

University of Kentucky Department of Theatre and Dance Student Handbook

Revised April 2020

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

The Department of Theatre and Dance is in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Kentucky and is part of a robust arts community on campus, in Lexington, and across the region. Our B.A. theatre degree program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and offers students concentrations in Performance, Design, Technology, and General Theatre Studies through a rigorous comprehensive training within the framework of a liberal arts education.

The Major in Dance in the University of Kentucky's Department of Theatre and Dance educates its students in the history, theory, creativity, practice, and performance of dance within the context of a broad liberal arts education. The 45-credit BA degree offers the flexibility to double major or minor in another discipline. As an art form, the study of dance incorporates and develops problem solving, collaboration, communication (visual, aural, written, and performative), critical thinking, peer mentorship, and project management - soft and hard skills that students can incorporate into a wide variety of career outcomes. The central focus of the degree is based in creativity and choreography through the lens of diverse dance genres with an emphasis on contemporary practice. We are the only program in Kentucky with an emphasis on Modern Dance, Creativity, and Research-based choreography.

We also offer a Minor in Dance or Theatre, and a Musical Theatre Certificate Program. The Department of Theatre and Dance fosters creativity and originality in its stage productions and the studio season offers students opportunities to stage their original works and refine their playwriting, directing, and performance skills.

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Department of Theatre and Dance is to provide our students with a strong liberal arts foundation in the art, craft, and discipline of theatre and dance through classroom study and experiential production activities; to enhance the general education mission of the University of Kentucky within the CORE curriculum; and to enrich the cultural life of the campus and regional communities through its dynamic production season and arts outreach partnerships.

The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre provides undergraduate students with a well-rounded, essential foundation in all aspects of theatre, including performance, design, technology, history, and dramatic literature, which prepares students for further study at the graduate or professional level.

Vision Statement

The University of Kentucky Department of Theatre and Dance aspires to be nationally recognized for:

- the excellence, value and ingenuity of its programs;
- its exceptional and inclusive student environment and caring faculty;
- the scholarly and creative accomplishments of its faculty, students, and alumni;
- its innovative contributions to the quality of the cultural life in the region.

ADMINISTRATION

Mark Shanda, Dean, College of Fine Arts
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FACULTY AND STAFF

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Costume Design, Director of Undergraduate Studies

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Scenic Design, Lighting Design

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Scenic Design

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Zachary Stribling, Senior Lecturer, Technical Director	tracy.ward@uky.edu
Susie Thiel, Associate Professor, Director of Dance Tracy	
Barber Ward, Lecturer, Costume Shop Director	
Stephen Wrentmore, Lecturer, Studio Season Director	

GUEST ARTISTS in the Department of Theatre and Dance

ACTING/THEATRE

JONATHAN GROFF – Broadway and Television

PATRICK GARR (UK THEATRE ALUMNUS) - Broadway, *Mean Girls*, *Hamilton*

MATT FLETCHER – Hollywood Talent Agent (Head of Youth Division at Talentworks L.A.)

DAVID DENMAN - Hollywood Actor, Roy on *The Office*

MERCEDES MASOHN - Hollywood Actor, *The Closer*, *666 Park*

SEAN GRANEY – Artistic Director, The Hypocrites, Chicago IL

MEREDITH MCDONOUGH – Associate Artistic Director, Actors Theatre of Louisville

ZAN SAWYER DAILEY – Associate Director, Actors Theatre of Louisville

SUSAN REID – Talent Agent, Atlanta Models and Talent

KATHY CAMPBELL – Talent Agent, Heyman Talent, Louisville KY

ANDREW RAY – Stage Combat

ANDY GAUKEL – Guest Director, International Puppet Artist

PENNY ARCADE - Performance Artist

SARA RUE - Actor, *Less Than Perfect*, CBS; *Pearl Harbor*

SHERI SANDERS – Artist in Residence, Broadway Coach - Rock the Audition

ALEXANDER ROVANG - Broadway Music Director, Conductor, Pianist

LEN PFLUGER - Director, Choreographer

DANCE

NAN GIORDANO - Artistic Director of Giordano Dance Chicago

STUART PIMSLER and SUZANNE COSTELLO -Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater

MISSY LAY ZIMMER - Exhale Dance Tribe - Guest Choreographer

ANDREW HUBBARD - Exhale Dance Tribe- Guest Choreographer

JESSICA PEARSON – Guest Choreographer, Rhode Island College

DERRICK EVANS - Guest Choreographer, US Virgin Islands

JEANNE MAM-LUFT – MamLuft & Co.

