Florida State School of Theatre

# MFA Technical Production Program

**www.theatre.fsu.edu**

[**rcoleman@fsu.edu**](mailto:rcoleman@fsu.edu)

**850 644 4305**

**Our Mission:**

To provide our students with the training, experience, and philosophy to have a rewarding, sustainable career at any level desired.

## Selected Technical Production Classes

**Structural Design for the Stage I, II, III**

Structures I, II, III - Strength of materials and engineering techniques using non-calculus math

**Technical Production I & II**:

Explores the production process from script choice to load out.

**Electricity and Electronics**

Introduction to electricity and electronics primarily used in the entertainment industry for lighting, sound, automation, and show control.

**Physics for the Stage**

An introduction to the physics of moving scenery for the design of stage machinery.

**Software for Technical Production**:

A study of technical production software including AutoCAD 2016 to increase proficiency as well as communication.

**Stage Rigging**:

An analysis of safe rigging practices, equipment, and loading constraints for permanent and temporary theatrical rigging.

#### Leadership and Management:

#### The study of management techniques and the elements of effective leadership.

**Technical Production and Management**:

Examines planning and execution of complex projects as a technical and production manager for the performing arts.

**Hydraulics and Pneumatics:**

An introduction to the use and design of hydraulic and pneumatic machinery and devices for the stage.

**Design of Stage Machinery:**

A study of machine design for the stage, which incorporates physical constraints, power needs, and the safety factors involved.

**Industrial Hygiene for the Stage:**

Industrial hygiene(safety)for theatre technicians.

**Automation Control:**

A theoretical and practical look at the control side of automated scenery, which includes switch logic, PLC programming, positioning feedback, and power considerations

**Leadership and Organizational Management in the Arts**

An overview of effective leadership practices in the arts

**Practicum in Technical Theatre**

Practical application of class work and training,

**Internship**

Various internships available

**Selected Eelectives, Directed Independent Study, Selected Topics**

According to individual student needs.

**Other Classes Include:**

Theatre History

Play Analysis

Music Theatre History

Principles of Theatre Management

Business and Legal Issues in the Arts

Project Management

Resource Management

**Typical 3 Year Study Plan**

Semester I 9 Credit hours

TPA 5310 Structural Design for the Stage I

TPA 5284 Technical Production / Technical Solutions

TPA 5286 Technical Production Software

TPE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination

THE 4990 Forum

Semester II 9 Credit Hours

TPA 5306 Structural Design for the Stage II

TPA 5315 Physics of Stage Machinery

TPA 5286 Industrial Hygiene for the Stage

TPE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination

THE 4990 Forum

Semester III 12 Credit Hours

TPA 5079 Scene Painting

TPA 5286 Structural Design for the Stage III

TPA 5471 Leadership in the Arts

TPA 5015 Stage Machinery Design and Construction

TPE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination

THE 4990 Forum

Semester IV 9 Credit Hours

TPA 5xxx Electricity and Electronics for the Stage

TPA 5213 Stage Rigging

TPE 5XXX World History II

TPE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination

THE 4990 Forum

Semester V 12 Credit Hours

TPA 5973 Creative Thesis (3)

ART 5XXX (ART 4928)

TPA 5286 Structural Design for the Stage IV \*

TPA 5286 History of Theatrical Design

TPE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination

THE 4990 Forum

Semester VI 9 Credit Hours

TPA 5973 Creative Thesis (3)

TPE 8976 Creative Thesis Defense

TPA 5XXX Elective \*

TPA 5XXX Elective \*

THE 4990 Forum

Total Credit Hours 60

**Recommended Electives**

TPA 5280 MFA Practicum in Technical Theatre

TPA 5405 Principles of Theatre Management

TPA 5285 Technical Production and Management

TPA 5408 Business and Legal Issues in the Arts

TPA 5286 Selected Topics in Technical Theatre

TPA 5XXX Resource Management

TPA 5XXX Project Management

TPA 5905 Directed Independent Study

TPA 5203 Drafting

THE 5940 Internship in Theatre

### Semester Reviews

#### MFA Qualifying Examination:

#### Review of portfolio, resume, and progress by MFA Technical Production faculty every semester.

**Thesis Defense**

**Creative Thesis** Third Year

Typically a Mainstage Technical Production, but may be other large project.

Portfolio review: All work done while in graduate school—class work, special projects, and technical production work supporting student’s “arc of development” over 3 year residency to justify the award of Master of Fine Arts in Technical Theatre.

