

College of Arts and Science

Department of Theatre

The house lights dim in a small off-Broadway theatre in New York City. A hush settles on the audience. The curtain rises on an award-winning play by an author no one's heard of — yet. MU theatre majors, working with a faculty of scholar-artists, have won a string of regional and national awards for playwriting, acting and production design, including two from the American College Theatre Festival for best original scripts.

Our Strengths

It all began modestly enough. A small group of aspiring thespians, bent on enhancing the cultural life of the campus around 1900, started producing plays in an abandoned dining room in Lathrop Hall. In 1925, Professor Donovan Rhynsburger joined the faculty and established the Missouri Workshop Theatre — the beginning of one of the most respected theatre programs on any campus. More recent additions include the Summer Repertory Theatre, begun in 1969, the World Theatre Workshop, begun in 1981; and the Missouri Playwright's Workshop, begun in 1998 — all outlets for faculty and student talent in all aspects of production. The faculty is made up of productive scholar-artists with international reputations in the areas of research, theatre production, writing for performance and teaching. With strengths in playwriting, directing, acting and theatrical design, these great talents are the heart and soul of the department. The faculty's accomplishments include scholarly publications in theatre history and translations of foreign scripts; editorships and editorial-board memberships on theatrical journals; the founding of MU's Summer Repertory Theatre and the World Theatre Workshop; many awards for American College Theatre Festival productions; Fulbright and Kellogg fellowships; articles and reviews in various journals; and awards for excellence in classroom teaching.

Connections

Faculty members are involved with research projects that keep them in touch with other theatre scholars all over the world. Their contacts with other creative

artists in regional professional theatres expand the horizons of their teaching in classes and labs. Many are also active on the editorial boards of prestigious scholarly journals, and some hold offices in regional or national theatre organizations. Those service commitments give them broad visibility, bringing attention to the theatre program at MU and to alumni applying to graduate programs, auditioning for acting roles or seeking production positions.

Personal Attention

Theatre is an interactive and collaborative enterprise, constantly bringing students and professors together in teaching and performance situations. Professors easily get to know students by their first names, and formalities quickly disappear. The play's the thing, and it is the ensemble that matters. In this setting, advising tends to be ongoing, not "by appointment only." It is built on collegiality, which is part of what attracts both students and professors to the stage. Students can also take advantage of the fine arts living-learning community, which attracts students who share interests in art, music or photography as well as theatre.

Majoring in Theatre

The department offers a bachelor of arts degree, which allows students to make theatre the foundation of their liberal arts education. Students study the history and literature of the theatre and the crafts of theatre production. They may choose to concentrate in performance (acting and directing), technical theatre or playwriting. Special production opportunities are also available in musical theatre, in the World Theatre Workshop, Missouri Play-

wrights Workshop and the Summer Repertory Theatre. The department has two theatres:

Rhynsburger Theatre, a 276-seat proscenium facility with a large stage and fly system, and the smaller Corner Playhouse, with more flexible space and seating for 100. Offices, classrooms, shops and dressing rooms are located in both facilities, and students interested in lighting and sound work with first-rate equipment and control systems.

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Arts (120 hours)

CORE

Basic Scenic or Costume Construction (3)
Theatre History (3)
Principles of Script Analysis (3)
Production Workshop (1)
Technical Theatre Practicum (1)
World Dramatic Literature (3)
Capstone (2)

AREAS OF EMPHASIS (15) (Students may choose one of the following three areas)

PERFORMANCE

Theatrical Costume Design (3)
Choose 15 credit hours from:
World Theatre Workshop (3)
Stage Makeup (1)
Stage Movement/or the Actor (2)
Performance of Literature (3)
Vocal Performance Technique (3)
Acting I (3)
Acting II (3)
Acting III (3)

Theatrical Directing (3)

Advanced Directing (3)

Theatre of the Oppressed (3)

Musical Theatre Performance (3)

Additional electives* in theatre to bring the total in the department to 40 hours

DESIGN/TECHNICAL THEATRE (15)

Stage Makeup (1)

Beginning Patternmaking (3)

Stage Management (1)