AMY CHAVASSE – Guest Choreographer, University of Michigan

INTERNATIONAL

ATSUYOSHI ASANO – Japanese Noh Drama Master

LAKSHMI SRIRIMAN – Classical Indian Dance, Bharata Natyam

KALAMANDALAM SHANMUGHAN and VISWANATH KALADHARAN - Kathakali

KRITHIKA RAJAGOPALAN of Chicago’s Natya Dance Theatre

QIAN YI - acclaimed actress of Chinese Kun Opera

SHULING FISTER - Chinese Han Fan Dance, Chinese Folk Dance

ACADEMICS

The University of Kentucky Theatre and Dance Program is grounded in the belief that both theatre and dance are fundamental cultural necessities that enrich all who participate in it. Our programs emphasize the practical and the theoretical, and are geared toward students who are interested in performance as part of a liberal arts education as well as those who might wish to pursue further professional training or a career in theatre. All UK Theatre and Dance Degree programs allow students to customize their course of study to provide a unique and individualized focus.

B.A. Theatre Degree with focus in:

- Performance
- Design/Technology
- Playwriting
- Theatre Studies

B.A. in Theatre

All theatre students are required to complete the following core theatre courses. This curriculum provides students with a comprehensive view of theatre from a practical, theoretical, and historical viewpoint while also providing them with production experiences.

Degree Requirements: <https://finearts.uky.edu/theatre-dance/ba-theatre>

B.A. in Dance

The Major in Dance in the University of Kentucky's Department of Theatre and Dance educates its students in the history, theory, creativity, practice, and performance of dance within the context of a broad liberal arts education. The 45-credit BA degree offers the flexibility to double major or minor in another discipline. As an art form, the study of dance incorporates and develops problem solving, collaboration, communication (visual, aural, written, and performative), critical thinking, peer mentorship, and project management - soft and hard skills that students can incorporate into a wide variety of career outcomes.

The central focus of the degree is based in creativity and choreography through the lens of diverse dance genres with an emphasis on contemporary practice. We are the only program in Kentucky with an emphasis on Modern Dance, Creativity, and Research-based choreography.

Degree Requirements: <https://finearts.uky.edu/theatre-dance/dance>

MINORS

Minor in Theatre

Students from any college or department are encouraged to consider the Minor in Theatre.

Course requirements are flexible and include 19 credit hours in the following:
<https://finearts.uky.edu/theatre-dance/minors>

Minor in Dance

Dance courses enhance critical thinking and analytical skills, cooperation and teamwork, self-expression and self-esteem, organization and problem solving and cultural literacy. They are also a great addition for opera and theatre students who want to expand their skills and market themselves as versatile performers.

21 credit Dance Minor Course Requirements:
<https://finearts.uky.edu/theatre-dance/minors>

The Dance program in the Department of Theatre and Dance was launched in 2011. Technique classes are available in modern, musical theatre, ballet, and more – as well as an “introduction to Dance” course under the UK Core, Arts and Creativity rubric. The program presents one annual concert with guest choreographers. Auditions are open to all UK students.

Musical Theatre Certificate

The Department of Theatre, in collaboration with the School of Music, offers an Interdisciplinary Certificate in Musical Theatre. This program draws on the resources of each department to present the breadth of coursework and performance experience necessary for students to have a fundamental experience in this field of study. An audition is necessary for entry into the program.

18 credit hour COURSEWORK FOR CERTIFICATE:
<https://finearts.uky.edu/theatre-dance/musical-theatre-certificate>

Students who are accepted in the Musical Theatre Certificate Program are encouraged to audition for and participate in the annual Department of Theatre Musical, School of Music’s “It’s a Grand Night for Singing”, and National Summer Stock opportunities to enhance their skills. In addition, UK Choristers produces a musical review each year that features Broadway/Musical Theatre repertoire.

THEATRE PRACTICUM (TA 390)

This course must be repeated 5 times for a total of 5 credits for the B.A. Degree. A student may earn practicum credit in a variety of ways: by working in the scene shop or costume shop; by working on a crew for a production; by working on the Stage Management or design team for a production; by participating as a performer in a production; by working as a Lead Usher or in marketing or PR for a semester.

Credit is not given for any work on Studio Season productions.

DANCE PRACTICUM (TAD 390)

Practice and Performance (6 credits)

Students are required to repeat a practicum course 3 times for 3 total practicum credits.

