Welcome to OSU Theatre!

We are a vibrant, active department committed to providing the best learning opportunities for theatre artists of the future. In addition to our highly regarded production season, we regularly invite theatre professionals and scholars to join us in making and thinking about performance. We recognize that the creation of new work is the lifeblood of the theatre and to this end we provide opportunities for students to develop and create new performance work while maintaining connections to our history through productions of classic, modern, and contemporary texts. We offer diverse ways for our students to connect with the theatre profession through internships and international study programs. And, we do this within the rich environment of The Ohio State University, where students can take advantage of numerous minors, student organizations, and research opportunities. We want to help you make the most of your time here!

Our Bachelor of Arts degree prepares students for a full life in the theatre and the broader cultural sector. We believe that nurturing creativity and fostering critical inquiry are the foundations of arts production. The BA program is therefore designed to develop skills needed to create and appreciate new work, to understand the history of theatre, and to help navigate professional lives in the arts. This academic exploration incorporates demanding practical training in performance and technical theatre, providing opportunities for our undergraduate students to learn through the laboratory of our productions. We envision the BA as the beginning of an ongoing life of learning about theatre in its many forms, with applications for numerous career paths in the arts industry.

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How to Major in Theatre at Ohio State

To major in theatre at Ohio State, you need only be accepted into the university. At the time that you are accepted, or at any time in your study at OSU, you can declare a major in theatre. This can be done at the Arts Advising Office or in the Department of Theatre. If you are not yet a student at OSU, we encourage you to set up an appointment with the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator to tour our facilities and get information about the program. If you are already a student at OSU, we recommend that before you declare or change your major to theatre, you make an appointment with the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator in the department at: http://theatre.osu.edu/appointment to discuss the program requirements.

Auditions and portfolio reviews are not required as part of acceptance into the BA. However, once you are accepted into OSU and have declared a major in theatre, we expect that you are deeply committed to the study of theatre and that you will maintain the highest levels of personal achievement within the program and across the entire arc of your studies.

Early in the Autumn semester there is a Department undergraduate orientation for all Theatre majors. This a FUNctional meeting where you can meet other majors, find out about opportunities, clubs, etc. within the department. All Theatre majors are expected to attend this orientation. It’s a chance to meet new people, win prizes, eat food, and be in the know about what’s going on in the Theatre Department.

“Notes & News” is the weekly email sent out to all of the Theatre majors/minors. This is the main source of communication between the Theatre office and students. All majors are automatically added to the listserv. Make sure you read it weekly so that you know what is happening and don’t miss any important announcements or events. This email will contain information regarding auditions, events, internships, jobs, funding opportunities, scholarships, etc. Each subject is summarized in the Notes & News email and for more information on any subject, simply click on the title link.

Students rehearse The Arabian Nights, Autumn 2012

Career Opportunities in Theatre

Individuals who graduate with a degree in theatre are found in just about all walks of life. Most people assume that the theatre profession is limited to actors who specialize in performing on stage, on television, or in films.

The truth is, there are many, many professional positions which involve theatre expertise including designers, stage managers, technicians, audience education specialists, electricians, box office managers, marketing and development personnel, and arts administrators. As well, these positions are not just found in regional, summer stock, and other theatre venues, people with expertise in theatre are sought after in theme parks, museums, schools and educational institutions, digital media companies, and throughout the entertainment industry.

Students in theatre learn to meet deadlines, to work with diverse groups of people toward a common goal, to analyze situations, to identify alternatives and then make the best choices, to accept responsibility for decisions, to communicate facts and feelings effectively, to understand others, and to think on their feet.

Competition is intense for most theatre positions, but those who are willing to work hard, develop skills, and stay open to creative possibilities can find meaningful employment in the theatre or the broader cultural sector. Graduate programs in theatre offering the Master of Arts degree, the Master of Fine Arts degree and the Ph.D. degree are open to those with a theatre undergraduate major to further their education and to become more specialized in the field.
The Ohio State University

As a major land grant university, Ohio State is a national resource. Its fundamental purpose—in teaching, research, and public service—is to enhance the quality of human life through developing the individual capacity for enlightened understanding, thinking, and acting. Through the dissemination of knowledge, the university not only serves the individual but acts as a force to shape society for the common good.

