

Florida State School of Theatre

MFA Technical Production Program

www.theatre.fsu.edu

Our Mission:

To provide our students with the training, experience, and philosophy to engage in 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 based on Sammler/Holden's *Structural Design for the Stage* 2nd ed.

Technical Production I & II:

An exploration of 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 based on Hendrickson's *Mechanical Design for the Stage*.

Software for Technical Production:

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

Stage Rigging:

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

Technical Production and Management:

Examines planning and executing 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.

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 classwork and training designed to develop research and self-education skills.

Typical 3 Year Study Plan

Fall Semester I 9 Credit hours

TPA 5310 Structural Design for the Stage I
TPA 5207 Technical Direction (Solutions)
TPA 5347 Technical Production Software
TPA 5284 Technical Production
THE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination
Production Assignment

Spring Semester II 9 Credit Hours

TPA 5306 Structural Design for the Stage II
TPA 5315 Physics of Stage Machinery
TPA 5278 Electricity and Electronics for the Stage
THE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination
TPA 5213 Rigging for the Stage
Production Assignment

Fall Semester III 11 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
THE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination
Production Assignment

Spring Semester IV 10 Credit Hours

TPA 5285 Production Management
THE 5294 History of Theatrical Design
TPA 5931 Industrial Hygiene for the Stage
THE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination
Production Assignment

Fall Semester V 9-12 Credit Hours

TPA 5973 Creative Project (3)
TPA 5089 Automation Control
TPA 5XXX Elective
THE 8963 MFA Qualifying Examination
Production Assignment

Spring Semester VI 9-12 Credit Hours

TPA 5973 Creative Project (3)
TPE 8976 Creative Thesis Defense
TPA 5089-03 Creative Problem Solving
TPA 5XXX Elective
Production Assignment

Semester Reviews

MFA Qualifying Examination:

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

Thesis Defense

Creative Thesis Third Year

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

Portfolio review: All work done while in graduate school—classwork, special projects, and technical production work supporting student's "arc of development" over three year residency to justify the award of Master of Fine Arts in Technical Production. The Thesis is presented in written form.

Assistantships

Tuition waiver 9-12 Credit Hours per semester.

Stipend —approximately \$ 15,600.00 for the school year.

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

Shop Staff

Lab Supervisor

Production Staff

Instructor (possible in 2nd and 3rd year)

Production Personnel

Full-time professional staff:

Joshua Wickham

Production Manager

Technical Production Program Co-Director

Joshua Wickham became the Production Manager for the School of Theatre in 2014. 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. In addition, he has worked at Glimmerglass Opera and Hartford Stage.

Colin Campbell

Scenic Studio Manager

Colin Campbell is a graduate of the FSU 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 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 18 years of experience.

Kevin Grab

Property Master

Kevin Grab has experience in almost every aspect of production and design work with an emphasis on stage properties. He holds an 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

Teddy Moore

Scenic Charge/Paint Shop Manager

Teddy Moore earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Scenic Design at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under the instruction of Howard Jones and Franco Colavecchia. His professional experiences include painting and designing scenery for The Florida State Opera, Opera at USC, The Castleton Festival, Opera on the James, Asheville Lyric Opera, Columbia City Ballet, FBN Productions, The Mostly Baroque Players, Connecticut Opera, and Quisisana on lake Kezar.

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.

Please note that FSU has no Staff Technical Director. Graduate students fill that role.

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, 4 x 8 ShopBot CNC router, 5 x 10 ShopBot spindle router, and 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	Programming and control software (such as Automation Studio and DirectSoft)
Function generators	Direct Logic PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers)
Hydraulic Power Units	AC/DC motors
Full pneumatic capabilities	
Show Control and Projection gear	

Show Control Equipment

Creative Conners Automation
Hudson Scenic Studios Digital Winch Units
Goddard Design Analog VDC Winch Units
Numerous AC and DC winches

Wide range of hydraulic and pneumatic equipment

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 a 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 (2 musicals)

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 or Special Project.

Third-year

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

Scenery Budgets

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

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

Prospective Students

Prospective students must schedule an interview with an MFA Program representative. Interviews can be held at the School of Theatre in Tallahassee by appointment. FSU will be represented at the USITT Conference, at URTA virtually and in-person Chicago, and at LiNK virtually.

A campus visit is very strongly encouraged and is required for finalists.

Please contact Barbara G. Thomas bgthomas@fsu.edu 850 644 7234 for advice and assistance with the application process.

