master of Fine Arts in Design & Technology is awarded to students who explore challenges in the areas of scenic, costume, lighting and sound design, and technology with an emphasis in at least one of these areas. It is a rigorous program based on the belief that designers must have a solid understanding of each area of design to communicate and collaborate with designers, technicians, and directors. We believe that technology is an integral tool of design. Designers must also have strong craft skills to understand how the design functions in execution. The MFA is planned to be completed in three years with 60 credits. Financial Aid: The Assistantship Package includes a full tuition waiver, full health benefits, and a teaching assistantship with financial award. The teaching assistantship contract generally begins the last week of August and runs through the last week of May.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The UMTAD Professional Scene Shop builds scenery for Penumbra, whose mission is to illuminate the human condition through the prism of the African American experience. The University of Minnesota collaborates with the Guthrie Theater with the BFA Actor Training Program, a leading 21st-century arts organization and other theatres in the Twin Cities. The Dance Program will collaborate with theatres in the Twin Cities.

FINANCIAL AID

Theatre Arts & Dance provides up to 14 credits per semester for up to 3 years. Theatre Arts & Dance provides all MFA Design & Technology students with a paid 20 hour per week teaching assistantship. Occasionally Theatre Arts & Dance may offer scholarships.

2026/2027 SEASON

Please see the Theatre Arts & Dance website for the full 2026-2027 Production Season:
<https://cla.umn.edu/theatre/performances-tickets>

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - KANSAS CITY

Dr. Collin Vorbeck, Interim Chair

4949 Cherry St
Kansas City, MO 64110
(816) 235-5222
conservatory.umkc.edu

Contact:

Chair of Division: cvorbeck@umkc.edu

Scenic: Jeremy E. Smith, jsxhm@umkc.edu

Costumes: Daniella Toscano, dtbrr@umkc.edu

Lighting: Joshua E. Taylor, joshua.taylor@umkc.edu

Sound: Nihan Yesil, yesil@umkc.edu

Stage Management: Lisa Anderson Bongers,
landersonbongers@umkc.edu

Acting: Carla Noack, noackca@umkc.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Sound

Stage Management

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 2, Sound: 2, Stage Management: 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Division of Theatre in the UMKC Conservatory provides a comprehensive theatre education that integrates critical inquiry with creative training supported by a wide range of production opportunities with the Conservatory, and in partnership with local professional theatres.

Our 3-year, 60 CH MFA curricula in Acting, Design, Technology, and Management prioritize studio-based learning and technique-driven classroom experiences that support risk-taking, problem solving, and experimentation. Professional partnerships with nationally recognized theatres provide graduate students with a city-wide campus for enriching their artistic output. Our curricular and assistantship models allow students to engage with undergraduates, peers, faculty mentors, and local industry professionals to hone and expand their craft.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our MFA program includes mandatory 3rd-year partnerships with one of our local professional partners. Scholarship and assistantship details for MFA programs can be found here: <https://conservatory.umkc.edu/admissions/scholarships-and-assistantships.html>. Scholarship dollars are not need-based nor merit-based.

FINANCIAL AID

MFA Assistantships include Tuition Waivers for up to 60CH.

2026/2027 SEASON

Working - Stephen Schwartz, Nina Faso, Studs Terkel; *Corners Grove* - Kaela Mae-Shing Garvin; *Passage* - Christopher Chen; *The Winter's Tale* - William Shakespeare; *Failure: A Love Story* - Philip Dawkins

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

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

Contacts:

jdmadsen@unl.edu
michelle.harvey@unl.edu
jbullins@unl.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Info to come

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 Pkwy
MS 5036,
Las Vegas, NV 89154
(702) 895-3666
unlv.edu/theatre

Contacts:

Lighting: Christina Watanabe,
christina.watanabe@unlv.edu; Stage Management: M.
William Shiner, mwilliam.shiner@unlv.edu; Costume:
Judy Ryerson, judy.ryerson@unlv.edu; Design/Tech:
David Shouse, david.shouse@unlv.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

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

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 0, Costume: 2, Lighting: 2, Scenic: 0, Technical Direction: 4, Stage Management: 2

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 proactive 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.

2026/2027 SEASON

Big Love; The Inspector General; It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play; How to Defend Yourself; A Pair of Shorts: The Future; Clue.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Stephanie Milling, Department Chair

Longstreet Theatre
1300 Greene St,
Columbia, SC 29208
(803) 777-0768

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

Contacts:

Stephanie Milling, Chair: smilling@mailbox.sc.edu
Amy Lehman, Director of Graduate Studies for Theatre:
lehmana@mailbox.sc.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

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. The graduate experience includes a competitive assistantship, tuition supplement, and 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.

