

Department of Theatre Arts



Looking for a place to study theatre?





H.M.S. Pinafore (photo by Michael Hottois)

Table of Contents

Welcome from the Chair	1
Looking for a Community That Supports the Arts?	2
Programs of Study	3
Theatre in Production	3
Just the FAQs	4
Biographies of Our Department	6
Graduate Curriculum	
Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts (Performance Option)	8
Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts (Design and Production Option)	9
Certificate in African American Theatre	10
Undergraduate Curriculum	
Bachelor of Science in Theatre Arts	11
Career Opportunities	12
Scholarships	12
Contact Us!	12

Theatre Arts and the Liberal Arts

The Theatre Arts Department is part of the College of Arts and Sciences. Among the college's essential goals are: 1) that all students undertake research so that they experience the excitement of new knowledge and change; 2) that all students be exposed to major ethical dilemmas they will face in the world; and 3) that all students look at the world through the eyes of someone different from themselves. In the classrooms, rehearsal rooms, and shops of the Theatre Arts Department, we engage these lofty goals every day.

Welcome from the Chair

Thank you for your interest in Theatre Arts at the University of Louisville. In reading this brochure, you will learn a great deal about the faculty, curriculum, and community that are poised to enhance your growth as a theatre artist—and as a human being.



The Bacchae (photo by Stu Cox)

Creating theatre is both an enormous privilege and an eternal challenge. Theatre demands something of its audiences more valuable by far than the price of a ticket. It also demands their time. Then it raises the ante by demanding that audiences think and experience emotion. This is, literally, invaluable. It is beyond the realm of dollars and cents. The “value” of theatre consists in its ability to affect the head, heart, conscience, and consciousness of its audience.

Teaching future theatre artists and audiences is also a privilege and a challenge. Studying theatre places great demands on a student’s time—as well as on his or her head, heart, conscience, and consciousness. The Theatre Arts faculty at the University of Louisville is ready to support this process and to lead you to develop the talent you already possess.

Theatre and learning have a natural and ancient connection. *Didiscalia*, the Greek word for a theatre production, also means “a teaching.” We honor the history and traditions of this ancient art even as we nourish the lives of our current students. It is in their hands that the theatre of the future rests.

Please contact us directly if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Russell Vandenbroucke
Chair

Looking for a Community That Supports the Arts?

The University of Louisville

Since its origin in 1798, U of L has grown to become Kentucky's second largest university. With a student population exceeding 21,000, U of L offers degrees in over 175 fields of study. We invite you to visit the university and to join 1,000,000 others annually who attend educational conferences, music concerts, athletic events, exhibitions, lectures, and, of course, theatre productions sponsored by the university.

The City of Louisville and the Arts

Few cities the size of Louisville, about one million in the metropolitan area, can boast their own orchestra, resident Equity theatre, professional children's theatre, opera, ballet, and Shakespeare festival. Louisville can. Actors Theatre of Louisville is home of the Humana Festival of New American Plays, the most important new play festival in America. The Kentucky Center for the Arts presents the work of Louisville's own performing arts groups on its three stages and is also home to shows touring the country and the world.

The Department of Theatre Arts

Dating to the founding of the University Dramatic Club in 1923, the Department of Theatre Arts is committed to the development of its students as human beings and to nurturing their apprenticeship as theatre artists. The department fosters creativity, collaboration, discipline, and artistic growth. It embraces the theatre as a means of creative expression, cultural understanding, and social development.

The department trains students in the fine art of theatre — voice, movement, scene study, and design — and also teaches the historical and literary context of the theatre as a humanist and liberal art. All students participate in the diversity of multicultural theatre.

The African American Theatre Program

Founded in 1993, the African American Theatre Program is integral to the Theatre Arts Department. It develops theatre artists trained in the traditions of African American theatre and contributes to the multicultural arts movement. The AATP includes two Mainstage productions each year, community service and touring, and nine courses for graduate and undergraduate students. Undergraduates can earn a minor in African American Theatre or Cultural Performance. The minor in African American theatre is unique among American universities. A certificate in African American theatre for graduate students was inaugurated in 2002.

Programs of Study

Undergraduate

Bachelor of Science

Allows students to pursue intense study of theatre within a liberal arts college.

Three minors are also available: in Theatre Arts; in African American Theatre; and in Cultural Performance (in conjunction with the Pan African Studies Department).

Graduate

Master of Fine Arts

Emphasizes training in acting/performance or design/production in a rigorous professional program.