### Assistantships

**Tuition waiver**

**Stipend** –-approximately $ 12,000.00 for the school year.

**Assistantship Jobs include:** (approx. 20 hours per week):

**Shop Staff**

**Lab Supervisor**

**Production Staff**

**Teaching Assistant (possible in 2nd and 3rd year)**

### Production Personnel

**Full time professional staff**:

**Joshua Wickham** **Production Manager:**

Joshua Wickham became the Production Manager for the School of Theatre this year. He served as the Scenic Studio Manager during the transition into the new facility.  He earned his MFA in Technical Production from Florida State University in 2012.  He was the Assistant Technical Director for several years at Syracuse Stage before joining FSU.  He has worked at Glimmerglass Opera and Hartford Stage.

**Colin Campbell Scenic Studio Manager**

Colin Campbell is a graduate of FSU the School of Theatre and has a specialized degree from the carpentry program of the North Bennett Street School in Boston MA. Colin has worked locally as a theatrical technician at Tallahassee Community College, where he contributed to the development of their program, and also in the New England area for the Centennial Theatre Festival and SBL Lighting Design. Colin has worked in both commercial and residential construction. Colin has over fifteen years of experience.

**Kevin Grab Property Master**

Kevin Grab has experience in almost every aspect of production and design work with emphasis on stage properties. He holds a MFA in Property Management and Design from the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign (Class of 2013).  His Prop credits include the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival (Props Master, Asst. Props Master, Artisan,) Long Wharf Theater (Carpenter,) Milwaukee Repertory Theatre (Crafts Artisan.) He also has been a freelance prop builder for Tennessee Shakespeare Company, Centenary Stage Company and Orlando Shakespeare Theater as well as an internship at Actor’s Theatre of Louisville (*The Whipping Man*,2013.) He holds design credits at Long Wharf Theater Next Stage, Renaissance Theaterworks, and The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Kevin is an FSU School of Theatre alumnus (Class of 2009) and is happy to have returned to Tallahassee

**Jason Strom Scenic Charge/Paint Shop Manager**

Jason Strom earned an Arts Diploma in Scenic Art at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under the tutelage of Howard Jones and Franco Colavecchia. His professional experiences include painting scenery for The McCarter Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre, John Creech Design and Production, LIV Design, Inc., Carnegie‐Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, and for productions both on and off-Broadway. Mr. Strom has worked with many contemporary designers including Robert Brill, David Gallo, Derek McLane, and Dan Ettinger. Recently, he painted a mural for a permanent exhibit at the Carnegie Museum of Art, and taught a master class in Scenic Art at Point Park University.

**Zachery Cramer Sound Designer**

Zach Cramer joined the staff of the School of Theatre in November 2009 as their Sound Designer. Since then, he has designed nearly all of FSU's productions including *Rent, The Drowsy Chaperone, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Seagull, How to Succeed in Business, Much Ado About Nothing and Spring Awakening* which were among his favorites.  Additional  design credits include the award winning shows of *The Full Monty, The Producers* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* at Theatre Tallahassee, The Who's *Tommy, Ragtime, Seussical The Musical, The Secret Garden and Nine* (winner 2008 FTC, 2009 SETC and advanced to national AACT) for Theatre a la Carte.

#### Graduate Assistants: 12-15 MFA Technical Production Students

#### BA Technical Production Students Varies per semester—4-10

#### Scenery Lab Students: Varies per semester--18 to 20

### Scene Shop

Newly renovated 35,000 Sq. ft. well-equipped carpentry and metalworking Scenic Studio. All standard tools plus cold cut metal saw, Hossfeld bender, ShopBot CNC router, Bridgeport Vertical Milling machine. (Search Facebook- FSU School of Theatre Technical Production—to see shop photos.)

**Electromechanical Laboratory**

An automation and show control classroom equipped to support motion and show control training. Equipment includes:

Oscilloscopes

Function generators

Hydraulic Power Units

Full pneumatic capabilities

Show Control and Projection gear

Programming and control software (such as Automation Studio and DirectSoft)

Direct Logic PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers)

AC/DC motors

**Motion Control Equipment**

Hudson Scenic Studios Digital Winch Units

#### Goddard Design Analog VDC Winch Units

Numerous AC and DC winches

Wide range of hydraulic and pneumatic equipment

Fallon stage has built-in full stage revolve (dia.30’).

**Projection Equipment**

3 Sanyo 6400 lumen projectors, 2000:1 contrast, Ethernet control

4 WATCHOUT Computers – Dual Core, GeForce 8800, Video Capture, 500GB

DVI-Ethernet extensions

KVM Switch and Extender (Ethernet) for flexibility during technical rehearsals

**Theatre Spaces**

**Fallon Theatre**--Mainstage--large proscenium with a 490 seat house

**Conradi** **Studio Theatre**--smaller proscenium with 190 seat house

**Lab Theatre--**small thrust--3/4 round with 160 seat house

**Arts Annex Theatre**—small proscenium with 150-seat house.

**Asolo Conservatory- Cook Theatre**

### FSU School of Theatre Season

Typical Season includes a large Mainstage musical and a BFA lab musical, as well as classical and modern shows