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. Selected students are also eligible for an additional departmental scholarship, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Enhancement, Presidential Fellowship, or a Trustee Fellowship.

sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/tuition-funding/assistantships/

2026/2027 SEASON

Witch, The Courage to Right a Woman's Wrongs, Stick Fly, The Little Prince



Theatre and Dance

McCausland College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting
Design/Technology
Costume, Lighting, Scenic
Directing

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Kenneth Martin, Chair

Department of Theatre / Clarence Brown Theatre
206 McClung Tower
1115 Volunteer Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37996
(865) 974-6011
theatre.utk.edu

Contact:
Kenneth Martin kmartin@utk.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic,
Sound

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 8, Design/Technology: not seeking students in 2027

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville offers a nationally recognized, three-year, 60-credit Master of Fine Arts in Theatre with a concentration in Acting. This year, UTK is recruiting actors for admission in Fall 2027. The program combines rigorous conservatory-style actor training with extensive professional production experience. MFA actors train in acting, voice, speech, movement, and related performance disciplines while working as members of the Clarence Brown Theatre Company, a professional LORT D Equity theatre fully integrated with the Department of Theatre. Graduate actors rehearse and perform alongside faculty artists, professional guest actors, directors, and other nationally recognized theatre artists.

The MFA is a three-year, full-time residential program requiring 60 credit hours. The program operates during the academic year and does not require summer enrollment. Students are encouraged to pursue professional opportunities during the summer, including work with partner theatres and other professional companies. All MFA actors receive Graduate Teaching Assistantships that include full tuition remission, health insurance, and an annual stipend. Assistantship responsibilities are designed to complement the professional training and may include performing and understudying in Clarence Brown Theatre productions, assisting faculty, serving as teaching assistants, and teaching undergraduate courses. Teaching responsibilities increase as students progress through the program, providing valuable experience for those interested in careers in higher education.

At UTK, professional practice is central to the training. Students study in the studio during the day and rehearse and perform professionally at night, developing the skills, discipline, and professional relationships necessary for sustainable careers across stage, screen, and emerging media.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The MFA Acting program is fully integrated with the Clarence Brown Theatre Company, a LORT D theatre located on campus. MFA actors work throughout their training alongside professional directors, designers, and members of Actors' Equity Association. Students regularly perform and understudy significant roles in the CBT's professional season, gaining experience in a working regional theatre while completing their degree. Professional guest artists are brought to campus for productions, workshops, and master classes.

FINANCIAL AID

All students admitted to the MFA Acting program receive a Graduate Teaching Assistantship that provides full tuition remission for the three-year program. Remission is guaranteed for three years, contingent upon satisfactory academic progress and fulfillment of assistantship responsibilities. All MFA students receive three years of funding, including full tuition remission, university health insurance, and an annual stipend of at least \$28,000. Assistantship duties primarily consist of professional production work with the Clarence Brown Theatre, supplemented by teaching, faculty assistance, and other academic responsibilities. Additional competitive fellowships are available. Limited competitive fellowships and scholarships are available.

2026/2027 SEASON

Dial M for Murder, Clyde's, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, A Christmas Carol, Appropriate, Indoor Cats, What the Constitution Means to Me, 9 to 5: The Musical

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SCHOOL OF DRAMA

Scott Magelssen, Chair

101 Hutchinson Hall
Box 353950
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-0714
drama.washington.edu

Contact:
Megan Gurdine Thornberry, Graduate Program Advisor,
mgurdine@uw.edu
Chi-wang Yang, Head of the MFA, cyang99@uw.edu



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting
Design/Technology
Costume, Lighting, Projection/Media, Scenic,
Sound
Directing

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 1-7, Design/Technology: 1-7 (in any focus area), Directing: 1-7