Certificate in African American Theatre

Open to post-baccalaureate students and students pursuing graduate degrees in theatre and other fields (e.g. Education).

Theatre in Production

Opportunities for students to learn theatre by making it include:

Mainstage Series

Annual season of fully-produced shows directed by faculty or guest artists and designed by faculty, guest artists, or advanced students. Students may audition for all productions. The repertoire includes classics, contemporary plays, and musical theatre.

Studio Theatre

Student produced, directed, acted, designed, and managed work that emphasizes the play and performance over production values. The repertoire includes one-act plays, lesser known works, and new material.

Juneteenth Festival of New Works

Annual celebration of new writing through staged readings and a playwriting contest sponsored by the African American Theatre Program.

Repertory Company

Tours culturally-diverse classic, folk, and modern plays to local schools.

Facilities

Playhouse, 345-seat proscenium.

Thrust Theatre, 164-seat thrust theatre.

Just the FAQs!

Q: Do I have to audition to enter the Theatre Arts department?

A: It depends.

Undergraduates only need to be accepted to the College of Arts and Sciences to study in the department.

Prospective graduate students in Performance must audition on campus or at selected regional sites. Prospective graduate students in Production and Design must present their portfolio. Contact the Director of Graduate Studies for further information.

Q: What degrees are offered?

A: B.S. for undergraduate students. M.F.A. for graduate students.

Q: How many productions are staged annually?

A: Five or six in the Mainstage series of full productions, four to six in the Studio series, two Rep Company shows touring local schools, and six to eight staged readings of new American plays in the annual Juneteenth Festival of New Works.

Q: How are plays cast?

A: Auditions are open to our entire community. Parts are not pre-cast except for thesis roles of graduating M.F.A. students.



Costume fitting for *The Illusion* (photo by Michael Hottois)

Q: What about working behind the scenes?

A: There are usually more opportunities off stage than on — which is also true of every theatre in America. Wise students learn as much as possible about every aspect of theatre through hands-on experience. If you know it,

you'll use it. In addition, a broad range of experience enhances your opportunity for future employment in theatre or other professions.

Q: Can I study part-time?

A: Yes, but this necessitates careful planning because courses rotate from semester to semester and year to year.

Q: I'm interested in technical theatre. What opportunities exist for me?

A: Across America, professional theatres face a challenge in finding qualified technicians. This is the area of theatre with the strongest prospect of immediate and continuous employment after graduation. At U of L, students have ample opportunities to work in the scenic and costume shops, in the light booth, as stage managers, house managers, box office assistants, and more. If you are interested in a specific area of theatre, you will have an opportunity to pursue it at U of L.

Q: I understand U of L was the first theatre department in America to offer a concentration in African American Theatre. What does that mean to me?

A: It means that diversity in Theatre Arts is not a buzzword but a part of daily life while learning and making theatre. All students are required to take courses that expose them to a variety of styles and traditions. In addition, undergraduates may minor in African American Theatre. Graduate students may earn a Certificate in African American Theatre either on its own or in addition to their M.F.A. degree.

Q: Can I work in theatres off campus?

A: Maybe. Making theatre requires a serious commitment of time and energy that demands more of its artists and artisans than many "jobs." Students involved in productions will have difficulty scheduling outside jobs that do not conflict with their school responsibilities. Graduate students may not work off campus without prior approval.



The Illusion (photo by Michael Hottois)

Q: What about scholarships?

A: Undergraduate scholarships are merit based and are competitive among students who have completed at least one semester as a Theatre Arts major. Scholarships range from half the value of tuition up to full tuition per semester.

A limited number of assistantships are available for selected graduate students. In return for working for the university through a combination of teaching, performing in the Rep Company, and fulfilling additional departmental responsibilities, students receive full tuition, medical insurance, and a monthly stipend during the school year. Tuition-only scholarships may also be available.

Biographies of Our Department

Garry Brown, Production Manager and Technical Director, supervises the production of scenery, properties, lighting, and sound. His work locally has been seen at Music Theatre Louisville, the Production Studio, Stage One, and the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, and he has designed lighting and built scenery throughout the Southeast and Midwest. He teaches stagecraft, lighting and sound design, welding, and technical direction. He received his M.F.A. from the University of Memphis.

Nefertiti Burton is Director of Graduate Studies and Co-Director of the African American Theatre Program. She has produced and directed for professional, university, and community theatre. As an actor, she has performed in regional theatre, film, and television. Ms. Burton holds an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has traveled throughout the world and teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate theatre courses.