Technical Production Faculty:

Jim Lile, MFA Technical Production Program Co-Director

Jim has a wide variety of experience in his 25 years of working in 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 various theatrical and dance companies. A few of the companies he has worked with are Norwegian Cruise Lines, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Pensacola Opera, Nashville Opera, 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. He recently achieved Tenure and Promotion. Jim currently serves as USITT SE Treasurer.

Robert H. Coleman, Associate Professor of Technical Production, 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 graduated from Yale 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 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 was Program Director of the Technical Production program from 2001 to 2021.

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.

Contact Current Graduate Students

Emily Chancellor '22

Ethan Follett '22

Elliot Mahoney '22

em19o@my.fsu.com

ef19k@fsu.edu

mem19y@fsu.edu

Nathan Glowacki '22
Michael Delaney '22
Kendra Drew '23
Wesley Seiderman '23
Nathaniel Feit '23
Raistlin Yovan '23
Victoria Guise '24
Danielle Gonzalez '24
Becca Stock '24
Zac Cary '24
Payton Nugent '24

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vrg20f@my.fsu.edu
deg16c@my.fsu.edu
res21@my.fsu.edu
zac20e@my.fsu.edu
pn21a@my.fsu.edu

Graduate Employment

David Kaplan '02
Zak Stribling '03
Jill Collins '03
Allison Helms '04
Jason Peliwo '04
Richard Girtain '05
Daniel Archibald '05
Anne Carncross '05
Mike Layton '05
Ed Saindon '06
Bill Kimble '06
Matthew Chandler '07
Ben Dawson '07
Michael Smith '07
David Smith '07
Rob Waltz '07
Doug Hildeman '08
Travis Palmer '08
DJ Haugen '08
Andrew Hagan '08
Rick DiGiuseppe '09
Katie Nesbit '10
Ruth McCormack '10
Jon Simon '10
Michael Driggers '10
Matt Gist '10
Vince Lobello '11
Bill Digneit '11
Tony Lawrence '11
Robert Richoux '11
Amy Schneider '12
Jon Sternberg '12
Ree Seminole '12
Dylan Callery '12
Joshua Wickham '13

Technical Director
Technical Director
Project Manager
Technical Designer
Project Manager
Technical Director
Technical Director
Technical Director
Asst. Technical Director
Technical Director
Technical Director
Production Manager
Production Manager
Assoc. Prof., Sound Designer
Director of Production
Faculty Technical Dir.
Technical Director
Project Manager
Dir. Of Production
Designer/Drafter
Technical Estimator
Comm. Project Manager.
Technical Manager
Faculty Tech. Director
Scene Shop Coordinator
Technical Director
Technical Director
Principal, Double Trouble DJs
Technical Director
Asst. Prof.-Theatre/Fac. Mngr.
Technical Designer
Technical Designer
Technical Designer
Asst. Technical Director
Production Manager

Kean University
University of Kentucky
Shalleck Co-op Consultants
Columbia Artists Management
InterAmerica Stage, Inc.
Julliard School
Ramapo College, NJ
Florida Gulf Coast University
University of Central Florida
Virginia Opera
Harrison School for the Arts
South Coast Rep Theatre
Sch. Theatre & Music UI Chi.
Elon University
Atlanta Opera Co.
Cal. State Univ. Long Beach
St. Benedict's College
Aerospace and Theatre Design
Skylight Theatre
Theatre Projects Consultants
North East Stage
Hargrove Inc.
McMaster-Carr, Inc.
Univ. of Buffalo
Clarice Smith Perf. Arts Center
Auburn University
Seton Hill Univ.
Minnesota Region
Washington & Lee Univ.
NorthWestern State Univ. LA
Global Scenic Services
Tait Towers
I. Weiss Inc.
Long Wharf Theatre
FSU Sch. Of Theatre

