School of Theatre and Dance

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Degrees Offered

BACHELOR OF ARTS
• Dance
• Theatre

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS
• Acting
• Musical Theatre
• Puppetry/Creative Dramatics
• Theatre Design and Technology

MINORS
• Theatre
• Technical Production
• Dance

Accreditation

All theatre degree programs at West Virginia University are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

Nature of Program

The School of Theatre & Dance offers a competitive training program for the student who seeks artistic growth and development. The School trains students in modern, state-of-the-art facilities with an emphasis on experiential learning in either a B.A. or B.F.A. degree program. We offer intensive training by professionals in the industry with small classes and one-on-one mentoring.

Mission Statement

We, the faculty and staff, educate students in the diverse traditions and practices of theatre and dance. We challenge each student to engage and confront—vigorously, honestly, and innovatively—the many processes of collaborative theatre and dance. We exemplify to our students the role of creative artists to develop, to explore, and to contribute meaningfully to the world they inhabit.

Performances

The School annually produces five to seven major productions in three major performance spaces: the Gladys G. Davis Theatre, Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre, and the Vivien Davis Michael Laboratory Theatre, all in the Creative Arts Center. The School also occasionally produces in the historic Metropolitan Theatre in downtown Morgantown. These productions provide practical experience for all theatre students and serve the community audience with a balance of classic and contemporary drama, dance, opera, and musical theatre.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the School of Theatre & Dance are employed in professional theatre, radio, television, and film. Others have chosen careers in fashion design, commercial sales, makeup, lighting design and installation, law, and positions in the public arena. Undergraduates are frequently offered graduate student positions with leading university training programs offering M.F.A. study.
Scholarships

The College of Creative Arts offers a limited number of special College-based scholarship awards for first-year and current students enrolled in its programs. College-based awards are granted on the demonstration of outstanding talent, academic achievement, and the demonstration of future potential for success. Specifically, the School of Theatre & Dance offers the following scholarship resources to our students:

**FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP (FAS)**
Tuition waiver or partial tuition waiver for regularly enrolled theatre or dance students based on strong academic and artistic promise.

**THEATRE & DANCE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
The School of Theatre & Dance offers scholarships to students with strong academic and artistic promise.

**BARBARA AND RALPH BEAN MUSICAL THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP**
Endowment income to be used for regularly enrolled musical theatre majors.

**JAMES AND JUDITH CULBERSON DEAN'S HONOR SCHOLARSHIP**
Endowment income to be used for regularly enrolled theatre and dance majors that are concurrently enrolled in the Honors College.

**SUSAN TAIT ENDSLEY DRAMA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**
Endowment income shall be used to provide scholarships for students in the College of Creative Arts, School of Theatre & Dance.

**SAM BOYD JR. SCHOLARSHIP**
Endowment income shall be used to provide scholarships for students in the College of Creative Arts, School of Theatre & Dance.

**MABEL DEVRIES TANNER DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP**
Endowment income shall be used to provide scholarships for drama students, including those involved in acting, set design, directing, costumes, and all other skills included in the Drama Division. The recipients of the scholarships will be students demonstrating ability and contributing to the Drama Division program, and whose talent, in the opinion of their instructors, would be lost if they failed to continue their education at WVU. First preference will be given to students needing financial assistance from the Morgantown area, with second preference given to residents of West Virginia needing financial assistance. The recipient will be selected by the Office of Student Financial Aid upon recommendation of a committee of three members of the teaching faculty of the Drama Division in the College of Creative Arts.

**CHARLES D. NEEL SCHOLARSHIP**
Endowment income shall be used to provide scholarships for regularly enrolled undergraduate junior or senior students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program in the College of Creative Arts, School of Theatre & Dance. The recipients shall have a demonstrated interest in theatre history, literature and theory, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 required in these areas. Some interest in music theatre is preferred. The recipients shall also have demonstrated high artistic, academic, and/or musical talent as determined by the appropriate faculty members serving on the Theatre Selection Committee at the College of Creative Arts. If the recipient of the Charles D. Neel Scholarship also qualifies for scholarship assistance under the WVU Scholars Program, the awards from this fund may be applied toward the Scholars Program commitment, if any, made to the recipient.