The quality and diversity of its instructional programs and resources afford students the opportunity to elect programs of unusual strength in the traditional university disciplines, as well as interdisciplinary programs which reflect new ways of organizing knowledge and new approaches to contemporary problems.

Equality of opportunity is a basic philosophy of The Ohio State University. Mindful of the need for all persons to adapt to the changing roles and needs of society, the university also provides evening programs and continuing education opportunities to serve a wide spectrum of lifelong learning needs.

In the exploration of new ideas and in the preparation of citizens for their roles in a changing society, the university represents a human commitment—an expression of aspiration of people to better themselves and the world in which they live.

Theatre Facilities

Ohio State’s theatre facilities include three theatres, three acting studios, a design studio, a new works lab, and scenery, lighting, and costume laboratories. Thurber Theatre, a proscenium-style theatre, seats 600 people. The Roy Bowen Theatre is an intimate thrust-style space seating 250 people, and Studio Theatre is a small black box seating 75.

We also boast a lighting laboratory and inventory featuring the latest in moving lights technology, and a video laboratory equipped for editing and production. And, we are affiliated with Ohio State’s Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design (ACCAD) with whom we collaborate on multimedia and new media projects. The Department of Theatre also houses the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute, one of the premiere theatre collections in the country.

Theatre Research Institute

The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute (TRI) collects, preserves, maintains, and makes accessible research materials pertaining to performing arts, with a primary emphasis upon live performance. Serving as an archive for performers, playwrights, designers, producing organizations, and theatre companies—among others—the TRI participates in national and international organizations, prepares exhibitions of research materials, and regularly sponsors conference, symposia and colloquia.

Scene from Marat/Sade, Spring 2012, Roy Bowen Theatre

Dr. Jen Schlueter (far left) and her Theatre History class explore resources at the TRI
Theatre Minor

Any OSU students who are not majoring in theatre but who wish to extend their knowledge of the theatre, may undertake a theatre minor. Minoring in theatre, you are welcome and encouraged to audition and participate in all aspects of our production season.

The minor program consists of taking 15 undergraduate hours, 6 of which must be at the 3000 level or above. To get started on a minor, you should check with the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator to find out about course offerings, frequency of offerings, and special enrollment conditions in theatre courses. To complete your minor, you may choose from any of the theatre offerings that are open, including practicum and production courses. You may choose to specialize in one aspect of theatre or take an array of different theatre subjects. However, you do still have to observe prerequisites.

Study Abroad

Our department sponsors study-abroad experiences in London and Prague, and the university offers hundreds of overseas residencies and programs. Watch for announcements in the Theatre Department about upcoming programs, or contact the Office of International Studies in Oxley Hall.

Every other summer, The Department of Theatre leads students on a whirlwind 5-week trip to London. During their stay students attend classes on American and British theatre, see an average of 25 shows at theatres like the National and the Royal Court, learn all about famous landmarks and quiet neighborhoods on personalized guided tours, and meet with leading British theatre practitioners. The London trip is offered every other year with the Prague study abroad trip offered on the alternate year.

InterACT

InterACT is a class, Theatre 3921S, dedicated to devising, writing, and performing theatre pieces pertaining to issues of social awareness and change. The work impacts the students involved in the process of creation, the immediate audience, the needs of the partners for which the pieces are created, and the quality of university life for faculty and students alike.

The theatre pieces are created in response to requests that come from the wide range departments, colleges, administrative units, and programs within and beyond the university. Students also gain skills in developing and creating new work and begin to realize their ability to generate their own work.

The performances thus far have received overwhelming responses and requests for future performances from several departments have been made. Many students repeat the class and some have decided to make this kind of work the focus of their career paths.

For more information, contact Robin Post at 614-292-0834 or post.68@osu.edu
Expanding Your Horizons

To do well in our program, don’t just meet the basic requirements. Do more with your time here! We consider the highest achievement to be that of expanding your horizons.