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of Washington School of Drama is launching a new graduate program: a fully funded, two-year MFA for seven artists who want to go further; a laboratory where training and rigor meet unnamed possibilities; an open space for developing your talents, exploring what's unknown, and seeing what emerges when seven ambitious artists bring their gifts into the same room. Our small MFA cohort will receive exceptional mentorship, tuition benefits and a robust monthly stipend, and production support, including access to professional shops, multiple performance venues, and access to the resources of a major research university. Instead of training actors, directors, designers, or writers separately, we're bringing seven artists together as a multidisciplinary company. You may come from theater, dance, music, visual art, or a place that doesn't quite have a name. You may have worked in established theaters or spent years making your own way. We're seeking skilled artists ready to learn; people who want to make transformative theatre in collaboration with others. The first year expands possibility through experimentation and productive disorientation. The second culminates in a thesis project that will travel to a prestigious international festival. Training includes rigorous studio classes, peer-to-peer collaborations, projects with guest artists, and techniques courses. You will work with faculty across disciplines to develop your own projects and build work collectively. Our faculty are practicing artists working across devised and generative theatre, scripted plays, physical theatre, puppetry, immersive and interactive experiences, experimental theatre, performance art, musicals, opera, hybrid genres, and beyond. Applicants from a diverse range of theater and other artistic backgrounds are encouraged to apply. The ideal candidate arrives ready to work with personal artistic goals, the maturity and skills to thrive in a fast-paced graduate environment, a radical curiosity, and a desire to transform their existing practice.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our faculty are working in Seattle and across the country and regularly bring MFA students to assist, sit in on tech and rehearsals, and collaborate on outside professional projects. Professional guest artists often visit class, teach workshops, and work on productions. To accelerate their post-graduate career launch, the final year culminates in a thesis project that will travel to a prestigious international festival. We also maintain close connections with the vibrant local theater community as well as our national alumni network.

FINANCIAL AID

Students admitted into the MFA are provided six quarters (the duration of the program) of tuition waiver. MFA students are funded through a combination of fellowships and academic student employee assignments (for example, teaching assistantships or production staff assistantships). A limited number of scholarships and fellowships are also available. In Winter quarter, continuing students will have the opportunity to apply for School of Drama scholarships for the upcoming academic year. The call for scholarship applications goes out early March. Students admitted into the two-year MFA in Drama degree program are funded for six quarters (the duration of the program). Funding includes tuition waiver and 9 months of stipend and insurance benefits for each year of the program.

2026/2027 SEASON

Phèdre by Jean Racine, Translated by Ted Hughes; *Concord Floral* by Jordan Tannahill; *Eternal Life Part 1* by Nathan Alan Davis; Producing Artists Laboratory; *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* by Dave Malloy, Adapted from War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Michael Barnes, Chair

4841 Cass Ave. Suite 3226

Detroit, MI 48201

(313) 577-3508

theatreanddance.wayne.edu

Contacts:

matt.taylor@wayne.edu (General Inquiries & Design)

cheryl.turksi@wayne.edu (Acting & Performance)



**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Design/Technology:

Costume, Lighting, Scenic

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

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

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Wayne State University's Theatre program is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in all aspects of theatre and theatre production. Having completed a rigorous fundamental sequence of courses, students are prepared to choose their path of study (acting, design and technology, stage management, theatre management, history, and dramaturgy, etc.).

The department sponsors a large number of production activities and practicum experiences including the Underground Theatre, Freedom Players, and Motor City Cabaret. Participation in these activities is available to all University students.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the program at Wayne State University benefit from professional opportunities with theatre companies throughout Detroit and Southeast Michigan. In addition, regular guest directors and choreographers are invited to collaborate with the department. Faculty with active and engaged professional creative activity also engage students regularly in their external projects.

FINANCIAL AID

Students admitted to the program receive a graduate assistantship that includes full tuition waiver, a stipend, and access to medical, dental and vision insurance.

2026/2027 SEASON

One Monkey Don't Stop No Show by Don Evans; *The Old Man and the Old Moon* with Book, Music and Lyrics by PigPen Theatre Co.; *Scrooge!* with Book, Music and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse; December Dance Concert; Company One Dance Concert; Dance BFA Capstone Concert; *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller; *Blood at the Root* by Dominique Morisseau; Dance Workshop; *HAIR - The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical* with Book and Lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado, Music by Galt MacDermot; Spring Dance Concert

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Radhica Ganapathy/Director



West Virginia University
College of Creative Arts and Media
School of Theatre & Dance
Canady Creative Arts Center
1436 Evansdale Drive
Morgantown, WV 26506-6111
(304) 293-6806
creativeartsandmedia.wvu.edu/school-of-theatre-and-dance

MFA PROGRAMS

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

Contacts:

Jessica Morgan (Head of MFA Acting):

jessica.morgan2@mail.wvu.edu

Aubrey Sirtautas (Head of Design & Technology):

aubrey.sirtautas@mail.wvu.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 6, Costume: 0, Lighting: 1, Scenic: 0, Technical Direction: 1

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our 3-year MFA programs are accredited by the National Association of the Schools of Theatre (NAST). With an emphasis on hands-on learning in a rigorous production environment, our program provides you with significant experience to develop and hone your craft.

In Acting, our conservatory-style training emphasizes risk-taking and experimentation, helping you develop as a professional artist under the mentorship of experienced core faculty and guest artists. You'll be at the heart of 5-6 main stage productions and numerous workshop projects, while also serving as a leader and mentor to undergraduates.

