

## THEATER

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### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Fishel-Bright, Rebecca**, Assistant Professor, M.F.A., Ohio University, 1980; 1998. Performance.

**Fletcher, Anne**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Tufts University, 1992; 2001. Theater history, 20th century American political theater.

**Holcombe, Robert**, Assistant Professor, M.F.A., Ohio University, 1999; 2000. Technical direction.

**Merrill-Fink, Lori**, Associate Professor, M.F.A., University of Arizona, Tucson, 1988; 1988. Acting, voice, and movement.

**Moe, Christian H.**, Professor, *Emeritus*, Ph.D., Cornell University, 1958; 1958.

**Naversen, Ronald**, Associate Professor and *Director of Graduate Studies*, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1989; 1989. Scenic design.

**Rush, David**, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Illinois, 1973; 1996. Playwriting, criticism, theory.

**Varns, Mark**, Associate Professor and *Chair*, M.F.A., University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1990; 1996. Technical direction, lighting design.

**Wagner, Kathryn**, Assistant Professor, MFA, Rutgers University, 1988; 2002. Costume Design.

The Department of Theater is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre, 11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21, Reston, Virginia 20190.

The Department of Theater blends scholarship and practice in an academically based theater experience that provides students with broad based exposure to human experience and a sound foundation in the skills of theater craft. The course of study in theory and criticism in all areas of theater is complimented by a production program that reinforces both approaches to theater, creating work that is as imaginative and highly polished as possible. Graduates will be able to apply their knowledge of performance, production, theater history and literature and contemporary practice in a wide variety of theater venues. Graduates will also be able to demonstrate intrapersonal and interpersonal skills in the form of leadership qualities, self discipline, creative expression, critical thinking, and the ability to work effectively as a part of a collaborative team. The development and guidance of talent and discipline, both characteristic of the artist/scholar, are the goals of the Department of Theater.

The Department of Theater maintains two theaters for public productions: the McLeod Theater, a proscenium stage seating approximately 488, and the Christian H. Moe Laboratory Theater, a flexible stage seating up to 110. The playbill typically encompasses a balance of contemporary, classic, and original works, and offers three plays and an opera or musical during the academic year (the latter co-produced with the School of Music). The summer season, McLeod Summer Playhouse, consists of two musicals and a comedy operating as a professional summer stock company, offering stipends, and/or graduate credit.

The Department of Theater offers a graduate program of study leading to a Master of Fine Arts degree in theater. Doctoral study in theater is sponsored by the Department of Speech Communication. Interested students should consult the description of the program under speech communication.

### Admissions

One set of forms must be submitted by the applicant to the Department of Theater. All forms should be requested from the director of graduate studies in theater. Applicants for graduate studies in theater must satisfy the minimum requirements of the Graduate School before being admitted to the department, which requires the submission of a personal and professional data form together with 3 letters of recommendation from former teachers or supervisors.

A non-refundable application fee of \$20.00 (\$40.00, effective Summer 2005) must be submitted with the application. Attach your check or money order, payable to Southern Illinois University, to the top of the application form. Do not send cash. Only checks or money orders payable to United States banks will be accepted.

Although an undergraduate major in theater is not essential for admission to a graduate degree program in theater, the director of graduate studies may require that certain course deficiencies in undergraduate subject areas be remedied. These requirements are stated in writing on the admissions approval form.

There are additional requirements established by each of the three areas of study in the M.F.A. program. Applicants in the directing area are interviewed and required to submit materials that are representative of their previous theater work and/or indicate an aptitude for stage direction (examples would include promptbooks, programs, reviews, photos, video tapes or casebooks from previous directing efforts. Alternatively, a detailed production plan for a play selected by the faculty may be required). Applicants in the production design/technical areas are required to submit portfolio samples of their work. Applicants in the playwriting area must submit examples of their writings. Please refer to the description of the program in Speech Communications for admission information to the Ph.D. program. Please note that the Department of Theater now requires the submission of GRE scores as part of its particular admission requirement. More detailed information about these requirements is obtainable from: Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Theater, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901-6608, 618-453-5741.

