

Theatre

MAJOR, MINOR

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: Suellen da Costa Coelho, Wendy-Marie Martin (chair), Todd Ristau

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Shelby Love

VISITING LECTURERS: Danielle Barre, Erica Evans, Michael Mansfield

GUEST ARTISTS: Erica Evans, Karin Hendricks, Moneé Stamp, Ami Trowell, Breana Venablé

The Hollins theatre department is a creative community, an identity we embrace in the classroom, the rehearsal hall, the scene shop, and on stage. We engage in the development of theatre artists, thinkers, and leaders looking to change the future of American theatre. Hollins theatre students actively help to shape departmental vision, policies, and programming, and are encouraged to create student-generated work that expresses their personal creative vision.

By combining the collaborative process, the individual creative process, and the critical/analytical process, this program of study provides a solid foundation for those wishing to engage in most areas of theatre. Through an array of opportunities, students are encouraged to engage in every aspect of theatre, from fully realized department productions to student produced work and internships. Classroom work provides a solid foundation in research and writing, history, theory, aesthetics, and technique. A student who pursues a theatre major or minor will be prepared for any environment or profession where creative problem solving, collaboration, research/analysis skills, hard work, and passion are valued.

The major in theatre requires a minimum of 44 credits, which is ideal for students interested in double majoring, and a maximum allowance of 60 credits for students interested in pursuing more in-depth studies in preparation for graduate school and/or a career in professional theatre.

THE HOLLINS THEATRE INSTITUTE

The Hollins Theatre Institute is an umbrella that encompasses all elements of the university's theatre programs, forming a unique academic theatre center designed to develop and focus practitioners who believe theatre is more important in the 21st century than ever before:

- innovative B.A. program in theatre
- award-winning M.F.A. playwriting program: The Playwright's Lab
- opportunity to pursue a B.A./M.A. pathway with the addition of an M.A. in Theatre and New Play Development upon graduation
- undergraduate theatre immersion study abroad program in London
- undergraduate theatre abroad trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- internships at major professional theatres and arts organizations
- professional partnership with Mill Mountain Theatre

MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

Completing this certificate allows a student to accumulate and apply the skills necessary to participate in the world of the musical theatre stage. It provides each participant with the fundamentals necessary to audition and perform at the academic, amateur, and professional levels based on proficiency and talent. Through applied learning, the student will be able to function in an audition, rehearsal, and performance situation with a basic understanding of the music, acting, and dance skills required to succeed. The curriculum consists of courses from the departments of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

ARTS MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

This certificate connects a student's major or minor in theatre with career interests in various fields of arts management. Students take courses in business and communication studies, complete two internships in an area of arts management, and create a final project. With prudent choices in coursework, this certificate can be completed with courses that may also count toward your major, minor, or general education requirements for your degree.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN THEATRE:

44 credits and an experiential component

CORE REQUIREMENTS: (44 credits)

- THEA 113: Script Anatomy (4)
- THEA 151: Stagecrafts (4)
- THEA 161: Introduction to Acting Dynamics (4) or THEA 271 Advanced Acting Dynamics (4)

- THEA 242: Theatrical Design (4)
- THEA 235: Costume Construction (4)
- THEA 254: Stage Management (2)
- THEA 263: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 1 (4)
- THEA 326: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 2 (4)
- THEA 365: Purpose, Passion, and Possibilities (2)
- THEA 364: Playwriting Fundamentals (4)
- THEA 470: Senior Seminar (2) **and** THEA 480: Senior Project (2)
- THEA 490: Senior Honors Project (2, 2, 2)

EXPERIENTIAL COMPONENT:

All students must complete an experiential component, which consists of participation in four theatre productions as a member of the cast, crew, or staff. Students are required to participate in at least two disciplines.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN THEATRE:

24 credits and an experiential component

- THEA 113: Script Anatomy (4)
- THEA 151: Stagecrafts (4)
- THEA 161: Introduction to Acting Dynamics (4) or THEA 271: Advanced Acting Dynamics (4)
- THEA 263: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 1 (4) or THEA 326: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 2 (4)
- One course in design:
THEA 242: Theatrical Design (4)
THEA 252: Scene Design (4)
THEA 253: Lighting Design (4)
THEA 255: Costume Design (4)
- One additional theatre course (4) of the student's choice
- Experiential Component:
All students must complete an experiential component, which consists of participation in two theatre productions as a member of the cast, crew, or staff. Students are required to participate in two disciplines.