Six to nine shows fully produced per year:

#### Four Mainstage shows

#### Two Lab shows

#### Two Children’s Shows

#### New Horizons Playwright Festival- A festival of new works by student playwrights.

MFA Director Projects, MFA Director One-Acts and Short Cuts

### Typical Technical Production Opportunities

Two production assignments per year:

**First year**

Assistant Technical Director, typically on Mainstage production

Possible Technical Director for a small production for a Lab or Studio show

#### Second year

One or two Technical Direction assignments: Lab, Studio or Mainstage production

#### Third year

Creative thesis, Internship, Asolo Conservatory or Repertory assignment, 7 Days of Opening Nights

### Scenery Budgets

#### Mainstage--from $ 2,500. to $ 6,500. (scenery)

#### Lab and Studio Productions--about $ 1,000 to $3,000. (scenery)

### Prospective Students

Prospective students must schedule an interview with Robert Coleman. <rcoleman@fsu.edu> Interviews can be held at the School of Theatre in Tallahassee by appointment. Robert Coleman will be at the USITT Conference in Salt Lake City, at URTA in Chicago, and at Link in Atlanta. A campus visit is very strongly encouraged and is required for finalists.

**Technical Production Faculty:**

**Robert H. Coleman, MFA Technical Production Program Director,** has contributed to over three hundred Dance, Opera, and Dramatic Theatre productions. Until recently, he was Director of Production at the Opera Festival of New Jersey at McCarter Theatre in Princeton NJ during the summer season. During his tenure, the Opera Festival presented several world premieres and was considered by *Opera News* and *Money* to be among the top ten summer festivals in the U.S and in the top twenty worldwide.

Robert worked professionally for a number of years before a desire to teach led him to graduate school for his MFA. He attended Ohio University for a year before transferring to the Yale School of Drama in 1995. He was graduated from the Yale School of Drama with an MFA in Technical Design and Production in 1998.

He was the Head of the Technical Program at the University of Tennessee for three years and also served at the Technical Director for the school and the Clarence Brown Company, the University of Tennessee’s LORT theatre company.

He came to Tallahassee in August of 2001 to FSU School of Theatre’s nationally prominent MFA Technical Production program where he is an Associate Professor and Program Director of the Technical Production program.

He continues his professional career, acting as Technical Consultant to a number of notable scenic designers and theatre companies. Recently, he was Technical Consultant to Designer Kris Stone for the Abbey Theatre’s production of ***Lolita***. Robert was a Fly-in Technician (now referred to as ‘Global Resources Services) for Cirque du Soleil’s ***Dralion*** North American tour. More recently, he acted as Interim Assistant Technical Director for Cirque du Soleil’s ***Dralion*** European Tour in Vienna and Antwerp. He has worked in Global Resources Services for Cirque du Soleil, serving in Antwerp, Madrid, London, Barcelona, Rotterdam, Oostende, and Zurich, Geneva, Valencia, Malaga, Berlin, and Frankfurt.

**Jim Lile, Assistant Professor of MFA Technical Production**, Jim has a wide variety of experience in his 25 years of working live theatre. Prior to joining the FSU faculty, Jim was the Production Manager for Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, a position he held for seven years. He earned an MFA in Technical Design and Production in 1999 from Yale School of Drama.   Following graduation he went on to work at Purdue University Theatre as an Assistant Professor and Technical Director. Over the years he has been the Technical Director, Stage Manager, Lighting Designer or staff member for a variety of theatrical and dance companies. A few of the companies he has worked with are: Norwegian Cruise Lines, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Pensacola Opera, Nashville Opera and The Iowa State Center and The Des Moines Civic Center. He was a member of IATSE Local 174 in Lafayette, Indiana. He served as the Production Manager and Technical Director for Des Moines Metro Opera for over ten years. He has worked on hundreds of rock concerts, Broadway tours, conferences and sporting events.  He spent nine years as stage manager for the Iowa State Center’s Nutcracker Ballet.

He continues to work as a freelance Production Manager, Technical Director and Consultant for several regional opera companies around the country.   Jim enjoys teaching and bringing his professional experience to the classroom. Jim currently serves as USITT SE Treasurer.