Debbie Curts began working at U of L in 1997 in the Registrar's Office. She joined the Theatre Arts Department as Program Assistant and Box Office Manager in 2000. She is working towards a degree in Occupational Training and Development through the School of Education.

Rinda Frye has worked as an actress most recently at the Kentucky Center for the Arts and the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival. She was co-founder and past artistic director of the Utah Shakespeare Players. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. Publications include scholarly articles and the book *William Poel's Hamlets: The Director as Critic*. She teaches acting, voice and stage speech, and theatre history.

Zhanna Goldentul graduated from the Theatrical Art School in Moscow where she also worked as a costume designer at the Moscow Drama Theatre, The Contemporary Theatre, The Musical Art School, and Avant Garde Ballet Theatre. Since joining the University of Louisville, she has also designed costumes for Stage One. She is a member of United Scenic Artists, the union of professional designers, and teaches costume rendering, costume history, sewing and construction, and makeup.

Bert Harris, Director of Undergraduate Studies, is the founder and Artistic Director of the university's Rep Company, which has toured local schools since 1975. Local professional theatres for which he has directed include the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, The Necessary Theatre, Pegasus Rising Productions, and the Kentucky Contemporary Theatre. He has a Ph.D. from Ohio State University and teaches Asian theatre, acting, directing, and dramatic theory.

Michael F. Hottos is a lighting and scenic designer whose recent work has been seen at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in New York, Circa '21 Playhouse in Illinois, and Music Theatre Louisville. Scenic artistic credits include the films *Boris and Natasha* and *Closetland* as well as *Soul of the Game* for HBO. He earned his M.F.A. from Brandeis University and teaches scenic and lighting design, scene painting, and computer-aided design.

Melissa Kenney, Costume Shop Coordinator, has built shows for the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, the Melodrama Musical Theatre, and Argosy Entertainment in Tampa, Florida, which she co-owns. Her recent credits include: *Wonderland!*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Threepenny Opera*. She completed her M.F.A. in Acting at U of L in 2000.

Joy Meeks has worked at U of L since 1979. Prior to joining the Theatre Arts Department as Administrative Assistant she worked in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office. She is studying towards her bachelor's degree.

Charles A. Nasby was Shop Foreman at Indiana University Southeast before becoming Scenery Technician at U of L. He is also studying for his degree in Theatre with a focus on technical direction and scenic design.

Lundean Thomas, co-director of the African American Theatre Program, is the author of *Barbara Ann Teer and the National Black Theatre: Transformational Forces in Harlem*. She is a past president of the Black Theatre Network and has traveled to Africa to present a paper in Ghana. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and teaches courses in acting, cultural diversity, African American theatre history, and women in theatre.

James R. Tompkins has acted in such professional theatres as ACT (Seattle), Meadowbrook Theatre, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Stage One: Louisville Children's Theatre. He teaches acting, movement, and mask work, which he has also taught in London at the leading theatre schools and, on sabbatical, at the National School of Drama in New Delhi. He graduated from École Jacques LeCoq in Paris.

Russell Vandenbroucke, Chair, has worked as a director, dramaturg, playwright, and producer at regional theatres across the country. Plays include *Atomic Bombers* and *Holiday Memories*, books include: *Truths the Hand Can Touch: The Theatre of Athol Fugard* and *The Theatre Quotation Book: A Treasury of Insights and Insults*. He holds a D.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama, is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, and teaches courses in script analysis and the enjoyment of theatre.

Graduate curriculum

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts: Performance Option (minimum 72 credits)

Academic Area (14 credits)	
Graduate Seminar	2
Script Analysis and Interpretation	3
Theory and Practice I	3
Tools for a Multicultural Theatre	3
Approaching African American Theatre	3
Performance Concentration (42 credits)	
Graduate Movement I-IV	12
Graduate Voice I-IV	12
Graduate Acting I-V	15
Actors Theatre of Louisville Workshop	3
Project Area (10 hours)	
M.F.A. Performance Projects	7
Thesis Guidance (monograph)	3
Electives (3 credits)	3
Community Service in the Arts (3 credits)	
Independent Study	3

How to apply for graduate studies in theatre

All applicants must complete the Graduate School application, submit three letters of recommendation, and take the general GRE test. In addition, graduate students wishing to enroll in Performance must audition—either on campus or at selected regional auditions. Graduate students in Design must present their portfolio. Students interested in financial aid or a teaching assistantship should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Apply online at <http://graduate.louisville.edu/app/>

Graduate curriculum

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts: Design and Production Option (minimum 72 credits)

