



THEATRE AND DANCE

THEATREDANCE.RICHMOND.EDU

Introduction to Theatre & Dance

The Department of Theatre & Dance provides a unique liberal arts experience where students thrive by engaging across difference and critically investigating the world through creative processes. The Department of Theatre & Dance is committed to diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice. These principles are central to the department's curriculum, scholarship, teaching, artistic practices, and programming. Each student will engage with these values through curricular, intellectual, artistic, and personal endeavors.

We are dedicated to: finding strength in our diversity, cultivating multiple perspectives, eliminating barriers to participation in the field, and fostering social justice. We uphold these ideals in our classes, rehearsals, play selections, casting, and collaborative artistic processes. We continuously build more inclusive and equitable theatre and dance by foregrounding marginalized peoples and histories in our planning and policy decisions.

We value creative engagement at the crossroads of theatre, dance, and social justice, and traditional and non-traditional theatre- and dance-making practices both on and offstage. As artist-scholars from very different disciplines, we engage with students in solving complex problems through high-impact learning experiences that develop critical thinking, an appreciation for complexity and context, and the ability to communicate clearly in a variety of languages (verbal, visual, aural, spatial, behavioral, kinesthetic).

While many of our students go on to pursue a life in the performing arts, our fundamental mission is for all our students to develop as well-rounded individuals with a broad spectrum of knowledge and skills in order to think and act creatively in an ever-changing and increasingly challenging local and global reality.

Production opportunities include:

- Four mainstage theatre productions per year.
- Annual Dance Concert and Celebration of Dance @ UR.
- Capstone & honors presentations
- Various studio and student theatre offerings
- Community-engaged theatre

Learning Environment

Intense teamwork is at the heart of our program. We stress creative problem-solving, collaboration, and originality. Small classes, as well as a full production schedule, provide many opportunities for students to work closely with professors and guest artists. Independent Study opportunities are available for select majors to design for mainstage productions, choreograph, or direct studio theatre or dance performances. Faculty advisors assist students in design, choreography, and directing opportunities. Instruction is offered in all areas of theatre and dance.

In addition, we stress the interrelationship of the theatre arts with other disciplines, such as literature, history, modern languages, and the sciences. The Theatre major (10.5 units) and Dance major (12 units) require courses distributed among history/theory, performance, design/technical theatre, creating performances, choreography, and dramatic literature. The program also offers a Theatre minor (7 units) and a Dance minor (6 units), with units distributed to ensure appropriate breadth.

Career Paths

Students have multiple options upon graduation: entering the professional sphere, attending graduate school, teaching, writing about theatre or dance, or pursuing a career in arts management. By promoting creative problem-solving, collaboration, and an appreciation for multiple points of view, the University of Richmond's Theatre and Dance programs offer superior training for any career pursued by a liberal arts graduate.

Schools Accepting Recent Graduates

Actors Studio of New York
American Conservatory Theatre
American Film Academy
Brandeis University
California Institute of the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
Duke University
Florida State University
George Mason University
Indiana University
New York University Tisch School of the Arts
North Carolina School of the Arts
Ohio University
Parsons School of Design
Pennsylvania State University
Tufts University
University of California, Irvine
University of Delaware Professional Theatre Training Program
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Missouri, Kansas City
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Pittsburgh
Washington and Lee University
Wayne State University
Yale University

Employers Hiring Recent Graduates

30 Rock
Access Dance Theatre of San Francisco
Arena Stage
Berkshire Theatre Festival
Boston University
Broadway production of Ragtime
Broadway production of Lion King
Broadway production of The Producers
Broadway production of Wicked
Center Stage
Colorado Shakespeare Festival
Dance Theatre of Harlem
DreamWorks
Home Box Office
Kennedy Center
Law and Order: Criminal Intent
New Jersey Shakespeare Festival

Old Globe Theatre
San Francisco Opera
Skidmore College
Smash
Steppenwolf Theatre
Theatre IV Children's Theatre
University of Chicago
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Richmond
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Repertory Theatre
Walt Disney Company
Woolly Mammoth Theatre
Yale Repertory Theatre

Facilities and Special Equipment

The Modlin Center for the Arts houses the Department of Theatre & Dance, the Department of Art & Art History, the Department of Music, and University Museums. Facilities for theatre and dance include:

Alice Jepson Theatre

- 500-575 seat mainstage theatre
- Open stage for intimate actor-audience rapport
- 294-dimmer system with state-of-the-art lighting console
- Fully trapped acting area
- Digital sound system
- Sprung dance floor

Cousins Studio Theatre

- 125-150 seat black box studio theatre
- Dedicated to teaching and student/faculty experimentation
- Modular seating for flexible performance and stage configurations
- 96-dimmer system with state-of-the-art lighting console
- Trapped acting area
- Tension lighting grid
- Sprung dance floor

William H. Lockey Jr. Scene Shop

- Air tools
- Pneumatic casters
- MIG welding equipment
- Dust collection system

Frederick Rehearsal Hall

- Sprung dance floor
- Two mirrored walls
- Complete multimedia classroom
- Fully equipped sound system
- Percussion and a grand piano
- Body conditioning/somatic equipment

Costume Shop

- Large, naturally-lit workspace
- Same-level access to loading dock
- Connected laundry and dye room
- Convenient adjacent storage spaces

Design Lab

- 11 computers with drafting and design software
- Complete multimedia classroom
- Lighting system and grid

Acting/Directing Studio

- Modular seating
- LED lighting system and grid
- Sound system

Dance Studio Theatre

- Sprung dance floor
- Two mirrored walls
- Complete multimedia classroom
- LED lighting system and grid
- Fully equipped sound system
- Percussion and a grand piano
- Body conditioning/somatic equipment

Booker Dance - Movement Studio

- Sprung, finished wood floor
- Complete multimedia classroom
- Fully equipped sound system
- Percussion
- Body conditioning/somatic equipment

Gardner Room

- Lighting technology lab
- 7 computers with drafting and design software
- Complete multimedia classroom
- Lighting system and grid
- Fully equipped sound system
- Green screen wall for video editing

Boatwright Library and Parsons Music Library support the curriculum with a growing collection of videos, recordings, and other digital media.

Faculty

All full-time faculty have earned an advanced degree in their areas of specialty and are actively engaged in both academic and professional theatre production.

Alicia Diaz

Associate professor of dance
M.F.A., The George Washington University
Areas of specialty: dance, choreography

Anne Norman Van Gelder

Director of dance
M.F.A., University of Utah
Areas of specialty: dance, choreography

Patricia Herrera

Associate professor of theatre
Ph.D., City University of New York
Areas of specialty: Latina/o cultural productions, theatre as social change, solo performance, documentary theatre, 20th and 21st century American theatre and performance, gender performance, and hip hop performance

Heather Simpson Hogg

Director of costume
M.F.A., Virginia Commonwealth University
Areas of specialty: costume design, makeup design, and costume construction

Dorothy Holland

Associate professor of theatre and women, gender, and sexuality studies
Ph.D., University of Washington
Areas of specialty: acting, directing, theory, theatre history, gender studies

Chuck Mike

Associate professor of theatre
M.Phil., University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Areas of specialty: African/African American studies, directing, performance

Walter Schoen

Chair
Associate professor of theatre
M.F.A., University of California, San Diego
Areas of specialty: directing, acting, Shakespeare, and theatre in Russia

Johann Stegmeir

Associate professor of theatre
M.F.A., University of Tennessee
Area of specialty: costume design

Maja White

Associate professor of theatre
M.F.A., Wayne State University
Areas of specialty: lighting and sound design



OFFICE OF ADMISSION

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