The Master of Arts and Doctorate
In Theatre Studies

OUR GOAL

To prepare future leaders—scholars, teachers, and artists—in Theatre and Performance Studies.

FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

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.

ART AS ACTION

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 PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Theatre and Performance Studies is a flexible degree that prepares students to pursue doctoral studies or careers in secondary schools and community colleges. It strengthens their preparation for professions such as literary management and dramaturgy.

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

FACULTY EXPERTISE

The Master’s and Doctoral programs draw on the expertise of faculty members with diverse backgrounds. Under the mentorship of these Scholar/Artists, students explore different subjects and approaches to collecting and analyzing various forms of evidence as well as play scripts. Areas of special interest include American Studies, British & European Theatre, Theatre History & Historiography, African & African Diasporic Performance, Documentary & Political Theatre, and Music Theatre Studies. Approaches include Performance & Cultural Studies, Critical Race Theory, Postcolonial Studies, Sexuality Studies, Phenomenology, Violence & Trauma Studies, Dramaturgy, and Devising. We offer seminars using these approaches and integrate them throughout the curriculum.

THE CURRICULUM

The Western tradition seen anew.
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.

A vision both transnational and international.
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.

New work and new ways of working.
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.

TEACHER TRAINING

Under the close supervision of faculty mentors, students teach a variety of subjects in different settings and participate in University-sponsored teacher training events.
MA & PHD DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Students accepted into the graduate programs in Theatre and Performance Studies at Florida State 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 BFA and MFA programs. The graduate programs in Theatre Studies are embedded in a full-service theatre training school that includes BFAs in Acting and Musical Theatre and MFAs in Costume Design, Directing, Technical Production, 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.

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, Brigham Young University, Chemeketa Community College, Pennsylvania State University (College Park), Pensacola State College, Tallahassee Community College, University of Central Florida, University of Kansas (Lawrence), University of Nebraska (Lincoln), University of Nevada (Las Vegas), University of North Carolina (Charlotte), University of South Florida (Sarasota-Manatee), Vanderbilt University, and Virginia Tech.

Alumni of the Master of Arts program attend top doctoral programs or are successfully pursuing careers in theatres throughout the nation and in alternative professions including university administration, law, and instructional design.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The School of Theatre at Florida State
For additional information about the program and how to apply, please visit: http://theatre.fsu.edu/graduate.