THEATRE-GOING
See as much theatre as possible. The department sponsors field trips to see performances at various regional theatres. Organize your own trips—take your friends with you—talk about what you see—become the very best student of theatre by becoming the very best audience member. The more you see of theatre, the more you are able to imagine what you might produce in the theatre. Work with the Chair and our undergraduate theatre group, Alpha Psi Omega, to organize the next theatre trip!

MINORS
Expand your major program by taking a minor or a second major. There are wonderful programs all across the campus that provide excellent augmentation to your BA. Consider minoring in Education, Film Studies, Dance, Women's Studies, English, Business, or Communications. A minor may be just the kind of “extra” expertise that will get you a job someday. For more information about these minors, visit Undergrad Student Academic Services (USAS) in Denney Hall.

HONORS
If you are an honors student, consider doing a senior project that involves playwriting, performance, or historical study. This kind of extended independent research provides invaluable experience in learning how to make your own work happen. Be active in the Honors or Scholars programs on campus—this is a way to qualify for small, focused classes, housing and residential amenities, individual mentoring, service-learning projects, and career planning. The Arts Advising Office can give you more information about all the Honors and Scholars programs.

INTERNSHIPS
Plan on doing an internship. We can help you find and set up an internship with regional arts organizations. This can be done in the summer or by working an entire semester away from OSU with regional theatres. While you are interning, you can receive credit that counts towards your major. Internships are sure ways to network for the future, recent internships include The Daily Show and Marvel. Contact the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator or any theatre faculty member to help setup and organize your internship.

Theatre is about problem-solving... In a theatre work, there are problems that presuppose various solutions, each quite different from the other, but all equally credible. Theatre teaches us that there is more than one way to describe the same issue, equally revealing, equally compelling. It is another form of tolerance and understanding. Theatre is about making choices!”

Professor Donald Harris, Faculty Emeritus • College of the Arts

Theatre major, Andrew Trimmer, pictured with Kelly Hunter of the RSC (left) and visiting professor Robin Post (right), was a finalist at the 2013 Denman Undergraduate Research Forum

Theatre major, Christine Skobrak, interned with Disney, Autumn 2011

The Book of Mormon will tour to the Ohio Theatre in downtown Columbus during Spring 2014 as part of Broadway Across America Series
exceptions & petitions

If a student's major program deviates from the standard major program, the exception(s) must be approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the Department of Theatre through the process of "petitioning." Students must submit an "Academic Petition" to the Committee. Petition forms and procedures can be obtained from the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator in the Department.

theatre major fine print

To graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from OSU, you need a minimum of 121 credits as described below:

- Theatre Major, all requirements fulfilled with grades at or above a C– with a 2.00 or better GPA across the major
- University Survey Course (1 credit)
- 43 credits covering all the requirements of the major program (excluding Theatre 2100)
- 63 credits outside the Theatre Department, inclusive of all GE requirements, Theatre 2100, and university survey
- 15 additional credits from either inside or outside the Theatre Department
- Of the 121 total credits, at least 39 credits must be at the 3000 level or above, and can be counted from any courses taken

ge fine print

To complete the Arts and Sciences GE, students must earn a D or above in courses that have been approved across the following categories:

1. Writing and Related Skills, 2 courses (English Writing Level 1, Writing Level 2 from 2367 courses)
2. Literature, 1 course
3. Arts, 1 course (Theatre 2100)
4. Math or Logic, 1 course (Level “R” or Math 075/104 requisite)
5. Data Analysis, 1 course
6. Natural Sciences, 10 credit hours (must cover Physical and Biological)
7. Historical Study, 1 course
8. Social Sciences, 2 courses (must cover 2 of 3 categories: Individual/Groups, Organizations/Polities, Human/Natural/ Resources)
9. Culture & Ideas, Historical Study, or Social Science elective, 1 course
10. Open Options, 2 courses (2nd course from Writing Level 2, Literature, Arts, Math, Logic, Data Analysis, Natural Sciences, Historical Study, Social Sciences, Culture & Ideas or Foreign Language; or a Service Learning Course; or an Interdisciplinary Seminar; or a Study Abroad Program, including Theatre programs)
11. Foreign Language, equivalence of 3 courses in a particular language

theatre major requirements

prerequisite to major: Theatre 2100 (Counts as GE)

foundations in text: 3 courses (9 hrs.):  
2110 Script Analysis (3 hrs.)  
3731 Theatre Histories and Literatures (3 hrs.)  
5771.XX Theatre Topics (3 hrs.)

