To prepare future leaders in theatre and performance scholarship. We assume that our students will work professionally in research universities and liberal arts colleges as well as in dramaturgy and literary management positions in regional theatres and leading small theatres in urban centers.

This principle shapes the curriculum of the graduate Theatre Studies programs at Florida State University. It expresses our commitment to a process that moves from collecting and analyzing evidence to creating action in the forms of written and performed research. Whether performances originate in ethnographic or archival research or move more traditionally from page to stage, they are our subject matter. Whether performances are live or mediated through technology, they are respected as evidence to be approached through scholarly research and analysis.

The different methods and approaches we use share a commitment to exploring performances in their social, historical, and political contexts. Our scholarship and creative activity are grounded in the belief that performance, from ancient Greek tragedies to devised work and performance art, is part of a vital process through which citizens shape their communities. We consider our work as scholars and artists integral to that ongoing process.

The Master of Arts in Theatre Studies prepares students to pursue doctoral studies, careers in secondary schools and community colleges and strengthens their preparation for professions such as literary management and dramaturgy.

The Doctorate in Theatre Studies prepares students for careers in teaching and research at the college and university levels and a variety of careers in the arts and related professions.

The Master's and Doctoral programs draw on the expertise of faculty members with diverse backgrounds in scholarship and performance. Under their mentorship, students explore different approaches to collecting and analyzing various forms of evidence—documents, interviews, images, and objects, as well as play scripts. Our methodologies reflect the most current developments in theatre and performance research, while still respecting tried and true methods of the past. These methods include: Critical Race and Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Dramaturgy, Ethnography, Historiography, Performance Studies, and Phenomenology. In addition to offering seminars using these approaches, we integrate them throughout the curriculum.

Having thoroughly grounded our students in Western theatre history, theory, criticism, and canonical works of dramatic literature, we encourage them to re-imagine the classics using contemporary perspectives.

The emphasis on the critical intersections of national identity, citizenship and performance is enhanced through exposure to a range of performance traditions, plays, and politics.

In addition to a keen interest in the staging of new plays, devised work, and other types of performance activity, students are encouraged to engage with the most current theoretical models of conceptualizing identity and performance.

Through careful mentoring, the faculty encourages students to examine how theoretical ideas intersect with performances of the past, present and future.

Under the close supervision of faculty mentors students teach a variety of subjects in different settings and participate in University-sponsored teacher training events.
Students accepted into the graduate programs in Theatre Studies at Florida State University receive all of the benefits of a Research 1 institution and an active professional production program combined with the close, one-on-one mentorship usually associated with smaller liberal arts schools.

Professional development and mentoring. Professional development and mentoring are emphasized at all stages of the individual student’s career. Students are supported in their class work, teaching, conference presentations, and publishing efforts.

Theoretical and practical grounding. Students receive training in theatre history and dramaturgical practice to support their use of contemporary critical methodologies.

A synergistic relationship between undergraduate and graduate programs. The benefits of strong undergraduate programs in theatre are exemplified by teaching and production opportunities available to MA and PhD students.

Nationally ranked MFA programs. The graduate programs in Theatre Studies are embedded in a full-service theatre training school that includes MFA programs in directing, costume design, production technology, and theatre management. Our MA and PhD programs benefit from our close relationships with the professional artists who direct these programs and with whom we collaborate in creating research and curricular opportunities for students.

Scholar / Artists in Theatre Studies and in Performance. Faculty members with diverse backgrounds and training contribute expertise to Graduate Theatre Studies.

FUNDING

Students are funded through teaching and research assistantships in the School of Theatre. Typically MA students receive 2 years and PhD students receive 5 years of support. For information about nationally competitive University Fellowships, please see www.gradstudies.fsu.edu/. International students contact mkdahl@fsu.edu.

ALUMNI PLACEMENTS

Our alumni have taken faculty positions at: Belmont University, Dartmouth College, Montgomery College, Pennsylvania State at University Park, Pensacola State University, St. Mary’s University of Minnesota, State University of New York at New Paltz, Tallahassee Community College, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Nebraska - Lincoln, University of Kansas - Lawrence, Vanderbilt University, and Virginia Tech.

FACULTY

Sukanya Chakrabarti
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Studies
PhD Stanford University
Postcolonial Studies and Postcolonial Ecocriticism; Transculturalism; Cosmopolitanism and Globalization Studies; South Asian Theater and Performance Studies; Ethnomusicology; Directing; Dramaturgy.

Mary Karen Dahl
Professor of Theatre Studies
PhD Stanford University
Intersections between Performance and Politics; Violence: Theories, Ethics, and Representation; British and Continental Theatre and Drama; Documentary Forms; Cultural Studies; Dramaturgy.

Anthony Gunn
Postdoctoral Scholar of Theatre Studies
PhD Florida State University
Public History; Theatrical Ontology and Liveness; Nostalgia; Popular Entertainments and Culture; Performance and Sports Punditry; Thornton Wilder; Edward Gorey; Directing; Playwriting.

Elizabeth Osborne
Associate Professor of Theatre Studies
PhD University of Maryland, College Park
MFA Brandeis University
US Theatre History; Federal Theatre Project; Community, Identity, and Representation; Performance and Labor History; Intersections of History, Memory, and Popular Culture; Performance Studies; Dramaturgy; Historiography.

Kris Salata
Associate Professor of Performance
PhD Stanford University
Phenomenology of Performance (event, presence, liveness); Theory of Acting; Theory of Directing; Performance Pedagogy: Performance as Research; Jerzy Grotowski; Tadeusz Kantor; The Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards.

Aaron C. Thomas
Assistant Professor of Theatre Studies
PhD Florida State University
Theatre History; Violence Studies; Sexuality Studies; American Studies; Cultural Studies; Musical Theatre; Gender Theory; Critical Race Theory.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The School of Theatre at Florida State

For additional information about the program, the faculty, and how to apply, please visit: http://theatre.fsu.edu/graduate.