COURSES IN THEATRE:

THEA 113: SCRIPT ANATOMY (4)

Ristau

Introduction to script analysis techniques from the varying perspectives of designers, directors, actors, and playwrights. Through the examination of several plays, students learn to analyze a theatrical script for production. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (AES)

THEA 137: EXPLORING THE ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE (2)

Cline

The Alexander Technique is a simple and practical method for improving ease and freedom of movement, balance, support, flexibility, and coordination. It enhances performance and is a valuable tool for actors, dancers, musicians, and athletes. Students may repeat the course one time for credit. Also listed and described as MUS 137. Open to first years. No Prerequisite. Not offered in 2023-24.

THEA 151: STAGECRAFTS (4)

Love, Mansfield

An introduction to technical theatre, emphasizing the development of basic knowledge and craftsmanship necessary for scenery construction, stage lighting, and backstage crew assignments. Students will gain practical lab experience through work on the semester project. Intended primarily for first-year students and sophomores, with preference to theatre majors for whom it is required. Course fee is required. Prerequisites: q. Lab fee: \$75-100. Offered Term 2. (Q, CRE)

THEA 156: THEATRE APPRECIATION (4)

Department

Emphasizes the appreciation and evaluation of theatre in production. The course examines, at the introductory level, the functions of playwrights, actors, directors, and designers in the production process. Students are required to attend several evening performances (which may be extended beyond designated class time) and to view theatre productions on videotape. Lab fee for theatre tickets. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Lab fee: \$150-185. Not offered in 2023-24. (AES)

THEA 242: THEATRICAL DESIGN (4)**Coelho, Johnson, Mansfield**

This introductory course will take you through the visual landscape of theatre design. Explore the processes, technologies, and aesthetics of costume, scenery, audio, video, and lighting design through historical and contemporary theatre practice. Enjoy the collaborative process with fellow students as you enter the world of the play through visual imagery to create production elements that reflect a cohesive artistic vision inspired by the script. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Lab fee: \$75-100. Offered Term 1.

THEA 160: PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION WORKSHOP (1 or 2)**Martin**

This departmental workshop is open to students interested in working in any phase of a main stage theatre production. Work may include acting, set construction, lighting, sound, box office, stage management, run crew, etc. Students must audition or interview and be assigned a role (either on stage or backstage) and will be registered by the director. Department faculty determine number of registered credits. Counts as free elective credit for non-majors and theatre majors or minors who have satisfied their experiential component. May be repeated for credit. Open to first-year students. Offered both terms. (CRE- 4 credits required for CRE)

THEA 161: INTRODUCTION TO ACTING DYNAMICS (4)**Barre**

This course offers an introduction to the craft of acting for non-actors and a review of the basics for students with acting experiences. Training involves exercises in movement, voice, imagination, and community building with an emphasis on improvisation and class participation. This course is intended to introduce students to a broader awareness of the art of acting. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (CRE)

THEA 163: AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE (4)**Department**

A critical review of musical theatre from the 18th century to present. Styles, forms, and social and artistic significance are discussed. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Also listed as MUS 163. Not offered in 2023-24. (AES)

THEA 165: MUSICAL THEATRE DANCE STYLES (2)**Department**

This studio course will expose students to various dance styles often found in musical theatre choreography, including jazz, ballet, and tap. Students will learn basic techniques, while acquiring a vocabulary and awareness of the styles frequently used in musical theatre. Also listed as MUS 165 and DANC 165. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1.