### Financial Assistance

There are several kinds of financial assistance available to graduate students in the Department of Theater. First, there are graduate fellowships awarded on the basis of superior scholarship. Second, special fellowships are offered

annually to students who show promise of success in graduate studies although their academic records have been only average due to economic disadvantages. The fellowships have no service requirements. Third, graduate assistantships (over \$5,000 per academic year) are available to students who are employed in various academic support positions, such as teaching, researching, and production. All fellowships and assistantships include a waiver of tuition (both in-state and out-of-state). Applications for financial assistance may be obtained by writing to the director of graduate studies.

### **The Master of Fine Arts Degree Program**

The Master of Fine Arts degree program in theater emphasizes practical expertise in one of the following areas: directing, production design (separate emphases in scenic, lighting, costume design, and technical direction), and playwriting. Coordination of cognate areas within the University structure offers the possibility of study in such interdisciplinary fields as dramatic literature, American theater, and music theater, among others. In most instances, a minimum three year residency is required of all M.F.A. students.

All M.F.A. students must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of course work, including the M.F.A. degree core requirements:

THEA 400 or THEA 503 (Playwrights only) – 4 hours

THEA 500, 501 – 5 hours

THEA 506 – 3 hours

Basic theater course in area – 3 hours

Total M.F.A. core – 15 hours

Besides the core requirements, the student will propose and successfully complete a project to qualify for further study in the chosen area. This project will be developed in concert with the student's committee consisting of three faculty members.

In addition, each of the three areas of study has specific area and elective requirements which are as follows.

#### *Directing.*

M.F.A. core (including THEA 402b) – 15 hours

Area requirements – 33

THEA 401A-2 hours

THEA 401B-1 hour

THEA 403-3 hours

THEA 417-3 hours

THEA 454-3 hours

THEA 502-9 hours

THEA 511-3 hours

THEA 526a-3 hours

THEA 599-6 hours

Electives (by advisement) – 12 hours

Total: 60 hours

#### *Production Design.*

M.F.A. core (including THEA 407) – 15 hours

Area requirements – 32

THEA 414, 418-6 hours

THEA 510-8 hours

Area theater electives-6 hours

THEA 511 or 522-6 hours

THEA 599-6 hours

Electives (by advisement) – 13 hours

Total: 60 hours

#### *Playwriting.*

M.F.A. core (including THEA 411a) – 15 hours

Area requirements – 35

THEA 402a or b, or 502-3 hours

THEA 411b, 511, 526b-9 hours

THEA 504, 505-6 hours

THEA 511 or 522-3 hours

THEA 454 or 550-2 to 3 hours

THEA 530-3 to 6 hours

THEA 535-1 to 6 hours (1 hour per semester)

THEA 599-6 hours

Electives (by advisement) – 10 hours

Total: 60 hours

Thesis requirements vary for each area of study; however, they include a research component as well as a description and evaluation of the student's creative project. In concert with the student's committee, the candidate may choose to separate the two, submitting an approved research paper during the first academic year and a creative thesis after completion of the M.F.A. final project.

The Department of Theater requires an oral examination, conducted by the student's thesis or dissertation committee, for each M.F.A. and Ph.D. degree candidate. The examination covers the thesis or dissertation, and may include questions designed to ascertain the student's general competence in theater.

### Courses (THEA)

**400-1 to 6 (1 to 2 per semester) Production.** Practicum for support of major department productions in all areas. Roles in department productions may fulfill requirement.

**401A-2 Stage Management.** Study of the theories and skills required to successfully stage manage a theater production. Prerequisite: 217, 218a and consent of instructor, concurrent enrollment in 401b.

**401B-1 Stage Management Lab.** Practical application of the theories and skills learned in the 401a course and applied on a department of theater production. Prerequisite: 217, 218a and consent of instructor, concurrent enrollment in 401a.