Samantha Miller '13	Technical Director	Nova Southeastern Univ.
Samantha Miller '13	Director of Production	Miami Music Festival
Karn Severson '13	Asst. Prof. - Theatre	NorthWestern State Univ. La
Paul Anton '14	Technical Director	Gogue Perf. Arts Center
John Keisling '14	Technical Director	Wayne State Univ.
Erin Solemsaas '14	Director of Production	Rose Theatre, Omaha
Bryce Copp '14	Project Manager	Dallas Scenic Studio
Eric Pettit '14	Audio Technician <i>Zarkana</i>	Cirque du 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	Wenger, 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
Dana White '17	Faculty Technical Director	Palm Beach Atlantic Univ.
Johanna Miller '17	Faculty Technical Director	Bradley University
Collin Huse '17	Technical Director	FSU School of Music
Zach Hiatt '18	Entertainment Technician	Disney Entertainment
Justin Voga '18	Technical Director	WaterTower Theatre
Kyle Hoehn '18	Manager	Greely Center for the Arts
Zach Murphy '18	Technical Director	Red Mountain Theatre Co.
Colin Shay '19	Faculty Technical Director	Texas State University
John Davis '19	Technical Director	Jacksonville State Univ.
Erin Collopy '19	Scenic Carpenter	Milwaukee Rep Theatre
Zach Briscoe '19	Theatre Specialist	Skyler-Shook Consultants
Kassidy Coburn '19	Lighting Supervisor	FSU School of Theatre
Clifford Glowacki '20	Technical Director	FSU School of Music
Brock Baird '20	Technical Designer	Virginia Stage
Ryan Ponsell '20	Sales Engineer	Westview Inc.
Brianna Weintraub '20	Lighting Production Mngr.	Sarah Lawrence College
Carson Bishop '21	Technical Director	Bristol Riverside Theatre
Jackson Golden '21	Technical Director	UC Santa Barbara
Alex Farley '21	Asst. Technical Director	Riverside Theatre
Braedon Ingersoll '21	Technical Director	Northern Michigan Univ.
Jon May '21	Project Manager	Lyric Productions

Typical Summer Employers

Utah Shakespearean Festival
 Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival
 Ohio Light Opera
 Santa Fe Opera
 Texas Shakespearean Festival
 Glimmerglass Opera
 Creede Repertory Theatre

Nebraska Shakespeare Festival
 Merry Go Round Theatre
 Contemporary Amer. Theatre Fest.
 Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre
 Cortland Rep Theatre
 Brevard Music Theatre
 Medora Musical Theatre
 Berkshire Summer Theatre
 Peach State Festival

Contact:

MFA Technical Production Program Co-Directors

Jim Lile jlile@fsu.edu

Joshua Wickham jwickham@fsu.edu

Associate Professor in Technical Theatre

Robert Coleman rcoleman@fsu.edu

Florida State University School of Theatre

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See our shop and works in progress:

On Facebook—Search FSU School of Theatre Technical Production.

We are on Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sottechnicalproduction/sets>

Questions a prospective graduate student should ask about any program:

1. Will you give me defined classes or is your program more focused on practical experience?
 - a. We feel that our students are best served with a combination of the theoretical and the practical- that is that we train in the classroom and provide the opportunity to practice what we teach. We consider our productions to be laboratories in which our students use what they have been taught.
2. Will I have regular formal reviews in which I can discuss my progress as well as any new interests I have discovered?
 - a. In our case, we review our students every semester in a format that allows us to encourage progress, discuss strengths and shortcomings, as well as support any new interests our students might have discovered.
3. Every school will provide financial support in the form of an assistantship stipend as well as a tuition waiver. The question is—what does the school expect from the student in return for that financial support?
 - a. In our case, it is approximately 20 hours a week in various positions- in the scenic shop for the first year and in a variety of positions in the 2nd and 3rd years, positions such as teaching our undergraduates, assisting our production manager or scenic shop manager, and working in Props, Electrics, and all the various technical theatre disciplines.
4. Will I be given responsible positions in which I can practice for my professional future?
 - a. There is no Staff Technical Director at FSU. The students are the Technical Directors for all productions. They are supported by a highly qualified professional Staff. This staff will be supportive while holding our students to the expectation of a level of performance at a professional level.
5. Is the program preparing you for the future? Would you have access to technology such as automation, projection, show control?
 - a. We at FSU think these are important areas. We prepare students with the background to take advantage of the technology of the future.
6. Who will be primarily responsible for overseeing and guiding my educational experience?
 - a. In our case, MFA Technical Production Program Co-Directors Jim Lile and Joshua Wickham, serve as Major Professors and Thesis Chairs. Although well supported by other faculty and professional staff, the Co-Directors are the primary contacts for our graduate students.
7. Can the prospective student contact current students? Will there be an opportunity to discuss the research a current student might have done in choosing the school as well as discuss the program?
 - a. Contact info for all current students is listed above this guide.
8. Is the program active in placing students in both summer and permanent employment? Where have recent graduates been hired? What is the average compensation? Is the relationship between Program and student a continuing one?
 - a. FSU has a 100% placement rate at an average of \$55,000 annual salary.
 - b. Faculty and staff advise and support current and former students as they rise through the ranks over time. Our relationship continues to be strong and supportive throughout their career.
 - c. Summer employers highly desire FSU students' We consider summer employment to be the equivalent of a master class.