THEA 175: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ARTS ADMINISTRATION (4)**Krause**

Also listed and described as ART/DANC/FILM/MUS 175. Not offered in 2023-24. (r)

THEA 206: THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (4)**Martin**

Performance and performativity are radical ways to engage with notions of self, society, and identity politics. Who are we? How do we connect to our communities? How do we change alone and together? This class delves into these questions, pulling from the world of queer and feminist theory, philosophy, and performance aesthetics, and exploring the exciting new territories that spring up when these worlds collide. Also listed as GWS 206. Open to first years. No Prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

THEA 210: STAGE MAKEUP (4)**Coelho**

This is a studio course in which students get hands-on experience at how to manipulate the materials of stage makeup on the canvas of a human face. Projects include age, injuries, animals, and fantasy characters among others. Students may also work with latex prosthetics. Lab fee: \$50-90. Open to theatre majors/minors only or by permission of department chair. Offered Term 2. Not offered in 2023-24. (CRE)

THEA 212: ACTING STUDIO – VOICE, BODY, AND TEXT (4)**Barre, Martin**

In this studio course, students will build their actor's toolbox as they learn to develop and integrate their physical and vocal instruments through various theatre techniques. Skills will be synthesized into a final showcase performance. This class enhances the work of dancers, actors, singers, poets, and anyone who stands before an audience. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2023-24. (CRE)

THEA 235: COSTUME CONSTRUCTION (4)**Coelho**

The costume shop is often thought of as the heart of a theatre. This fun, hands-on course will introduce students to equipment, procedures, and personnel in the design and execution of costumes for theatrical productions. The course will teach basic construction techniques with a series of projects, each building in difficulty and using a different patterning approach. There will be as much hands-on practice as possible, as this is a craft learned by doing. Quality garments will be produced utilizing machine and manual industry sewing and pattern and draping techniques. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2.

THEA 247: APPLIED MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES (4) Department
Musical theatre performance techniques will be explored throughout the semester. Each student will prepare, memorize, and perform two solos from Broadway musicals while applying learned acting, singing, and movement techniques. They will also learn musical theatre ensemble choreography, which will be presented along with at least one solo in the performance of a musical revue at the end of the semester which is open to the public. Additional written and research work required. There is a lab fee for accompanist and royalties. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2023-24. (CRE)

THEA 251: DRAFTING FOR THE THEATRE (4) Johnson
Designed to teach the basic principles and practices of executing technical drawings as they relate to scenic and lighting design. Open to first-year students with permission. Prerequisite: THEA 151. Lab fee: \$75. Not offered in 2023-24.

THEA 252: SCENE DESIGN (4) Johnson
Students will engage in the processes used in designing environments for production of theatrical texts. Script-based projects include development of graphics skills such as drafting, rendering techniques, and model making, as well as concept development and collaboration. Open to first-year students with permission. No prerequisite. Lab fee: \$50-70. Offered Term 2. (o, CRE)

THEA 253: LIGHTING DESIGN (4) Department
Students examine the potentials and problems of theatrical lighting through lab exploration with standard industry equipment. These studies are applied to script-based design projects that include development of all the technical support information needed to produce a design. Prerequisite: q. Lab fee: \$40-60. Not offered in 2023-24. (Q, CRE)

THEA 254: STAGE MANAGEMENT (2) Love
Stage managers are the backbone of most theatrical productions, from planning the calendar to organizing the production team to managing the rehearsals, filing and distributing reports, and running the performances backstage and from the booth, otherwise known as “Mission Control.” In this workshop class, students will learn the fundamentals of all aspects of the crucial role of the stage manager, with an emphasis on organization and execution. Lab hours will be required. Open to first-year students with permission. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1.