**402-6 (3, 3) Play Directing. (a)** Introduction to directing. The history of the director; the evolution of the director into a position of predominance in modern theater hierarchy. The function of the director; and examination of theoretical viewpoint. Textual analysis; establishing the groundwork for the director's approach to production. Prerequisite: junior standing; 217 and 311a; or consent of instructor. **(b)** The principles of play direction including play selection, analysis and patterning of auditory and visual elements of production. Directing of a one-act play. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**403A-3 Advanced Movement for the Actor.** Advanced studies in stage movement with special attention to period styles. Prerequisite: 303a, 317a, b

**403B-3 Advanced Voice for the Actor.** Advanced studies in voice with special attention to stage dialects. Prerequisite: 303b, 317a.

**404-3 Theater Management.** Discussion of legal and financial aspects concerning the professional and community theaters of the United States. Consideration of and practice in managerial activities of an educational theater including administration, purchasing, accounting practices, direct sales, publicity, promotion and public relations.

**405-1 Applied Theater.** Explores the application of theatrical techniques in fields outside the traditional conception of theater, such as law, medicine, politics, communications. Students will have the opportunity to explore practical applications.

**406-9 (3,3,3) Properties Studio.** Beginning and advanced studio work in traditional and non-traditional crafts for theatrical events, including mask work, puppetry, stage furniture, upholstery, weaponry, armor, and special effects. Repeatable. Laboratory fee: \$50. Prerequisite: 218a or consent of instructor.

**407-3 Scene Design.** Technical and artistic aspects of scene design. Theory and practice. Supplies at least \$25 per semester. Prerequisite: 218a, 309, 409, or consent of instructor.

**408-3 Model Making.** Craft of scenic model making for the stage and other dramatic media. Prerequisite: 218a or consent of instructor.

**409-6 (2,2,2) Scene Painting Studio.** Studio work in basic and advanced scene painting techniques and materials. Projects include wood, drapery, foliage, marble, transparencies, scrim printing, dye painting, faux finishes, metal reflections, and murals. Laboratory fee \$50. Prerequisite: 218a or consent of instructor.

**410-9 Children's Theater.** Theory and practice in performing theater for children. Class activities include lectures on various aspects of production as well as producing a touring children's play for local area schools. Prerequisite: audition or interview.

**411A-3 Playwriting – The Short Play.** Principles of dramatic structure as they apply to the writing of a short play. Through class discussion, analysis of short plays, and the writing of specific projects and exercises, students will write at least two drafts of a 20-30 minute complete play. Individual plays may be considered for production in the theater's program for new plays. Prerequisite: one course in dramatic literature for non-majors and graduates; 311a for majors, or consent of instructor.

**411B-3 Playwriting – The Full-Length Play.** Principles of dramatic literature as they apply to the writing of a full-length (90-120 minute) play. Typical well-made patterns are studied, along with experimental forms and variations. Some discussion of marketing plays is included. Prerequisite: 411a or its equivalent or consent of instructor.

**412-2 Patterning and Draping for the Theatre.** This course introduces the theatrical costume design and technical student to the basics of pattern development and construction techniques used to develop a 3-dimensional theatrical costume, with focus on giving the student a working knowledge of costume production, flat patterning, and draping techniques. Prerequisite: 218c or consent of instructor.

**413-6 (3,3) Drafting for the Theater.** Development of the student's skill in scenographic technique, including ground plans, sections, elevations, and detail construction drawings. Prerequisite: 218a or consent of instructor.

**414-3 Costume Design.** History of Western Costume from Greek to Renaissance and its adaptation to stage use. Theory and practical application of design and color. Prerequisite: 218c or consent of instructor.

**415A-2 to 4 Costume Crafts I.** This course focuses on advanced skills in costume technology, including but not limited to, millinery, jewelry-making, armor, and masks. Prerequisite: 218c, 412 or consent of instructor.