TAD 392 Dance Practicum OR TA 390 Theatre Practicum (1 credit each, repeat 3 times)

TAD 492 Senior Thesis – UK Core Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (3 credit hours)

UNDERGRADUATE THEATRE & DANCE ADVISING

The College of Fine Arts has a team of professional advisors in the Student Affairs Office, Room 206, who help students maintain progress toward graduation each semester as Freshmen and Sophomores. Once a student achieves upper division status, they are advised formally each semester by Theatre Faculty. Students can maintain an up-to-date image of their progress toward graduation through the online APEX system.

PROGRAM PRODUCTION

The Department of Theatre and Dance Mainstage Season affords students the opportunities for roles and backstage experience in fully supported productions directed and designed by faculty or Guest Artists. On occasion a talented Design/Technology undergraduate student will have a major assignment in a Mainstage production or assist a faculty designer.

STUDIO SEASON

The Department of Theatre & Dance Studio Season is housed in the Little Black Box Theatre. This laboratory season consists of 3-5 student-originated productions each semester, and provides opportunities for original student plays, direction, design, choreography, and performance.

CASTING AND REHEARSALS

Undergraduate Casting

Casting and callbacks for UK Department of Theatre and Dance Mainstage and Studio Season productions are held throughout the academic year. Casting policies are as follows:

1. Although auditions are open to all UK students, theatre majors/minors are typically given priority in casting. The Director of each production, in consultation with the Chair of the Department and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, reserve the right to limit student involvement in productions if the work hinders progress toward degree completion.
2. UK Theatre and Dance faculty/staff and community or professional actors may audition and/or be otherwise involved in production work when a role calls for their expertise.
3. Directors are prohibited from offering roles prior to departmental auditions.
4. Participation in departmental auditions is highly encouraged for all Theatre Majors and Minors to enhance their educational experience.
5. Once assigned, role refusal for any reason other than MAJOR illness, emergency, or injury, will result in forfeiture of the student's performance privileges for the next semester.
6. A student may request notes or feedback on auditions from faculty or Guest Directors up to two weeks after the audition has taken place. If the student desires feedback, it is the student's responsibility to follow-up with appropriate individuals.
7. If a student's GPA falls below 2.5 they will not be permitted to work on productions. Exceptions can be made to work on production crews or run crews.

Rehearsal Regulations

1. Rehearsals for UK Department of Theatre and Dance productions are limited to a maximum of three (3) hours per day Monday through Friday, up to five (5) hours on either Saturday or Sunday, but not both days. (Notes must be contained within this period.) Actors must be given breaks at appropriate times, (i.e., during a 3 hour rehearsal there should be either a 5 minute break after 60 minutes of work, or 10 minute break after 90 minutes of work.)
2. All rehearsals MUST end no later than 11:00pm weekdays and 11:30pm on weekends.
3. Rehearsals for productions should follow a carefully organized rehearsal and production schedule.

4. Misconduct in rehearsal (including use of alcohol/drugs, or violent/unsafe behavior) is subject to the sanctions as outlined in the UK Student Code of Conduct. The Stage Manager and Director are obligated to report such behavior to the Chair of the Department.
5. Repeated tardies (up to 3) and absences (up to 2) from rehearsal (barring MAJOR illness, emergency, or injury) may result in the offending student's removal from the production and loss of performance privileges for the following semester. The only acceptable absence is a conflict that is communicated to the Stage Manager well before rehearsals begin.
6. To lodge a formal complaint regarding rehearsal, or class, the student must make an appointment to speak with the Department Chair.

THEATRE PRODUCTION ETIQUETTE

For Rehearsals:

- Remain in the Rehearsal Space. If you leave for any amount of time, notify the Stage Manager.
- Carry scripts and pencils and wear appropriate rehearsal clothes and shoes.
- Be on time for all calls. If you need vocal or physical warm-up time that is not part of rehearsal, arrive early enough to be ready at call time.
- If confronted by a dangerous or unhealthy task, actors should immediately notify the Stage Manager of concerns.
- When you receive rehearsal garments and footwear, wear them at every rehearsal unless notified by the Director or Stage Manager.
- When the director gives notes (and unless instructed differently) respond to each note with a clear and strong "Thank You".
- All visitors must be approved by the director and then check in with the Stage Manager.