THEA 255: COSTUME DESIGN (4) Coelho
Students study the special challenges of designing costumes for the stage, focusing on character analysis and the potentials of different fabrics. Development of graphics skills include figure drawing, rendering techniques, and collage. No prerequisite. Lab fee: \$50-100. Not offered in 2023-24. (o, CRE)

THEA 256: PROPS CRAFTING (4) Coelho, Johnson
Learn the tricks of the trade for creating properties for the stage. Students learn to think creatively to see items not only for their intended uses, but for the possibilities of what they could become. Projects include creating imitation stained glass, building and upholstering furniture, painting faux finishes, turning trash into treasures, and more. Prerequisite: THEA 151 or permission of instructor. Lab fee: \$75-100. Not offered in 2023-24. (CRE)

THEA 258: VIEWPOINTS (2) Department
Study, practice, and application of the Viewpoints technique, which includes a training discipline for performers, a technique for improvisation, a process for collaborative creativity, a tool for staging, and a language for communication among artists. The Viewpoints offer a method for performers to exercise all muscles—physical, imaginative, and emotional—resulting in increased observational abilities and responsiveness. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. May be repeated for credit. Not offered in 2023-24. (CRE)

THEA 259: SCENE PAINTING (4) Department
A studio class in which students study and practice the basic techniques used in theatrical scene painting. Students are expected to develop an understanding of these techniques, as well as how to combine them effectively on advanced projects. Topics range from basic brush techniques to paint-mixing skills and ratios, to color matching from primary sources, to exercises in graphic layout on the large scale. Open to first-year students with permission. Prerequisite: q and theatre major or permission of department chair. Lab fee: \$100-130. Not offered in 2023-24. (Q, CRE)

THEA 261: CONTEMPORARY SCENE STUDY (4)**Department**

Using the work done in Acting Dynamics and/or Script Analysis as a foundation, this course focuses on the analysis of contemporary scenes and characters and on performance techniques used to bring those analyses to life on stage. Daily scene work. Prerequisite: THEA 113 or THEA 161. Offered Term 1. Not offered in 2023-24. (o, CRE)

THEA 263: EPISODES IN THEATRE HISTORY: SEASON 1 (4)**Martin**

A survey of the history of the theatre from its origins to the 18th century, including the study of the dramatic literature of each period. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (r, AES, PRE)

THEA 365: JUNIOR SEMINAR: PURPOSE, PASSION, AND POSSIBILITIES (2)**Coelho, Love, Martin**

This course examines the art of making theatre as a way of living in and seeing the world. Students will question the stories they want to see performed and why. Students will examine personal and communal values on the path to creating a theatrical company. Together, students will develop an artistic and vision statement for their company and plan the theatrical project they will collaboratively produce in the spring of their senior year. Students will present their company philosophy and collaborative project to faculty for approval at the end of the term. This course serves as a Junior Seminar for Theatre majors and minors. Prerequisite: junior standing and theatre major or minor. Offered Term 1.

THEA 271: ADVANCED ACTING DYNAMICS (4)**Barre, Mansfield**

This course is intended for advanced acting students to expand their understanding of the fundamentals of acting, voice, and movement, and begin to interface with text analysis and various acting methods, including those established by Stanislavski, Chekhov, Hagen, and Bogart, among others. Students will explore character, action, and objective through in-class exercises, monologues, and scene work. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: permission from instructor. Offered Term 2.

THEA 276: PHILANTHROPY AND THE ARTS (4)**Krause**

Also listed and described as ART/DANC/FILM/MUS 276. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2.

THEA 282: THE ART OF SOUND DESIGN (4)**Gerber-Stroh**

The process of recording and creating high quality sound is a critical skill and art form to master when making films, videos, webcasts, and numerous other visual and performing arts. This course will broadly cover the methods, technology, and artistry of sound design while introducing students to the resources of the film department's SoundCraft recording studio. Assignments include short production exercises and a final project. Also listed as FILM 282. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2023-24. (CRE)

THEA 284: WRITER AS PERFORMER (4)**Ristau**

This course will focus on the creation of original performance pieces where the writer will be the principal performer. The course will have a strong writing component, taking ideas from various sources (current events, adaptation, memoir/journal, etc.) and guiding their development from initial inspiration to completed text. There will also be instruction in performance styles and skills, including acting and directing, along with objective peer evaluations of student work using established methods of criticism. By the end of the course, each student should have a collected body of work suitable for performance or for use as audition pieces. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2023-24.

THEA 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Department**

Independent study below the advanced level. Application with faculty approval required for registration. Offered any term.