foundations in design: 2 courses (6 hrs.):  
2211 Intro to Production Design (3 hrs.)  
3241 Theatre Sound Techniques (3 hrs.) or 3411 Intro to Scenic Design (3 hrs.) or 3511 Intro to Costume Design (3 hrs.) or 3611 Intro to Lighting Design (3 hrs.)

foundations in performance: 2 courses (6 hrs.)  
2811 Craft of Acting (3 hrs.)  
3111 Stage Directing (3 hrs.)

foundations in production: 4 courses (7 hrs.):  
2000.XX Technical Production Practicum (1 hr.) (2 times, 2 hrs. total)  
3000 Production Run Crew Practicum (2 hrs.)  
4000.XX Theatre Practicum (3 hrs.) or 3921S Creation of Outreach Theatre (3 hrs.)

major electives: 15 hours or more at/above 3000-level

specific to theatre majors

- Theatre 2100 is required as a prerequisite of the theatre major and counts in your GE as your Visual and Performing Arts course.
- You can take Theatre 2367.XX as a 2nd Level Writing course in your GE.
- You can take Theatre 3597 as an Interdisciplinary Seminar in your GE.
Sample Curriculum

Freshman Year:
Course Title                      Credit Hours
Introduction to Theatre          3
Introduction to Production Design 3
The Craft of Acting              3
Technical Production Practicum   1
GE Courses                      19
Arts Survey                    1
Freshman Seminar                 1
Total Hours                     31

Sophomore Year:
Course Title                      Credit Hours
Script Analysis                  3
Special Topic in Production Design 3
Technical Production Practicum   1
Production Run Crew Practicum    2
GE Courses                       24
Total Hours                      30

Junior Year:
Course Title                      Credit Hours
Production Practicum              3
Theatre Histories and Literatures 3
Theatre Elective                  3
GE Courses                        17
Total Hours                       30

Senior Year:
Course Title                      Credit Hours
Stage Directing                   3
Special Topic in Theatre History  3
Theatre Electives                 8
GE Courses                        16
Total Hours                       30

Words of Wisdom

Introduce yourself to the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator
Meet with your Theatre advisor at least once a semester
See the Arts Advisors once a semester
Read “Notes & News” once a week
Get involved with the department as soon as possible
Don’t let your studies slide!

Audition regularly, and get feedback from the faculty
See all of your advisors at least once a semester
Be involved in at least two shows or projects
Watch for ways to assist other undergrads with their projects
Start saving for study abroad opportunities
Start working on a minor
Don’t let your studies slide!

Watch for special workshops and presentations by guest artists
Begin putting together a resume or portfolio
Make sure you have a plan to complete all your curricular requirements
Start planning an internship
Go abroad or take some international study program
Begin planning for a senior project, find a faculty mentor
Don’t let your studies slide!

Fill out your graduation paperwork early!
Stage manage or take on some other high-level production job
Develop a great resume or portfolio
Talk with faculty about networking into arts organizations
Visit Arts Advising for career planning
Be a leader in the department
Really, don’t let your studies slide!
School Tour

Each year, undergraduates are chosen to perform and produce a touring show that travels to numerous schools in the central Ohio region. More than any other production opportunity that the department sponsors, the tour calls upon our students to become real professionals. As performers and producers, you learn how to craft a production for specific audiences—and as educators (and ambassadors), you learn how to talk with your audiences about the work and subjects you’ve presented. Tours have focused on subjects as diverse as Shakespearean plays to Private Words about Anne Frank, as well as dealing with contemporary issues such as drug addition in Sobering Thoughts. Students who have worked on the tour have gone on to significant internships with the Cleveland Playhouse, Actors Theatre of Louisville, CATCO, and other regional theatres. The tour is cast each autumn, with students enrolled for credit in Spring Semester while rehearsing and performing.