Academic Area (11 credits)

Graduate Seminar	2
Script Analysis and Interpretation	3
Design Theory	3
Tools for a Multicultural Theatre	3

Area of Concentration (36 credits)

Black Aesthetic on Stage	3
Scene Design I-II	6
Costume Design I-II	6
Lighting Design I-II	6
<i>One of the following:</i>	3
Life Drawing (Department of Fine Arts)	
Sketching & Rendering: Scenery	
Sketching & Rendering: Costumes	
Electives	12

Project Area (13 credits)

Production Projects (1st and 2nd year)	7
Final Project and Thesis	6

Professional Internship (9 credits)

9
Internships are approved by the Advisory Committee for the 4th or 5th semester.

Community Service in the Arts (3 credits)

Independent Study	3
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Glengarry Glen Ross (photo by Stu Cox)

Graduate curriculum

Certificate in African American Theatre (minimum 15 credits)

History, Theory, and Literature (6 credits)

Advanced African American Theatre History	3
One of:	
Approaching African American Theatre	3
Advanced African American Women in Theatre	3
Advanced Theatre of the African World	3

Performance/Design (3 credits)

One of:	
Advanced Directing the Black Experience	3
Advanced Black Aesthetic on Stage	3
Performance Project in an approved play	3
Production Project on an approved production	3

Electives (3 credits)

One of:	
Theatre Internship	3
Independent Study on an approved topic	3
Approved courses in Pan African Studies	3

Community Service in the Arts (3 credits)

Independent Study	3
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The Lion and the Jewel (photo by Michael Hottolis)

Undergraduate curriculum

Bachelor of Science in Theatre Arts

(121 credits total, 60 in theatre)

Theatre Requirements (60 credits)

Academic Core (12 credits)

Theatre History & Literature I	3
Theatre History & Literature II	3
Modern & Contemporary Theatre	3
Script Analysis	3

Performance Core (12 credits)

Acting I or Acting the Black Experience	3
Acting II	3
Two of:	
Acting III	3
Acting IV	3
Directing	3
Directing the Black Experience	3
Stage Management	3

Production Core (12 credits)

Stagecraft I & II	6
Two of:	
Scene Design	3
Lighting Design	3
Costume Design	3

African American Theatre Program Core (12 credits)

Cultural Diversity in Performance	3
The Black Aesthetic on Stage	3
History of African American Theatre	3
Black Dramatic Literature	3

Performance/Production Projects (3 credits for six projects)

Theatre Electives (9 credits)

General Education, Humanities, and Electives (61 credits)

How to apply for undergraduate studies in theatre

Undergraduates admitted to the University of Louisville can major in Theatre Arts without an audition or interview. Apply online from our homepage at www.louisville.edu/TheatreArts or call the Admissions Office at 502.852.6531 or 800.334.8635 ext. 6531 to have an application mailed to you.

Career Opportunities

Our graduates live in the world as:

- ▶ Actors in the professional theatre, television, and film in America and several foreign countries.
- ▶ Designers of scenery, lighting, and costumes from coast to coast.
- ▶ Scenic artists and technicians for professional theatres and production companies.
- ▶ Teachers in public and private schools, junior colleges, colleges, and universities.
- ▶ Businesswomen (and men), parents, play-goers, and plain folk whose daily lives are enriched by a deeper understanding of the power and potential of art.

Scholarships

Taustine Scholarship — Awarded to an undergraduate for merit in acting, determined annually by a specific audition.

The David Palmer Scholarship — Awarded to a senior on the basis of an acting audition and interview.

The Boyd Martin Award — Given to a graduating senior who has an excellent record in performance or production, has served the department significantly, and made outstanding contributions to the program.

The Warren Oates Student Merit Award — Acknowledges a graduate student for outstanding contributions to the theatre program and for the promise of making significant contributions to the artistic community.

Technical Theatre Scholarships — Selected students may receive full or partial tuition remission in exchange for working in the theatre shops.

Contact Us!

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Prof. Bert Harris, Dir., Undergraduate Studies — ajharr01@louisville.edu

Russell Vandenbroucke, Chair — rjvand01@louisville.edu

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Julius Caesar (photo by Bert Harris)



A Piece of My Heart (photo by Michael Hottois)

Stop Kiss (photo by Rinda Frye)



My Hips and Thighs Speak Rapture (photo by Rinda Frye)

A Midsummer Night's Dream (photo by Michael Hottois)



Trane: Beyond the Blues (photo by Aukram Burton)