**Contact Current Graduate Students**

Collin Huse ’17 ch14d@my.fsu.edu

Johanna Miller ’17 [jm14t@my.fsu.edu](mailto:jm14t@my.fsu.edu)

Dana White ’17 [dew14@my.fsu.edu](mailto:dew14@my.fsu.edu)

Kyle Hoehn ’18 [kdh15b@my.fsu.edu](mailto:kdh15b@my.fsu.edu)

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Zachary Briscoe ’19 [zrb16@my.fsu.edu](mailto:zrb16@my.fsu.edu)

John Abraham Davis ‘19 [jad16s@my.fsu.edu](mailto:jad16s@my.fsu.edu)

Kassidy Coburn ‘19 [klc16f@my.fsu.edu](mailto:klc16f@my.fsu.edu)

Colin Shay ’19 [cts16b@my.fsu.edu](mailto:cts16b@my.fsu.edu)  
Erin Collopy ’19 eec16j@my.fsu.edu

**Recent Graduate Employment**

David Kaplan ‘02 Technical Director Kean University

Zak Stribling ‘03 Technical Director University of Kentucky

Jill Collins ‘03 Project Manager Shalleck Co-op Consultants

Allison Helms ‘04 Technical Designer Columbia Artists Management

Jason Peliwo ‘04 Project Manager InterAmerica Stage, Inc.

Richard Girtain ‘05 Technical Director Julliard School

Daniel Archibald ‘05 Technical Director Ramapo College, NJ

Anne Carncross ’05 Technical Director Florida Gulf Coast University

Mike Layton ‘05 Asst. Technical Director University of Central Florida

Ed Saindon ‘06 Technical Director Virginia Opera

Bill Kimble ‘06 Technical Director Harrison School for the Arts

Matthew Chandler ’07 Assoc. Production Manager Goodman Theatre

Ben Dawson ‘07 Production Manager Sch. Theatre & Music UI Chi.

Michael Smith ’07 Assoc. Prof., Sound Designer Elon University

David Smith ’07 Production Manager Virginia Opera

Rob Waltz ’07 Faculty Technical Dir. Calif. State Univ. Long Beach

Doug Hilleman ‘08 Technical Director St. Benedict’s College

Travis Palmer ‘08 Project Manager Aerospace and Theatre Design

DJ Haugen ‘08 Asst. Prod. Mngr NJ Performing Arts Center

Andrew Hagan ’08 Designer/Drafter Theatre Projects Consultants

Rick DiGiuseppe ’09 Technical Estimator North East Stage

Katie Nesbit ’10 Comm. Project Manager. Hargrove Inc.

Ruth McCormack ’10 Technical Manager McMaster-Carr, Inc.

Jon Simon ’10 Faculty Tech. Director Univ. of Buffalo

Michael Driggers ’10 Scene Shop Coordinator Clarice Smith Perf. Arts Center

Matt Gist ’10 Technical Director Auburn University

Vince Lobello ’11 Technical Director Seton Hill Univ.

Bill Digneit ‘11 Principal, Double Trouble DJs Minnesota Region

Tony Lawrence ‘11 Technical Director Washington& Lee Univ.

Robert Richoux ’11 Asst. Prof.-Theatre/Fac. Mngr. NorthWestern State Univ. La Amy Schneider ’12 Technical Designer Global Scenic Services

Jon Sternberg ‘12 Technical Designer Tait Towers

Ree Seminole ‘12 Technical Director White Plains Perf. Ctr.

Dylan Callery ‘12 Asst. Technical Director Long Wharf Theatre

Joshua Wickham ‘13 Production Manager FSU Sch. Of Theatre

Samantha Miller ’13 Technical Director Univ. of Miami

Karn Severson ’13 Asst. Prof. - Theatre NorthWestern State Univ. La

Paul Anton ‘14 Lighting Supervisor The Alley Theatre

John Keisling ’14 Visiting Faculty/TD Southern Mississippi Univ.

Erin Solemsaas ’14 Director of Production Rose Theatre, Omaha

Bryce Copp ’14 Project Manager Commerlux

Eric Pettit ’14 Audio Technician *Zarkana* Cirque di Soleil

Jeremy Toedter ’15 Project Manager Everlast Productions

Scott Vandenberg ’15 Lighting Supervisor Texas State Univ

Matthew Frasier ‘15 Faculty Technical Director UNC Charlotte

Erin Kehr ’15 Property Supervisor/Lecturer Texas State Univ.

Brian Shaughnessy '16 Project Manager Pook, Diemont, & Ohl Inc.

Ryan Cole ’16 Project Manager J. R. Clancy, Inc.

Brandon Rada ’16 Automation Technician Creative Conner Inc.

Zack Vandever ’16 Faculty Technical Director Young Harris College

Jordan Lippert ’16 Technical Director Riverside Theatre

**Typical Summer Employers**

Utah Shakespearean Festival

Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival

Ohio Light Opera

Santa Fe Opera

Texas Shakespearean Festival

Glimmerglass Opera

Creed Repertory Theatre

Nebraska Shakespeare Festival

Merry Go Round Theatre

Peach State Festival

Cortland Rep Theatre

Brevard Music Theatre

Medora Musical Theatre

Berkshire Summer Theatre

**Contact:**

Robert H. Coleman

MFA Technical Production Program Director

Florida State University School of Theatre

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