DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

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Professor and interim chair

arts.vcu.edu/theatre (http://arts.vcu.edu/theatre)

The mission of the Department of Theatre is to educate and train students as theatre professionals and/or academicians in the field of performance, design/technology or theatre pedagogy.

In fulfilling its mission, the Department of Theatre provides students with the professional and cultural foundations essential for achieving the highest standards of the art. The department offers three degrees — a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts — to which applicants are admitted based on demonstration of ability, genuine interest determined during an interview, and audition and/or portfolio presentation.

In addition to introductory theatre and acting courses for non-majors, the department also serves students throughout the university with offerings in speech communication.

The Department of Theatre employs 23 faculty and staff and enrolls 230 undergraduate and 40 to 50 full-time graduate students. Theatre VCU produces four mainstage productions and numerous graduate and undergraduate directing projects each year.

- Theatre, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in costume design (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-arts/theatre/theatre-mfa-concentration-costume-design)
- Theatre, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in pedagogy/literature (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-arts/theatre/theatre-mfa-concentration-pedagogy/literature)
- Theatre, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in pedagogy/performance (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-arts/theatre/theatre-mfa-concentration-pedagogy/performance)
- Theatre, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in stage design/technical theatre (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-arts/theatre/theatre-mfa-concentration-stage-design/technical-theatre)

With permission of instructor, the following graduate courses may be taken by undergraduates for degree credit:

THEA 501 & THEA 502 Basic Voice and Speech Pedagogy and Basic Voice and Speech Pedagogy With Application to Dialect Study 6

THEA 505 & THEA 506 Advanced Scene Design III and Advanced Scene Design IV 6

THEA 508 Scene Painting 3

THEA 513 & THEA 514 Graduate Acting and Graduate Acting 6

THEA 501. Basic Voice and Speech Pedagogy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Exploration of methodologies used in teaching basic principles of body alignment, breath support, resonance and dynamics of voice and speech. A review of IPA as it applies to American speech and dialect study.

THEA 502. Basic Voice and Speech Pedagogy With Application to Dialect Study. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Review of IPA. Study of six dialects while investigating a variety of teaching methodologies.

THEA 505. Advanced Scene Design III. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: THEA 306 and permission of instructor. Intensive study of the professional standards and practices expected of scene designers.

THEA 506. Advanced Scene Design IV. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: THEA 505 and permission of instructor. Continued intensive study of the professional standards and practices expected of scene designers.

THEA 508. Scene Painting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 10 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with permission of instructor for up to 12 credits. Study of the materials and techniques of scenic painting as well as the practices and expectations of those pursuing careers as scenic artists.

THEA 509. Theatre History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of modern theatre practice, dramatic literature and theory from the development of naturalism through the late 20th century.

THEA 510. Theatre Historiography. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of how theatre history is documented and researched, and the theoretical perspectives that inform its writing.

THEA 513. Graduate Acting. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 6 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Graduate-level studio performance courses that utilize monologues and scenes as a venue to explore rotating topics in performance technique which may include Constantin Stanislavski, Michael Chekov, Uta Hagen, Sanford Meisner and Stella Adler.

THEA 514. Graduate Acting. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 6 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Graduate-level studio performance courses that utilize monologues and scenes as a venue to explore rotating topics in performance technique which may include Constantin Stanislavski, Michael Chekov, Uta Hagen, Sanford Meisner and Stella Adler.

THEA 517. Physical Acting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; may be repeated for a total of 12 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Exploration and discovery of the principles of movement and their practical application to the stage. Emphasis on character development, solo and group scene work, physical comedy, and stage combat.

THEA 518. The Pedagogy of Movement. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Exploration of the principles of teaching movement and its practical application to the stage, with special emphasis on the links between physical theatre and the vocabulary of the Stanislavski system of acting.

THEA 593. Professional Internship. 3-9 Hours.
Semester course; 3-9 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of department chair. Majors only. A practicum in theatre conducted in cooperation with selected professional or semiprofessional theatre organizations.
THEA 601. Advanced Voice and Speech Pedagogy: Shakespeare. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An exploration of a variety of methodologies used in teaching the speaking of Shakespeare's texts. Focus on scansion, rhetorical devices, full voicing and support of Shakespeare's language for the stage.

THEA 602. Advanced Topics in Voice and Speech Pedagogy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An exploration of a variety of specialty topics which may include but is not limited to vocal extremes, archetypes and the voice, voice in the out of doors.

THEA 603. Dramatic Literature and Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Multicultural study of selected plays in the history of dramatic literature, criticism and theory.

THEA 604. Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Seminar in the performance practices, texts and theories that have shaped the theatre throughout the 20th century.

THEA 605. Advanced Studies in Stage Design. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in stage design.

THEA 606. Advanced Studies in Stage Design. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in stage design.