Buckeye TV

Buckeye TV is the student run television station of the Ohio State University. Broadcasting since February 2003, the station has enjoyed tremendous success and continues to grow in programming and resources. In January 2004, Buckeye TV was proud to name their recently renovated facility the Student Center for Digital Media, located in the Drake Performance and Event Center.

Three of the major Buckeye TV productions include Kollege, a soap opera centered around college students, OSU Late Night with Tommy Smiley, a talk show similar to the Late Night with David Letterman and Buckeye News Weekly, a news-journal style show.

Internships are available for students interested in television, business, sales, marketing, programming, information technology, production, news, sports, music, or entertainment. For more information, contact Dave Fisher at 614-247-4440 or fisher.674@osu.edu or check out their website at http://www.buckeyetv.osu.edu/

The Lab Series

The Lab Series is a student-driven, department-nurtured production series. Productions can occur in a variety of campus spaces, including the New Works Lab. Emphasis is on innovative work that functions on a zero budget model. At least seven times per term, students produce an invigorating mix of student written pieces, new renderings of classic or obscure works, and community building events supported and marketed by the Department. Performances begin at 7pm and are free, first come, first-served. Visit theatre.osu.edu/labseries or contact Jennifer Schlueter at 614-688-0428 or schlueter.10@osu.edu for more information.
The 24 Hour Theatre Festival is an annual event presented and put on by Alpha Psi Omega where the phrase “instant theatre” comes into play. It works like this: A topic is posted on Thursday. Writers have 24 hours to write a five minute play on a topic such as “the library.” Scripts must be turned in before the deadline on Friday. The selection committee reads through the plays and selects the 10 best for production. On Sunday morning 10 directors and 10 casts are assigned to the plays. They are released for a day full of rehearsal. Each play must be ready for performance at 7:00 pm. Each changeover has to be choreographed—performances have 2 minutes for set up, 5 minutes for the play, and 1 minute of tear down. All transitions are controlled by a Chinese gong. A designated committee of writers and directors select the winners for the evening. The ultimate prize being the “Five Minute Masterpiece.” The 24 Hour Theatre is traditionally held at the start of Spring Semester. All proceeds from donations go to Camp Sunrise.

For further information, contact Alpha Psi Omega President, Liz Light at light.65@osu.edu
On Stage and Off

Department of Theatre

Practicum

The best way to learn about theatre is by doing theatre. To make the most of your time at OSU, you should find every way possible to be involved with our productions. You can receive credit that counts toward your theatre degree when working on a production or in one of our theatre shops or laboratories.

**Theatre 2000.XX**—(1 credit) This credit is set up to accomplish work that needs to be done before the run of the show, for example, scenic construction, light hang and focus, costume construction, sell tickets, publicity (poster distribution). For this course, you sign-up for 46 hours worth of work during the 14 week semester—usually 3 hours per week—scheduled at a time that is convenient for you.

**Theatre 3000**—(2 credits) This is for work that happens during the run of the show, for example, stage crew, light board operator, sound board operator, wardrobe crew, etc. For this course, you are required to attend evening and weekend rehearsals and performances for the entire run of the show (this is a two to four week commitment).

Auditions

Department of Theatre auditions and productions are open to ALL students enrolled at OSU, regardless of major or rank who are in good academic standing with the university.

We hold open auditions on a semester basis. For the shows that are produced in Autumn semester, auditions are held the first week of Autumn semester. For Spring productions, auditions are held the middle of Autumn semester. Undergraduate students are required to prepare one monologue that lasts no more than four minutes. Sign-up sheets are posted online at http://theatre.osu.edu/sign-up

Auditions

During auditions, we ask that you arrive 15 minutes early in case the auditions have moved quicker than expected. Attending the audition will be directors for the shows currently casting as well as Acting/Directing faculty. Following the first round of auditions, a call-back list is posted outside Room 107. If you are listed, there will be specific directions as to when you need to arrive and what you need to bring/wear/prepare for the call-backs. Whether or not you are cast, we encourage you to make an appointment with the Acting/Directing faculty members to get feedback on your audition. For more information, contact the Department of Theatre at 614-292-5821.