**M. KATHRYNE "KACY" WIEDEBUSCH DANCE SCHOLARSHIP**
Endowment income to be used for regularly enrolled dance majors and minors.

**RICHARD S. LAWRENCE MEMORIAL BOOK SCHOLARSHIP**
Income shall be used to provide book scholarships to undergraduate students.

**SUSAN J. ROBINSON PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP**
Endowment income shall be used to provide scholarships to WVU theatre students. The recipients will be regularly enrolled undergraduate or graduate students majoring in Theatre in the College of Creative Arts, and shall demonstrate high artistic talent in an aspect of the theatrical arts as determined by appropriate faculty members serving on the Theatre Scholarship Committee. Final selections of recipients shall be made jointly by the Theatre Scholarship Selection Committee and the Office of Student Financial Aid.

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**FACULTY**

**DIRECTOR**
- Joshua B. Williamson - M.F.A. (University of Wisconsin)
  Associate Professor, Lighting & Sound Design
PROFESSORS
• Jerry McGonigle - M.F.A. (American Conservatory Theatre)
  Acting & Directing
• Mary McClung - M.F.A. (WVU)
  Costume Design & Technology

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Jessica Morgan Bishop - M.F.A. (The Ohio State University)
  Stage Movement
• Laura Hitt - M.A. (Trinity Repertory Conservatory/Rhode Island College)
  Voice and Dialect
• Robert Klingelhofer
  Scene Design
• Jay Malarcher - Ph.D. (Louisiana State University)
  Theatre History, Literature, & Criticism
• William J. Winsor - M.F.A. (The Ohio State University)
  Scene Design

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Lee Blair - M.F.A. (University of Florida)
  Acting
• Bryce Britton - M.F.A. (Ohio U.)
  Musical Theatre
• General Hambrick - M.F.A. (Texas Christian University)
  Dance
• Roger Smart - M.F.A. (University of California)
  Acting, Directing

TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
• Cathy O’Dell - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Theatre, Introduction to Theatre, Acting

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
• Alan McEwen - M.F.A. (University of Oregon)
  Lighting & Sound Design
• Steven Neuenschwander - M.F.A. (Yale School of Drama)
  Technical Direction, Production Management
• Andrea Washington-Brown - M.F.A.
  Costume Technology

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
• James Knipple - M.F.A. (University of California, Irvine)
  Directing and playwriting

PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS
• Maureen Kaddar - B.F.A. (Adelphi University)
  Dance
• Stephanie Morris Lorenze - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
  Dance, Dance Education
• Renee Nicholson - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Dance, Dance Criticism

PROFESSORS EMERITI
• Charles Neel - Ph.D.
  Theatre
• Joann Spencer Siegrist - M.F.A.
  Puppetry
• M. Kathryne Weidebusch
Dance
• John C. Whitty - Ph.D.
  Theatre History

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS EMERITI
• James D. Held - M.F.A. (University of Washington)
  Theatre History, World Drama

Admission Requirements
Auditions or interviews are required for admission into the B.F.A. programs and the B.A. dance program. Additionally, all students must meet the University’s criteria for undergraduate admission. Auditions are required for acting, musical theatre, and dance. Interviews and portfolio reviews are required for theatre design and technology and puppetry. The B.A. in theatre does not require an addition/interview but applicants must still meet undergraduate admissions requirements.

Upon entrance, students must comply with the general regulations of the University concerning degrees, satisfy all entrance and divisional requirements, and complete one of the curricula of the School of Theatre & Dance with a 2.0 (C) grade point average. Students are required to successfully complete a semesterly review with the faculty which may include an interview, scene work, audition piece, or other type of jury.

For admission to the junior year of the School of Theatre & Dance, a student must have established an overall 2.0 (C) grade point average. Transfer students must establish transfer credit from other institutions during the first semester in which they are enrolled in the School of Theatre & Dance.

Students are responsible for correctly fulfilling all requirements. Each student should review the course requirements both before and after every registration period so that errors or omissions will be detected immediately.