THEATRE M.F.A.

Degree: Master of Fine Arts
https://www.towson.edu/cofac/departments/theatre/gradtheatre/

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Towson University’s M.F.A. in Theatre Arts cultivates the self-generative artist through an interdisciplinary, process-oriented and collaborative experience. Every student will engage with a diverse range of practical approaches and theoretical perspectives in order to help develop an individual aesthetic that is expressed through the creation of new work. The program is designed as an experimental, self-directed process that will challenge, expand and develop each participant’s artistic vision. It is for artists who cannot be content working in a single discipline or in the traditional conservatory model. The program is dedicated to educating and invigorating world citizens of theatre who engage deeply in our local and global communities, and wish to combine the life of an artist with the skills and sensibilities of entrepreneurs and educators.

Every two years, a small group is selected to work collaboratively and individually on the creation of new theatrical work. The Towson M.F.A. in Theatre program offers a laboratory atmosphere in which students are encouraged to explore new ideas and approaches. Past student explorations have included Bunraku puppetry; translation of contemporary European drama; object theatre; integration of video with live performance; experiments in autobiographical performance; and community art projects; among others. While the program emphasizes practice, it also expects students to be thoroughly engaged in theoretical pursuits as well. Students conduct serious scholarship and develop a firm grounding in the history of experimental performance.

The 24-month program cultivates both an individual’s vision and aesthetic and an ensemble approach to creation. Over their residency in the program, students work closely with one another on projects initiated by themselves and members of the faculty. The final project is the most challenging aspect of the student’s involvement with the program. It is a confident demonstration of the student’s personal aesthetic and vision that reflects her explorations and discoveries during her residency in the program. The emphasis is on process—not product. Members of the full-time faculty at Towson University teach the majority of classes. However, this curriculum is augmented by seminars and workshops with distinguished visiting artists. Guest artists may facilitate a master class, lecture or demonstration as part of a required class, or work in a residency with the students of the program. Recent guests include Lee Breuer, Holly Hughes, Dan Hurlin, Kari Margolis, Sandglass Theatre, Rinde Eckert and Richard Armstrong.

The program is dedicated to exploring theatre through international contexts. Through a long-standing collaboration with the Center for International Theatre Development, students have toured performances and participated in workshops in countries that include Poland, Egypt, Slovakia and Bulgaria. Artists from countries such as Japan, Russia and South Africa have also had residencies in the program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university** with a GPA of 3.00 or higher based on the applicant’s last 60 units of undergraduate and post-baccalaureate study. A minimum GPA of 2.75 is required for conditional admission. All matriculated students are accepted conditionally for one year. At the end of the first year of study, students are evaluated for continuance based on their readiness to undertake their final project, as demonstrated by their academic standing, portfolio review and final project proposal.

Candidates are screened by both the M.F.A. program and by University Admissions.

This program admits for fall of even years only.

Please complete the online application (http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply), including the following:

• A graduate application with required fee
• Official transcripts from every college or university attended
• A personal artistic statement outlining the candidate’s goals as a theatre artist and the specific relevance of the M.F.A. program at Towson to the candidate’s objectives
• A current professional résumé
• Slides, photographs, video, reviews, papers, scripts or other supporting materials in multiple artistic disciplines
• Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to the applicant’s talent, scholarship, collaborative skills and ability to thrive in a self-directed program
• A list of at least three other references, with telephone numbers, whom the department may contact for additional evaluations

An interview may be granted at the discretion of M.F.A. faculty following initial admission screening.

Non-immigrant international students: See additional admission information in Graduate Admissions (http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/international.html)

**See Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions (http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/policies.html)

Degree Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts in Theatre requires 60 units. Students will complete this requirement over the course of 24 months.

Curriculum

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<tr>
<td>THEA 605</td>
<td>PERFORMANCE: ENSEMBLE</td>
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<td>THEA 670</td>
<td>PERFORMANCE AND SOCIETY</td>
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<td>THEA 760</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL THEORIES AND AESTHETICS</td>
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<td>THEA 608</td>
<td>THEATRE DESIGN TECHNIQUES</td>
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<td>THEA 610</td>
<td>THEATRE SYSTEMS</td>
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<td>THEA 601</td>
<td>THEORIES OF THE AVANT-GARDE</td>
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<td>THEA 602</td>
<td>HISTORY OF EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE</td>
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A project proposal and portfolio review is required before registering for the final project.

Towson University reserves the right to change degree requirements for the M.F.A. Information on changes will be available on the Towson University M.F.A. in Theatre website or from the graduate program director.

1. Work collaboratively and individually on the creation of new work.
2. Employ a variety of methodologies, drawing from best practices in theatrical and other art forms.
3. Demonstrate a firm grounding in the history of experimental performance and theories of the historical avant-garde, and articulate the relationship between these histories and theories, and their unique individual aesthetic.