**415B-2 to 4 Costume Crafts II.** This course focuses on advanced skills in costume technology, including but not limited to, dying and fabric modification, ventilating and basic puppetry. Prerequisite: 218c, 412 or consent of instructor.

**416-3 Structural Design for the Stage.** In-depth study of the art and practice of structural design for the stage and analysis of structural properties of standard stage scenic materials. Prerequisite: 218a, 309 or consent of instructor.

**417-3 to 6 (3,3)Advanced Acting.** Utilization of the actor's process in the performance of various theories and styles of acting. May be repeated once for credit. Prerequisite: 317a.

**418-3 Introduction to Lighting Design.** Investigation of stage lighting design, theory and professional practice. Special attention to color theory and its application to stage lighting. Four hours lecture/laboratory. Prerequisite: 218b, 309, or consent of instructor.

**419-3 Technical Direction.** Advanced study of principles and procedures of scenic construction and stage rigging. Includes scene shop organization, materials, and specialized stage equipment; preparation for professional technical direction. Lecture and laboratory to be arranged. Prerequisite: 218a,b, 309, 407.

**450-3 to 9 Topical Seminar.** An intense examination and application of selected areas of interest. Topics will vary and may include such areas as stage management, audition and interview, current political theater. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**454-3 American Theater.** The development of American theater from colonial times to the present. Includes a study of the American musical theater from preminstrels through contemporary music-drama.

**455-3 Dramaturgy.** An introduction to the theory and practice of dramaturgy, including a survey of contemporary critical theories as they apply to the pre-production work of the dramaturg. The student will apply methodologies studies to plays from the classical repertory and to the works of new playwrights. Prerequisite: 311 or consent of instructor.

**500-2 Introduction to Research Methods.** An introduction to the principles and methods of the various types of research in theater. The student may elect to focus on the research demands of a selected area of interest within the degree program pursued. One objective is the formulation of a research problem and a prospectus. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

**501-3 Contemporary Developments.** A survey of the significant developments in theater and related arts from the beginning of the 19th century to the present through the study of documentary material, critical works, and selected plays. Individual reports, guest lecturers and lectures provide focus on selected areas. Required reading encompasses a broad spectrum of subjects. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

**502-3 to 9 Advanced Directing.** Emphasis on practical directing problems and concerns of individual students through research, rehearsal and performance. Includes survey of directing theories and practices with laboratory application of directing techniques. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**503-1 Professional Development.** An ongoing examination of issues important to the dramatist in contemporary theater: writing and developing new works, working in the collaborative environment, marketing and promoting one's work, understanding professional and legal ramifications, and other materials as appropriate. To be taken each semester for a maximum of four hours of credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing or consent of instructor.

**504-3 Drama, Theories and Conventions: Part One.** A historical and critical survey of dramatic theory, examining key critical texts and representative plays; from the Greeks through the Jacobean. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

**505-3 Drama, Theories and Conventions: Part Two.** A historical and critical survey of dramatic theory, examining key critical texts and representative plays; from the restoration to the 20th Century. Prerequisite: graduate standing and permission of instructor.

**506-3 Spectacle: The Vision of Theater.** Discussion and evaluation of the role and responsibility of theater artists to promote audience understanding of the visual through application of design and directing principles. Exploration and examination of the style and meaning of communication between members of a production team in today's theatre through group projects.

**507-3 Advanced Scene Design.** Advanced consideration of principles of scene design. Scenography as a dynamic force in theater and related media world wide. Prerequisite: 407 or consent of instructor.

**510-6 (1,1,1,1,1) Production Design Seminar.** Exploratory workshop experience in rendering techniques, creative problem solving, design aesthetics, and production philosophies. To be taken by graduate production design students in residence, each semester, with exceptions by consent of instructor.