During Performances:

- Sign in on the callboard as soon as you arrive at the theatre.
- The SM or ASM will give "30 minute", "15 minute", "10 minute", "5 minute", and "places".
- Remain backstage or tell the SM or ASM where to find you.
- Respect your fellow performers' right to prepare for the performance in their own way. Not everyone enjoys loud music, etc. If you have a particular need to warm-up in a particular way, make sure it doesn't infringe on others' preparation. As always, respect is key.
- Do not receive visitors in the backstage area.
- Minimize talking backstage not related to the production.
- Minimize talking with the SM or ASM except for important production-related concerns.
- Avoid all non-production related conversations on headsets.

FACILITIES

The Fine Arts Building at 465 Rose Street has been home of the Guignol Theatre since 1951. While theatre and performance was active on campus since 1911 beginning with the Strollers and other student dramatic groups, the Department of Theatre was approved as a unit in the College of Fine Arts in 1967. The Fine Arts Building is home to classrooms, workshops, and 3 theatres for the Department of Theatre and Dance.

PERFORMANCE SPACES

Guignol Theatre

The Guignol (*geen-yohl*) Theatre is the main stage for the UK Department of Theatre and Dance. The 388-seat wheelchair accessible proscenium theatre includes a full scene shop, box office, and modern lighting.

Briggs Theatre

The Briggs is a 126-seat proscenium theater that also serves as a smart classroom for many theatre classes and a space for workshop performances and class showings.

Black Box

The Little Theatre is a 25' X 40' black box space with an ability to enhance student creativity through its flexible seating and stage arrangement. This intimate space is an ideal venue to support student directed work as well as many classroom projects.

Dance Studio

The recently renovated 1500 square foot Dance Studio has built-in and portable barres, mirrors, a marley-covered sprung wood floor and excellent sound system.

STUDIOS AND SHOPS

Costume Shop: Fully equipped with over 20 sewing machines, 4 sergers, industrial steam irons, changing room and fitting area. The shop is open each day and supports our students' education with hands-on opportunities for learning and participation in building the productions for our Mainstage Season.

Makeup Room: Equipped with 14 fully lit makeup stations, this room is a preparation space for productions as well as instructional space for makeup classes. Adjacent is an area dedicated to wig and hair preparation and storage.

Raymond A. Smith Theatre & Dance Studio: Built and arranged for students in design and technology, this studio has a large work area . The majority of departmental design classes are held in this room as well as design and production meetings for the mainstage season.

Scene Shop: This 2500 square foot space is responsible for the construction or modification of all settings and props for Department of Theatre and Dance productions. Students are encouraged to participate in all aspects of construction and painting of flats, platforms, furniture, special effects, drops, and rigging for a wide variety of scenery and props as part of their overall theatre education.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

The following spaces are available for student use and rehearsal:

- Black Box Theatre, Room 102
- Acting Classroom, Room 104
- Briggs Theatre, Room 127
- Rehearsal Space/Classroom 106
- Dance Studio, Room 117

Please see the Administrative Assistant in the Theatre and Dance Office, Room 114 to reserve a block of time in a rehearsal room. All requests are filled by priority on a first-come, first-served basis. Theatre productions and classes have priority in all spaces. Please remember that space usage is a privilege, and that each theatre space should be treated with care and consideration.

COMMUNICATION

University of Kentucky email is the official form of communication between the Department of Theatre and Dance and our students. Students are responsible for checking their official UK email accounts on a daily basis.

CALLBOARD

The bulletin board outside Room 114, the main Theatre & Dance Office, is considered the Callboard for departmental information. Casting notices, schedules, and up-to-date production information is posted there and students should get into the habit of checking these on a regular basis.

SCHOLARSHIPS • Information found at

<http://finearts.uky.edu/theatre-dance/scholarships-financial-aid>

Wallace Briggs Scholarship *Application Deadline Nov. 1*

One-year \$1,000 awards are awarded to freshman at the end of the fall semester. Mr. Briggs was the first chair of the Department and the Briggs Theatre was named for him in 1986.

Wallace and Olive Briggs Scholarship *Application Deadline April 1*

Four-year scholarship, \$1,000 per year (\$4,000 total), is available to an entering outstanding freshman and is awarded at the end of the fall semester.

John and Ruth Koch Scholarship *Application Deadline April 1*

One-year \$1,000 awards are awarded to 1-2 entering freshman in the spring semester for demonstrated potential in acting.

Charles Hayden Lampe Scholarship *Application Deadline Nov. 1*

This \$500 scholarship is awarded to a sophomore who holds an overall GPA of 3.0 and demonstrates a desire for a professional theatre career.

