

# Theatre



SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



Wind of a Thousand Tales

## The Theatre Major

The Department of Theatre is a close-knit community of student artists and theatre professionals seeking to better understand and practice their craft and their calling in Christ. A caring yet challenging team of faculty mentors work alongside you to discover and develop your creative gifts. Together we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination as we consider theatre art from a variety of Christian perspectives. In a dynamic exchange between learning and doing, between theory and practice, students engage theatre as a forum for civic dialogue where history, culture, politics, and religion meet to give form and meaning to our world. Upon graduation our students are not only prepared to meet the artistic and technical challenges of 21st-century theatre, but also to serve and lead a new generation of artists and scholars.

## Breadth and Depth

The Bachelor of Arts degree allows you to gain a broad understanding of theatre art while honing your skills in a specific area of emphasis.

### Acting

The acting emphasis offers you the benefits of individualized attention in a safe yet challenging training laboratory environment. Studio courses, workshops, and master classes are complemented by a variety of performance opportunities.

### Directing

The directing emphasis is designed to equip directors with both foundational and intimate knowledge of the theatrical process. Directors apply course work in directing theory, acting, design, and technical production to studio work as well as fully-mounted projects.

### Technical Production and Design

The technical production and design emphasis assists students in developing an aesthetic perception of their art. With a combination of classroom, production, and design experiences, students learn the communication skills necessary to enable them to work effectively with actors, directors, designers, and technicians.

## Our Curriculum

We offer a rigorous exploration of historic and contemporary theatre practice within a vibrant liberal arts tradition. Our curriculum includes applied studio courses in acting, directing, and technical production and design as well as course work in dramatic literature, theatre history, and theory. Each year the theatre major applies classroom and studio knowledge to a robust six-production season of contemporary and classic plays.

## Curriculum

*Credit hours shown in parentheses.*

### Theatre Major (27–29 credits)

- Introduction to Acting (3)
- Introduction to Technical Theatre (3)
- Production Practicum (1 credit per semester)
- History of Theatre I: Ancient to Renaissance (3)
- History of Theatre II: Renaissance to Postmodernism (3)
- Survey of Dramatic Literature and Criticism (3)
- Theatre Capstone Project (1–3)
- Theatre Capstone Seminar (3)
- Enrichment Program (11 credits)
  - A minimum of 11 credits at a department-approved enrichment institution

### One or more of the following emphases:

- Acting (12 credits)**
  - Voice and the Actor (3)
  - Movement (3)
  - Acting Techniques (3)
  - Elective in Theatre (3)
- Directing (12 credits)**
  - Acting Techniques (3)
  - Fundamentals of Play Directing (3)
  - Shakespeare (3)
  - Elective in Theatre (3)
- Technical Production and Design (12 credits)**
  - Fundamentals of Play Directing (3)
  - Introduction to Scenographic Techniques (3)
  - Theatre Design (3)
  - Elective in Theatre (3)

### Theatre Minor (18 credits)

- Introduction to Acting (3)
- Introduction to Technical Theatre (3)
- Production Practicum (1)
- Electives (minimum of 11 additional credits from the theatre curriculum)

*Although majors and course requirements may change from time to time, as stated in the College catalog, the preceding information is correct according to the 2005–2006 catalog.*



Oxygen

As a community of theatre artists we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination in a forum for civic dialogue as we seek to understand our calling in Christ.

“The safety I always felt in the Department of Theatre wasn’t because of its sheltering walls. It was because we were always creating, always inspired, or in search of said inspiration.”

—Marilyn Crowley '04



The Civil War



# Department of Theatre

The Department of Theatre offers one major and one minor:

**Major:**  
Theatre (B.A.)  
Emphases:  
Acting  
Directing  
Technical Production  
and Design

**Minor:**  
Theatre

## Enrichment, Internship, and Study Abroad Opportunities

Professional theatre thrives in urban centers. For this reason, we believe it is essential for you to learn about yourself and your craft in the city.

During the first semester of the junior year, theatre majors may attend the Messiah College Philadelphia campus at Temple University or department-approved programs throughout North America and Europe. Our students have enriched their Grantham education through theatre training at the Gaiety School of Acting, Dublin; Royal Holloway, University of London; and internships with professional theatre companies across the country.

## Senior Capstone Projects

During the second semester of the junior year, theatre majors propose a Senior Capstone Project.

This portfolio-building project represents the culmination of your training and serves as a bridge to graduate programs, professional theatre, or other job opportunities.

## Our Graduates

Our graduates find success in a variety of theatre-related venues including prestigious graduate programs, apprenticeships, professional employment, or other vocational fields.

### Where Can You Find Our Graduates?

Julliard School Internship Program, Lincoln Center  
M.F.A. candidate in acting, New York University  
Assistant stage manager, International Tour of  
*West Side Story*  
Actor, Project Educational Theatre, New York City  
M.F.A. in acting, University of Virginia  
Artistic director, Run of the Mill Theatre Company, Baltimore  
M.F.A. in directing, Southern Illinois University  
Technical director, Howard Community College,  
Columbia, Md.  
Freelance director, Chicago  
M.F.A. candidate in playwriting, Catholic University  
Master carpenter, Center Stage, Baltimore  
Artistic director, Comedy Sports, Washington, D.C.  
Scenic charge artist, People's Light Theatre

## From the Chair

Theatre is the only artistic realm capable of bringing the illusion of reality to life through voice and body for the pleasure of a living audience.

Actor and spectator inhale and exhale in real-time, and for a moment, we celebrate life in all its glory and pain. Genesis begins with the power of the creative imagination, the miracle of verbal expression giving form and meaning to a manifest world, and our commission to responsibly care for Creation. At Messiah College we embrace our identity as artists, crafted in the image of Creator God, as well as our calling to give form and meaning to our world. In fact, we consider this calling a blessing and a responsibility.

Shakespeare suggested that the theatre is a living, breathing mirror of life that shows "virtue her own feature, scorn her own image." As Christians creating theatre in a Christian context, we often see theatre and drama through the Judeo-Christian lens of redemption. Yet the stories we tell from the Messiah College stage often reflect a reality out of keeping with our particular world view. Unfortunately, the Church has often alienated the theatre and its artists by polarizing "secular" and "Christian" drama. Some argue that a redemptive message is a requirement of "Christian art." We believe that God's truth transcends such rigid categories. Furthermore, when we choose to stage only our own deeply held beliefs we trade in our art for dogma.

The Department of Theatre trains young artists to produce a variety of genres and styles of theatre from ancient Greek tragedy to the American musical to Theatre for Social Change. Our stage reflects a host of human experiences that challenge, entertain, move, and sometimes offend. Our task is to communicate the illusion of each story's reality at the highest level of aesthetic and technical skill so that we, and the audience with whom we share the creative experience, might better understand the world in which we live and serve. *As a community of theatre artists we invite you to join us as we seek to understand this calling in Christ.*

—Valerie Rae Smith, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Chair of the Theatre Department

*Messiah College does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin.*

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HIGHER EDUCATION.  
HIGHER CALLING.

Nickel & Dimed

