

SCHOOL OF THEATER

Djola Branner, Director

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Fairfax Campus

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Undergraduate Programs

Theater BA and BFA

The School of Theater offers Bachelor of Arts (BA) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-ba/>) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-bfa/>) degrees and prepares students for graduate study or entry into the profession through rigorous, concentrated, and individualized training; however, students are encouraged to maintain wide-ranging interests within the school and throughout the university's extensive offerings. Theater majors organize their advanced work within the major to include classes in areas of emphasis including performance, design and technical theater, and other theater studies.

Theater BA Concentrations

Theater majors must complete their Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in one of the following areas: Design and Technical Theater, Performance, Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12, or Theater Studies. Bachelor of Arts students must use some/all general electives to complete a minor, double major, double degree or intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language.

Certification for Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12

The Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12 concentration is approved by the Virginia State Department of Education and administered through the College of Education and Human Development, which is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Upon degree conferral and completion of all requirements, students will be eligible to apply for Virginia state licensure. Minimum scores on the Praxis Core and VCLA tests must be achieved before state licensure is granted.

Students must be formally accepted into the Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12 concentration.

Theater BFA Concentrations

Theater majors must complete their Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a concentration in one of the following areas: Design for Stage and Screen, Performance for Stage and Screen, or Musical Theater Performance.

Graduate Programs

Accelerated Master's Program

The School of Theater offers a Theater, BA/Arts Management, Accelerated MA option which allows undergraduate students to take graduate classes that can be used towards a designated Master's degree. Undergraduates who wish to pursue the accelerated Master's route should talk to their academic advisor first to see if they qualify. Students are eligible to apply for this accelerated program once they have earned at least 60 undergraduate credits toward their Bachelor's degree and

may take up to 18 credits of graduate coursework after successfully completing 75 undergraduate credits. Students who have earned more than 100 credits will not be considered. Students must be approved by their academic advisor and formally apply and be accepted to the Master's program through an Accelerated Master's application. For more information about admissions requirements and the application process, students should visit the college website (<http://cvpa.gmu.edu>).

Visual and Performing Arts, MFA

The School of Theater offers one concentration under the Master of Fine Arts, Visual and Performing Arts degree (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/visual-performing-arts-mfa/#requirementstext>): Theater. Applicants to the program must designate which concentration they intend to apply for on the application. Each concentration has its own unique set of admissions requirements and program requirements.

Graduate Certificate

Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate

The Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/teaching-theatre-graduate-certificate/>) is a pre-service program that prepares students for Theatre Arts licensure by the Commonwealth of Virginia. In conjunction with the College of Education and Human Development, the Certificate curriculum consists of graduate-level Theater and Education courses, field experience observation and pre-service teaching internship.

Faculty

School Faculty

Professors

Branner, Davis, Gero, Johnsen-Neshati, Kurtz (Emeritus), McDonald

Associate Professors

Alman, Dunayer

Assistant Professors

Gardiner, Janis, Moijgani, Sivigny, Walsh

Administrative Faculty (Instructional)

Horner, Lechter

Adjunct Faculty

Armstrong, Brassard, Cox, Dahm, El-Bayoumi, Gaines, Goldstein, Hobson, Kessinger, Lee, Lennon, Maaty, Ohanian, Pacheco, Robinson Jr., Schmidt, Sittig, Yamamoto

Requirements & Policies

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Entrance to the program is by audition/interview or portfolio review. Information about the audition process, including dates, can be

found on the School of Theater website. Admission to the university is determined by the Office of Admissions (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/>).

Program Audition, Portfolio Requirements

Students interview with a faculty panel in order to apply to become a Theater major. Additionally, actors audition for the program; designers and technicians undergo a portfolio review (B.A. candidates may opt to submit an essay); generalists, theater educators, and writers provide written statements as described on the School of Theater website (<https://theater.gmu.edu/>). See additional details on the College of Visual & Performing Arts Admissions page (<https://cvpa.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/school-theater-admissions/>).

We are looking for:

- An appropriate level of craft and artistry.
- Commitment to the work as demonstrated by preparation for the interview, audition, and/or portfolio review.
- A willingness to accept direction, criticism and mentoring.
- A willingness and ability to collaborate with students, faculty, and professionals.

Students must schedule their audition or interview through SlideRoom (<https://gmucvpa.slideroom.com/#/login/program/43722>). Additional details can be found on the College of Visual & Performing Arts Admissions page (<https://cvpa.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/school-theater-admissions/>). You will receive an email confirmation of your program audition or portfolio review date.

If you have any questions, please contact the School of Theater (<https://theater.gmu.edu/>). An applicant may request a virtual appointment during business hours. In person Theater major program auditions, portfolio reviews, and interviews will take place within the School of Theater on the Fairfax Campus.

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated writing-intensive in their major at the 300 level or above. Students seeking a BA or BFA in Theater fulfill this requirement by successfully completing THR 350 Script Analysis, THR 482 Advanced Screenplay Workshop or THR 351 Dramatic Theory and Criticism.

Production Requirements

Participation in Theater at Mason productions is expected of all declared majors. Students must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA to participate in Theater at Mason productions.

Theater Honors Program

See the Theater, BA (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-ba/#honorstext>) or Theater, BFA (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-bfa/#honorstext>) for specific details.

BA/BFA Policies

Students seeking to earn a BA or BFA as a second bachelor's degree, either concurrently or sequentially, must complete all Theater degree requirements. Students must earn a minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA in their major. A student must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to complete a BA with a concentration or a BFA.

Programs

- Audio Production Minor
- Design and Technical Theater Minor
- Event Technical Production Minor (CVPA)
- Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate
- Theater Minor
- Theater Performance Minor
- Theater, BA
- Theater, BFA