Christopher Maier Memorial Scholarship *Nomination Deadline April 1*

This award of up to \$1,000 is made to one student at the end of the spring semester based upon student and faculty nominations. The recipient should exhibit a passion for theatre, generosity of spirit, a caring attitude towards all, and a zest for life.

Lolo Robinson Scholarship *Application Deadline Nov. 1*

This \$500 scholarship is available to juniors and seniors who show evidence of commitment to all aspects of our departmental programs.

Raymond A. Smith Scholarship *Application Deadline Nov. 1*

This \$500 scholarship is awarded to juniors and seniors who, through their commitment and active involvement in the Department, have demonstrated creative and distinguished contributions to the department's programs. Awards are heavily based on need.

Mary A. Stephenson Scholarship *Costume Design Faculty Nomination Deadline April 2*

This scholarship is available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who demonstrate talent and desire for a career in the area of costume design and technology. Stephenson was the costumer for the Department from 1968-1996.

Amy Holbrook Mowbray Dance Scholarship

Annual scholarship is available to students admitted or enrolled in the College who are pursuing a degree in dance; have demonstrated potential in the field of dance and for academic success; and have unmet financial need. Recipients will be selected by application and audition process. Established in honor of Amy Holbrook Mowbray ('02) and her love for education, dance and the arts by her husband Adam A. Mowbray ('01).

Submission deadline for application is attending one of the two BA Audition days, one in November and one in February.

CFA Theatre & Dance Scholarship

Deadline April 2

CFA Theatre & Dance Scholarships can be awarded to incoming or current students who qualify based on the guidelines laid out by the College of Fine Arts, and who have demonstrated a commitment to theatre and/or dance.

The CFA Theatre & Dance Scholarships are available to full time declared majors OR minors with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Full time status is defined as a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester, and a cumulative minimum of 24 credit hours per academic year. Please read the detailed requirements below.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANC EDUCATION ABROAD

The Department of Theatre and Dance sponsors two Education Abroad Programs, one in London, England and a second in Paris, France.

London, England: The Department of Theatre and Dance's Education Abroad London Program provides students the opportunity to spend 3 weeks in the English capital seeing over a dozen shows and hearing from London theatre professionals, including actors, directors, critics and writers. Contact Christina Ritter for further information at c.ritter@uky.edu.

Paris, France: A Theatre sponsored Education Abroad Program spends three weeks in France each summer studying theatre, art and culture in the heart of Paris. This is also an Honors Seminar for those students enrolled in the UK Honors Program. For further information please contact Nancy Jones at Nancy.Jones@uky.edu.

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Theatre and performance has been active on campus since 1911 starting with the Strollers and other student dramatic groups. But, the Department of Theatre was approved as a unit at the University of Kentucky in 1967. The original Guignol Theatre, located on Euclid Avenue across from what is now the UK Student Center, burned in 1947. The present facility opened two years later in the newly constructed Fine Arts Building on Rose Street. Since that time, more than 500,000 patrons have attended events at the Guignol Theatre. Throughout its history, the Guignol has been a vital performance facility in Lexington: not only for UK theatre, but also for the Lexington Children's Theatre and the Lexington Singers, a few groups that for years called the Guignol "home."

The Dance program in the Department of Theatre was launched in 2011. Technique classes are available in modern, musical theatre, ballet, and more – as well as an "introduction to Dance" course under the UK Core, Arts and Creativity rubric. The program presents one annual concert with guest choreographers. Auditions are open to all UK students.

DECLARATION OF PROFESSIONAL PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

- Theatre is collaborative and depends on individuals working together as a team.
- Ethical collaboration means that we treat each other with respect, civility, and kindness.
- We are committed to excellence in our discipline.
- We believe in rigor, hard work, and a disciplined approach to our art form.
- We are dedicated to the mastery of fundamental skills and principles that are rooted in tradition, yet embrace innovation, interdisciplinary collaborations, and new forms in our discipline.

We expect our students to:

- Invest their time, energy, and commitment to course work both inside and outside the department.
- Approach each class and rehearsal as an opportunity to broaden their knowledge and world view.
- Cultivate their hunger for reading plays, seeing productions (both on-campus, in Lexington, in the region, and around the world), and thinking about theatre.
- Demonstrate maturity in taking on responsibilities and seeing them through to completion.
- Communicate professionally and respectfully.
- Balance academic responsibilities with production responsibilities.

The Department of Theatre and Dance

College of Fine Arts

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<https://finearts.uky.edu/theatre-dance>