Stagecraft (3)

Introduction to Scene Design (3)

Advanced Patternmaking (3)

Scene Painting (2)

Computer Graphics in Theatre Design (3)

Sound Design (3)

Theatrical Costume Design (3)

Scene Design (3)

Stage Lighting Design (3)

Theatre Architecture (3)

Additional electives* in theatre to bring the total in the department to 40 hours

WRITING FOR PERFORMANCE

Introduction to Theatre Design (3)

Beginning Playwriting (3)

Intermediate Playwriting (3)

Advanced Playwriting (3)

Additional electives* in theatre to bring the total in the department to 40 hours

ARTS & SCIENCE FOUNDATION REQUIREMENTS

English (3)

Writing intensive (6)

American government or history (3)

Mathematics (3)

Math reasoning proficiency (3)

Foreign language (12–13)

Biological, physical, and mathematical sciences (9)

Behavioral sciences (5)

Social sciences (9)

Humanities and fine arts (12)

Electives

*More specific requirements for these electives may be discussed with an academic adviser.

Advising

An academic adviser specifically familiar with the theatre department requirements will be assigned to all theatre majors and

minors. Each new undergraduate student will be advised to make contact with a faculty member in the student's area of emphasis. The department's faculty members as a group represent a range of backgrounds, which cover the spectrum of careers in theatre, and all are available to talk with students about career decisions. In addition, the department invites guest actors, directors and designers to speak to undergraduates about career choices. Alumni return to campus to talk with students about their work in the theatre, in television and in film. They have formed groups in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles and welcome newcomers from MU to the ongoing challenge of making a mark in the entertainment world.

Internships

Undergraduates have interned with companies such as the York Theatre Company in New York City, the St. Louis Municipal Opera, the Starlite Theatre in Kansas City, the Actors Theatre of Louisville and Walt Disney World. The department's internship course makes it possible to earn academic credit for such experiences. Notices about internships are available to students from the faculty in charge.

Value of a Theatre Degree

Because an MU theatre degree combines a strong liberal arts foundation with solid professional experience, graduates find a wide range of opportunities awaiting them. Many gravitate to the theatre centers of New York, Chicago or Los Angeles. Others go on to graduate work in theatre or to professional school, especially law. Still others enter a variety of careers, confident that they have learned what may be the most important skill of all — how to learn. Recent graduates work in all areas of the country, from small regional theatre companies to professional theatre in New York City, in television, and in movies. They have been nominated for, or won, Emmy Awards, Tony Awards and Academy Awards. Our students teach school, serve as college faculty, chair theatre departments in universities and serve as deans and administrators at colleges and universities all over the country.

Missouri Admission

The University admits students on the basis of their chances for success here. The main criteria are the high-school curriculum, test

scores and class rank. Applicants are expected to have followed a college-preparatory program with at least 17 units of credit, as follows (one unit equals one year):

Four units of English

Two units emphasizing composition or writing skills are required; one unit may be in speech.

Four units of mathematics

Acceptable courses include algebra I, geometry, algebra II, pre-calculus/trigonometry/analytic geometry, calculus and math analysis. Courses such as computer math, programming, consumer math and accounting are not acceptable.

Three units of science

At least one must be a laboratory course, such as earth science, biology, chemistry or physics. Courses such as general science and agricultural science are not acceptable.

Three units of social studies

Examples are world history, American government and principles of democracy.

Two units in a single foreign language

One unit in fine arts

How to Apply

For information about studying theatre at MU, call or write:

Department of Theatre

129 Fine Arts Center

University of Missouri

Columbia, MO 65211

Phone: 573-882-2021

Fax: 573-884-4034

E-mail: atkinsonh@missouri.edu

Web: theatre.missouri.edu

For information about applying to MU, call or write:

Office of Admissions

230 Jesse Hall

Columbia, MO 65211-1300

Phone: 573-882-7786

800-225-6075 (toll free in Missouri and Illinois)

Fax: 573-882-7887

E-mail: mu4u@missouri.edu

Web: www.missouri.edu

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. For more information, call Human Resource Services at 573-882-4256 or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

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