**Great Opportunity for Undergrads—Stage Management**

If you want to be in charge of a production and have a direct impact on all aspects of the production, become a stage manager or an assistant stage manager! The stage manager serves as the central nervous system for a production by running auditions, production meetings, rehearsals, and performances. The stage manager works closely with the director and the design team to make sure that everyone involved (cast, crew, directors, designers) is on the same page. During production meetings, the stage manager records and distributes the minutes, keeps the production team up to date on the rehearsal process, listens for any conflicts, requests props, etc. In rehearsal, the stage manager arranges and posts the call times, records blocking notations, gives lines, maintains the rehearsal schedule, and enforces the company rules. During a performance, the stage manager makes sure everything is good to go, solves problems, calls cues, motivates the cast and crew and maintains the artistic integrity of the show. Contact Chad Mahan at 614-247-8960 or Mahan.33@osu.edu for more information or to work on one of the stage management teams.
The Department of Theatre offers the following Electives focusing on acting, directing, design, tech, history, new works, and video. Most courses are offered in rotation. Not all courses are offered each year. For a current listing of Course Offerings, please visit the Course Catalog online at http://buckeyelink.osu.edu/

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**Major Electives**

Members of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) perform a scene from *Julius Caesar* downtown in the Southern Theatre, Spring 2013. The Ohio State University brought the UK’s renowned RSC production of *Julius Caesar* to Columbus for an exclusive engagement after an April premiere in New York City. Interpreted with a new twist by the RSC’s new artistic director Gregory Doran, the production is set in present-day Africa with a cast of highly acclaimed, black British actors and live, contemporary West African music composed for the show by Akintayo Akinbode. (Photo credit: Kwame Lestrade.)

This highly praised production of *Julius Caesar* came to central Ohio as part of a unique collaboration between The Ohio State University and the Royal Shakespeare Company. The OSU and the RSC have joined in an international partnership which focuses on guest artist residencies, professional development for K-12 teachers, and teaching artist training. The RSC’s innovative Stand Up for Shakespeare pedagogy—“See It Live - Do It On Your Feet - Start It Earlier”--is at the core of this affiliation. The two organizations recently expanded their ongoing international relationship, with the goal of bringing more RSC productions to the US.
Who to Contact

Advising

Department Advising
Every student enrolled in The Department of Theatre has at least two advisors. The first advisor is the Departmental Advisor. The Department Advisor guides you through the theatre program, and helps you to:

- Stay caught up with requirements in the major
- Become involved in departmental activities and productions
- Consider your minor, honors project, study-abroad, or internship
- Declare a major, change a major, deal with double majors
- Assist with schedule planning, registration, and drop/adds
- Assist with transfer credit evaluation

ASC Advising & Academic Services
In addition to your Departmental Advisor, ASC Advising and Academic Services offer academic advising, career preparation, and job placement; in addition, advisors make referrals to support and enrichment services across the entire university.

An advisor in the ASC Advising Office guides you through your GEs and other graduation requirements. The Arts Advisors can help students to:

- Declare a major, change a major, deal with double majors
- Assist with schedule planning, registration, and drop/adds
- Assist with transfer credit evaluation
- File major, minor, degree application, and graduation forms

Honors and Scholars Advising
Honors students are expected to challenge themselves by either seeking a degree with “Honors in the Liberal Arts” or by undertaking a senior research/creative project which accrues “Distinction.” Honors students are also expected to take as many honors courses as possible. For more information about the Honors program, see Dr. Joy Reilly. Arts Scholars is an organization established to facilitate high-level interaction amongst students from various arts programs across the College of the Arts. Scholars activities include special lectures and events, as well as special curricular offerings. For more information on Arts Scholars, see Tim Valentine in the Arts & Sciences Honors Office

Admissions
Ohio State has a competitive admission process in which students are considered for admission based largely on their academic performance and credentials. Secondary factors include school and out-of-school activities. All students are considered under competitive standards except Ohio residents applying to an Ohio State regional campus in Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, or to Ohio State ATI in Wooster. For more information on criteria for admission, please visit: http://www-affa.adm.ohio-state.edu/undergrad/index.asp

Directory

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The Oval, the heart of Ohio State’s campus