THEA 326: EPISODES IN THEATRE HISTORY: SEASON 2 (4)**Martin**

A survey of the history of theatre from the late 19th century to the present, focusing primarily on trends from the 20th century, and including the study of a broad range of dramatic literature. This course builds on the foundations of historical research, analysis, and criticism laid in Episodes of Theatre History: Season I. Prerequisite: THEA 263 or permission of instructor. Offered Term 2. (AES, MOD)

THEA 345: ADVANCED THEATRE TECHNOLOGIES (4)**Love, Mansfield**

This advanced theatre technology class focuses on filling the gap between theatrical design and its implementation. Students will be required to work with video projectors, lighting, sound, computers, Q-lab, pneumatics, rigging and scenic automation equipment. Students will demonstrate proficiency in problem-solving techniques and theatre technology through major projects related to the season productions. Lab fee: \$100. Prerequisite: THEA 151 and THEA 252, 253, 255, or permission of instructor. Offered Term 1.

THEA 361: CLASSICAL SCENE STUDY (4)**Department**

An advanced acting class focusing on period styles and an actor's approach to the classics. Scene study includes the plays of Ancient Greece, Shakespeare, Moliere, and the Restoration. Prerequisite: THEA 161 or 261. Not offered in 2023-24. (CRE)

THEA 363: DIRECTING (4)**Barre, Mansfield, Martin**

An introduction to the creative and aesthetic challenges faced by the director. Included are an examination of the director's relationship to the text, the actor, and the audience. The approach is both theoretical and practical, involving reading, class exercises, papers, and attendance at theatre events. Prerequisites: THEA 161 or THEA 271, and THEA 242: Theatrical Design or permission. Offered Term 2. (CRE)

THEA 364: PLAYWRITING FUNDAMENTALS (4)**Ristau**

An introductory workshop in the creation and development of scripted material for the stage. Each week students explore a different theatrical element through written exercises. Each student's work culminates in the writing of a one-act or full-length play. Students also read selected contemporary plays that provide models for meeting the challenges inherent in writing for the stage. Prerequisite: THEA 113, THEA 263, THEA 264, or permission. Offered Term 1. (w, CRE)

THEA 384: PLAYWRITING STYLES (4)**Ristau**

This course builds on the foundations of playwriting and, through targeted exercises, students will explore a broader range of styles, genres, and approaches to writing for the stage. Students will read representative texts in a variety of styles and write several original ten-minute plays in those styles. A 25-35 page one-act play will serve as their final project. Students will also provide feedback on the work of their peers as well as be expected to take every opportunity to see productions of plays at theatre venues on and off campus. Prerequisite: THEA 364 or permission. Not offered 2023-24.

THEA 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Department**

Independent study at the advanced level. Application with faculty approval required for registration. Offered any term.

THEA 399: INTERNSHIP (4)**Department**

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed for any term.

THEA 470: SENIOR SEMINAR (2)**Coelho, Love, Martin**

Senior theatre majors will explore pathways of professional development in order to plan first steps as theatre makers outside of the university setting. Offered Term 1.

THEA 480: SENIOR PROJECT (2)**Martin**

Senior theatre majors are required to enroll for a project in the senior year. This project will consist of a faculty-approved and mentored collaborative production experience planned, designed, directed, and produced by all senior theatre majors as a company. Corequisite: THEA 470. Offered Term 1 or Term 2.

THEA 490: SENIOR HONORS PROJECT (2, 2)**Coelho, Martin**

Juniors with a 3.0 average in the major, or by invitation of the faculty, may apply for an honors project in theatre research to be completed in the senior year during Term 1, Short Term, and Term 2. Corequisite: THEA 470.

ALPHA PSI OMEGA

The Drama Association consists of student actors, directors, designers, and technicians who seek to stimulate dramatic activities on campus and to assist in the staging of all departmental workshops and major productions as well as productions of visiting dramatic groups. The Drama Association offers an opportunity for involvement in theatrical events and stage works of all types to all interested members of the Hollins community. Apprenticeship is available to every person expressing an interest in the organization, and membership is earned by subsequent work on productions.