THEA 607. Problems in Scenic Techniques. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced, detailed study of selected problems in contemporary theory and practice of scenic techniques.

THEA 608. Problems in Scenic Techniques. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced, detailed study of selected problems in contemporary theory and practice of scenic techniques.

THEA 609. Seminar in Production Process. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 9 credits. Students and faculty in design, technical theatre, and performance working together in studio situations to identify and solve problems relating to the planning, preparation, and realization of productions.

THEA 610. Advanced Problems in Acting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Focus on acting problems related to the actor's needs to develop proficiency in craft areas.

THEA 611. Pedagogy of Acting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course guides students through creating and implementing a curriculum appropriate for a beginning acting class. Discussions of acting theory and teaching practice are interspersed with teaching demonstrations complete with peer feedback and instructor critique.

THEA 612. Special Topics in Physical Acting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Rotating topics in physical acting, which may include mask, mime, physical comedy, clowning and other approached to physical theatre.

THEA 613. Advanced Problems in Acting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theory and practice in the teaching of college-level theatre.

THEA 614. Problems in Costume Design. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3, 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in costume design.

THEA 615. Problems in Costume Design. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3, 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in costume design.

THEA 616. Advanced Studies in Modern Drama. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. Intensive, detailed studies of selected subjects in major 19th- and 20th-century drama.

THEA 617. Problems in Costume Design. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3, 3 credits. May be repeated. Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in costume design.

THEA 618. Special Topics in Choreography and Directing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Rotating topics in choreography and directing, which may include dance, stage combat, battle scenes, musicalized movement and other choreographic scenes.

THEA 619. Theatre Pedagogy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theory and practice in the teaching of college-level theatre.

THEA 620. Problems in Costume Design. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3, 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in costume design.

THEA 621. Problems in Costume Design. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3, 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in costume design.

THEA 622. Problems in Costume Design. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3, 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in costume design.

THEA 623. Advanced Studies in Modern Drama. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. Intensive, detailed studies of selected subjects in major 19th- and 20th-century drama.

THEA 624. Advanced Studies in Modern Drama. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. Intensive, detailed studies of selected subjects in major 19th- and 20th-century drama.

THEA 625. Production. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 laboratory hours. 3 credits. May be repeated. The design, rehearsal, and performance of dramatic works.

THEA 626. Advanced Theatre Projects. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 2 lecture and 4 or 8 laboratory hours. 3 or 6 credits per semester. May be repeated. Individual or group projects in acting, directing, costume design, stage design or dramaturgy.

THEA 627. Advanced Theatre Projects. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 2 lecture and 4 or 8 laboratory hours. 3 or 6 credits per semester. May be repeated. Individual or group projects in acting, directing, costume design, stage design or dramaturgy.

THEA 628. Individual Study in Graduate Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. May be repeated. Intensive individual training in design and presentation processes as they apply to contemporary professional production.

THEA 629. Graduate Direction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Graduate-level studio course designed to introduce students to concepts involved in play direction, including play analysis, composition, blocking, style and form. Exercises and projects will reinforce elements discussed in class and include opportunities for stage work complete with peer feedback and instructor critique.

THEA 630. Graduate Direction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Graduate-level studio course designed to introduce students to concepts involved in play direction, including play analysis, composition, blocking, style and form. Exercises and projects will reinforce elements discussed in class and include opportunities for stage work complete with peer feedback and instructor critique.

THEA 631. Colloquium and Practical Training. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Literary, historical, and theoretical studies together with specialized voice and movement training related to dramatic works in production.
THEA 694. Theatre Pedagogy Professional Internship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 3 lecture hours. 1, 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated.
Prerequisites: THEA 519 and permission of the graduate adviser in
theatre. Research, design, and either implementation or thoroughly
planned implementation of a curricular research and development project
of relevance to a formal speech and/or theatre pedagogy program.

THEA 696. Dramaturgy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of the function of the
dramaturge in the American theatre. Readings, research and practical
exercises for production dramaturgy of classic and contemporary plays.

THEA 697. Research and Special Problems in Theatre. 1,3 Hour.
Semester course; 1 or 3 credits. May be repeated with permission of
graduate adviser. Individually directed study and research under faculty
supervision on approved research problems or projects in theatre.

THEA 698. Creative Project. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Provides the culminating performance or
design experience in the student's degree emphasis. Adjudicated by the
faculty.

THEA 699. Creative Project Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Provides the student in acting, directing,
costume design, and stage design the opportunity to document and
evaluate the creative project. Defended before a committee of the faculty.

THEA 791. Seminar in Special Issues in Theatre. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a
maximum of 12 credits. Additional credits may be taken with permission
of the graduate directory. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An
advanced, detailed study of selected contemporary issues not included in
the regular curriculum. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to
be offered each semester.

THEA 799. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission
of the department graduate studies adviser and department chair.
Preparation of a thesis based on independent research.