**511A-3 to 6 Playwriting Workshop.** A practical laboratory course in which playwriting students will have one or more original plays presented in staged readings or modified productions. Plays will be directed by graduate acting/directing students also enrolled in course. The workshop gathers a performance group for the presentation of the new plays. Student playwrights are expected to constantly improve their work before and after presentation, to attend rehearsals, to work closely with directors and actors. Plays will be evaluated in critique sessions. Prerequisite: graduate standing and consent of instructor.

**511B-3 Advanced Playwriting.** Advanced work in playwriting, focusing on problems, techniques and challenges posed by participants' specific work. Class will be a combination of writing and reading/analyzing relevant plays as appropriate. Content will vary, depending on participants. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**512-2 to 8 Advanced Costume Construction.** This course focuses on advanced skills in the areas of cutting and draping for the theater. A variety of techniques will be taught, including but not limited to, flat pattering, bias draping, tailoring, and historical construction techniques. Prerequisite: 218c, 412 or consent of instructor.

**514-3 Advanced Costume Design.** Advanced consideration of principles of costume design. Theory and history of costumes from Renaissance through early 20th century. Practical applications of methods and procedures in designing costumes. Prerequisite: 414 or consent of instructor.

**516-2 to 12 Advanced Theatrical Design.** An advanced studio-based study of the theories and practices of modern theatrical design with particular emphasis on the interaction of the sub-disciplines of light, scenic, costume and sound design, and technical production and the collaborative nature of theatrical design. Prerequisite: graduate standing, consent of instructor.

**518-3 Advanced Lighting Design.** Expansion and refinement of the visual imagination of the lighting designer. Investigation of theatrical applications of lighting for dance, opera, performing arts, architecture, advertising and landscaping. Prerequisite: 218a,b, 309 and 418.

**520A-3 Period Style for Theater I.** A survey of the costumes, architecture, furniture, decorative styles and motifs of major periods and countries relating to western culture and theater. Egyptian to the Renaissance.

**520B-3 Period Style for Theater II.** A survey of the costumes, architecture, furniture, decorative styles and motifs of major periods and countries relating to western culture and theater. Late Renaissance to 20th Century.

**522-1 to 12 SIU Summer Theater.** Practical experience in summer stock play production. Performance or technical work in SIU Summer Theater only. Maximum of six hours per summer. Prerequisite: audition and consent of instructor.

**526-3 to 12 (3 per topic) Seminar in Theater Arts.** Special topics of interest to advanced students. Subject is determined by department and instructor. Areas: **(a)** Performance/production. **(b)** Theory, criticism, and playwriting. Seminar in same area may be taken twice. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**530-1 to 12 Independent Study.** Independent research on selected problems. A maximum of three credit hours may be taken for a single project. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**535-1 to 6 (1 per semester) Playwrights Professional Seminar.** An intense examination of topics relevant to the work and career development of advanced playwrights. Content includes reading and discussion of works in progress, issues of marketing and professional activities, and related topics as appropriate. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**550-2 to 6 (2 per topic) Topical Seminar.** In-depth studies of topics of special interest to advanced students concerning individual or groups of playwrights, directors, designers, and their techniques and theories. Topic is determined in advance. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**560-1 to 21 Professional Work Experience.** Credit may be granted for professional work experience prior to acceptance into the program. Prerequisite: approval by departmental graduate committee required. Graded *S/U* only.

**561-1 to 12 Theater Internship.** After completion of the M.F.A. core curriculum and basic courses in student's specialization, credit may be granted for internship at professional theaters, training programs, or studios. Prerequisite: prior approval of departmental graduate committee required. Graded *S/U* only.

**599-1 to 6 Thesis.** Minimum of three hours to be counted toward a Master's degree.

**600-1 to 36 (1 to 16 per semester) Dissertation.** Minimum of 24 hours to be earned for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

**601-1 per semester Continuing Enrollment.** For those graduate students who have not finished their degree programs and who are in the process of working on their dissertation, thesis, or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation research, or the minimum thesis, or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Graded *S/U* or *DEF* only.