In Design, our training features an emphasis on the development of the production and the ability to help tell a story in a collaborative and supportive team atmosphere. Our program features small class sizes with in-depth, individualized training, and early opportunities for leadership positions. You will graduate with a significant portfolio of realized work.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

[West Virginia Public Theatre](#) is our affiliate professional theatre. West Virginia Public Theatre (WVPT) seeks to enhance the cultural environment of the state and region by providing quality professional programming and educational outreach experiences for all.

FINANCIAL AID

Assistantships are available, offering a tuition waiver, stipend, and health insurance. Opportunities are available in teaching, publicity, and branding efforts for the School of Theatre and Dance, or collaborating with West Virginia Public Theatre, our affiliate professional theatre.

2026/2027 SEASON

POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying To Keep Him Alive By Selina Fillinger; *She Loves Me* Book by Joe Masteroff, music by Jerry Bock, and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick. Based on the Play *Parfumerie* by Miklos Laszlo; *Celebration of Dance* Original choreography created and performed by students; *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare; *Dance Now!* The flagship dance production of the year, features choreography and performances by some of our dance faculty, invited guest artists and companies, and selected student work; *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer; *Disney's Frozen* Music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez; Book by Jennifer Lee Based on the Walt Disney Animation Studios' 2013 animated film *Frozen*; *Showcase of Dance* This is the closing production of the academic year and features student work in Dance.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY ACADEMY – MEMBER IN PROGRESS

Alec Wild, Program Director

516 8th St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 994-0651

academy.shakespearetheatre.org/apply

Contact:

academy@shakespearetheatre.org



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Acting: 16

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Shakespeare Theatre Company Academy for Classical Acting is a one-year Master of Fine Arts program housed at George Washington University and run in partnership with the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. The Academy is built on a simple premise: an actor who can handle Shakespeare's architecture, complexity, and emotional range can handle anything the profession throws at them. Over twelve intensive months, a cohort of 12–18 actors trains in Acting, Text & Rhetoric, Voice, Speech, Mask, Movement, and Stage Combat, engaging directly with Shakespeare as well as with writers such as Chekhov, Sophocles, and Homer.

Training and performance are deliberately intertwined. During fall and spring, students move from the studio into project work, applying technique in front of an audience while continuing daily classes. The summer term is dedicated entirely to rehearsal and performance: two full productions in rotating repertory at The Klein Theatre, offering each actor sustained, high-level practice under real repertory conditions.

The result is a 59-credit year defined by rigor, focus, and collaboration — an immersion in classical technique that prepares actors not just for Shakespeare, but for contemporary theatre, film, and the increasingly hybrid language of 21st-century performance.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FINANCIAL AID

Tuition for the full year is approximately \$51,000, divided across three academic terms. All applicants who audition and complete the GWU application are automatically considered for merit awards from the STC Academy Emerging Scholars Fund, typically ranging from \$5,000–\$15,000. We encourage candidates to research outside scholarships and loan options. The George Washington University Office of Student Financial Assistance provides guidance for federal aid, private funding, and external awards. Accepted students may also request letters of recommendation from the Academy Director to support applications for independent scholarships or grants. <https://financialaid.gwu.edu/>

2025/2026 SEASON

Winter Repertory: Two 90-minute Shakespeare adaptations performed at the conclusion of the Fall Term; *Pericles* & *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Spring Devised Project: A 75-minute devised production of a myth, folktale, or classic selected and performed by the ensemble in the middle of the Spring Term. Production TBD.

Summer Repertory: Two full-length classical productions, running over two weeks, in rotating repertory in the Klein Theatre at the conclusion of the Summer Term. Productions TBD.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA – MEMBER IN PROGRESS

Michael Wainstein, School Director

12488 Centaurus Drive
Room 255D, M119
Orlando FL 32816
(407) 823-2862
cah.ucf.edu/performingarts/theatre



MFA PROGRAMS

Acting

Contact:

Michael Wainstein, michael.wainstein@ucf.edu

RECRUITING THIS YEAR

Not seeking students in 2027

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

All third year MFA students in Acting work as resident company members at the Orlando Shakes Theatre.

FINANCIAL AID

Full tuition remission, 16k annual stipend, full health insurance coverage.

2026/2027 SEASON

The Hatmaker's Wife; Godspell; Blues for an Alabama Sky; Twelfth Night; Young Frankenstein; 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, 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, Acceptd.

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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UNIVERSITY RESIDENT THEATRE ASSOCIATION

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

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