



What can I do with a Major in... Theatre Arts

What is Theatre Arts at U of L?

Dating back 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 in its students. It embraces the theatre as a means of creative expression, cultural understanding, social development, and historical perspective. We train students in the fine art of theatre-voice, movement, scene study, and design-and also teach the historical and literary context of the theatre as a humanist and liberal art. All students are exposed to the diversity of multicultural theatre. The department strives to develop, disseminate, and preserve knowledge. This knowledge includes the ability: to understand the theatre arts, to appreciate them, and to create works of art that enhance the human condition.

Degrees in Theatre Arts at U of L:

Bachelor of Science in Theatre Arts (BS)

Minor in Theatre Arts

Minor in African American Theatre

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts (Performance Option) (MFA)

African American Theatre Program Certificate (AATP)

Occupational Overview

The study of theatre involves exposure to creative dramatic expression, and requires collective endeavor. A production may bring together the talents of playwrights, actors, designers, directors and a host of other theatre artists. The major areas of specialization include performance, design, directing, playwriting, theatre education, and theatre history/criticism.

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.



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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 multi-cultural arts movement. The AATP includes two Mainstage productions, community service and touring, and eight courses for graduate and undergraduate students. Subjects include theatre history, literature and performance, and theatre practicum. Undergraduates can earn a minor in African American Theatre or Cultural Performance. The minor in African-American theatre is unique among American universities.

Employment Requirements

A bachelor's degree is required for most areas of theatre, and a graduate degree may be required for some areas. The skills learned through this type of degree program can be applied to a broad range of careers. The presentation skills, ability to perform in public, and control of the voice and body provide a solid basis for working effectively with others. Theatre also develops the ability to concentrate intensely, to listen introspectively, observe keenly, solve problems creatively, think critically, develop a project collaboratively, work independently, work under pressure, meet deadlines, and to maintain composure when faced with the unexpected. Well-developed communication skills enable graduates to contribute and to succeed in many professions.

Career Opportunities in Theatre Arts:

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.

Employers/Industries and Success Strategies:

Performing: Professional performer (actor/actress)

Employment Settings: Community theatres – Regional theatres – Commercial theatres – Summer stock – Dinner theatres – Cruise ships – Children's theatres – University theatre groups – Touring companies – Industrial shows – TV/film – Radio

Suggested Strategy: Develop a theatre resume and get headshots. Gain as much performance experience as possible. Participate in acting workshops/seminars/courses to continue training and make contacts.

Directing: Direction – Technical Direction – Casting – Stage Management – Support Staff

Employment Settings: Theatres – TV/film studios

Suggested Strategy: Serve as Assistant Director for a local production. Gain internship experience.

Technical: Set Design/Construction – Property Design – Lighting Design – Sound Design –



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Costume Design – Camera Operation – Hair/Make-up – Special Effects – wardrobe – Property Management – Broadcast Technology – Riggers - Electricians

Employment Settings: Community theatres – Regional theatres – Commercial theatres – Summer stock – Dinner theatres – Cruise ships – Children’s theatres – University theatre groups – Touring companies – Industrial shows – TV/film – Radio

Suggested Strategy: Become involved in IATSE. Gain as much related experience as possible through campus/community shows. Supplement coursework in complementary areas (e.g., media arts for sound design or art history for costume design).

Writing: Scriptwriting – Playwriting – Screenwriting – Journalism – Publicity (press agent) - Research

Employment Settings: Theatres – TV/film studios – TV stations – Magazines – Newspapers - Freelance

Suggested Strategy: Become an arts reviewer for a local/campus newspaper. For publicity work, take related coursework in public relations, advertising, and business. Gain as much writing experience as possible.

Business: Producing – Management – Agents – Marketing – Fundraising/Development – Event Planning – Volunteer Coordination – Arts Administration – Box Office Sales

Employment Settings: Theatres – Nonprofit arts organizations – Arts councils/cultural organizations – Festivals – Event production companies – TV/film studios

Suggested Strategy: Gain internship experience related to specific area of interest. Supplement classes with coursework in business.

Education: Teaching

Employment Settings: Public and private K-12 schools – Performing arts centers – Theatres with education programs for children – Colleges/universities – Children’s theatres and summer stock programs

Suggested Strategy: Gain experience working with children. Gain internship experience in theatre education or teaching. Obtain teacher certification for working in school settings.

SOME TYPICAL EMPLOYERS OF THEATRE ARTS GRADUATES:

Community theatres
Regional theatres
Commercial theatres
Summer stock theatres
Dinner theatres
Cruise ships
Children’s theatres
University theatre groups
Touring companies
Industrial shows
TV/film studios
Radio stations
Community organizations
Nonprofit arts organizations



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Event production companies
Cultural institutions
K-12 public and private schools
Colleges/universities
Festivals (arts, cultural)
Performing arts centers
Fundraising firms
Production companies
Film companies
Entertainment law firms
Public relations firm

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.

Related Links in the Theatre Arts Discipline:

American Association of Community Theatre <http://www.aact.org/>
Conference of Drama Schools <http://www.drama.ac.uk/>
Glasgow, The Cecilian Society <http://www.gla.ac.uk/Clubs/Cecilian/>
Institute of Outdoor Drama <http://www.unc.edu/depts/outdoor/>
International Playback Theatre Network <http://www.playbacknet.org>
League of American Theatres and Producers <http://www.broadway.org/>
Solo Together <http://www.gis.net/~mtf/solo.htm>
United Stage of America <http://unitedstage.com/>
World Communities: Center for Communities in Theatre
<http://canes.gsw.peachnet.edu/~world/>
www.louisville.edu/TheatreArts



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<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>