

# Theatre

**MAJOR, MINOR**
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:** Ernest Zulia

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Todd Ristau

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR:** John Forsman

**VISITING LECTURERS:** Ann Courtney, Ginger Poole

**ADJUNCT LECTURERS:** Travis Kendrick, Rachel Nelson

**GUEST ARTISTS:** Kerry Morgiewicz, Susanna Young

**ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE:** Kiah Kayser

The Kennedy Center award-winning undergraduate theatre program offers a major in theatre with a minimum requirement of 40 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. Students are encouraged to individualize their course of study inspired by their specific interests and talents by focusing on one of three areas of theatre (acting/directing, design/technology, playwriting/dramaturgy) or choosing a broader path embracing all aspects of the art form. The theatre major and minor are highly compatible with many other programs of study including dance, English, film, history, philosophy, psychology, sociology and communication studies.

By combining the individual creative process, the collaborative process, and the critical/analytical process, this program of study provides a solid foundation for those wishing to pursue 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 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 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:

- award-winning B.A. program in theatre
- award-winning M.F.A. playwriting program: The Playwright's Lab
- undergraduate theatre immersion study abroad program in London
- The Artistic Home: Hollins Theatre's dynamic alumnae/i company
- internships at major professional theatres
- 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 (see page 177 for details).

## 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 (see page 53 for details).

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN THEATRE:

40 credits and an experiential component

### CORE REQUIREMENTS: (28 credits)

- THEA 113: Script Anatomy (4)
- THEA 151: Stagecraft (4)
- THEA 161: Acting Dynamics (4)

- THEA 263: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 1 (4)
- THEA 326: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 2 (4)
- One course in design:
  - THEA 157: Theatre Design – Through the Looking Glass (4)
  - THEA 252: Scene Design (4)
  - THEA 253: Lighting Design (4)
  - THEA 255: Costume Design (4)
- THEA 470: Senior Seminar (2) **and** THEA 480: Senior Project (2)  
**or** THEA 490: Senior Honors Project (2, 2)

#### **EXPERIENTIAL COMPONENT:**

All students must complete an experiential component, which consists of participation in four theatre “main stage” productions (which may include the January Touring Show Production and other approved productions) as a member of the cast, crew, or staff.

#### **ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS:** (12 credits)

Courses of like nature are grouped together in three areas below to allow students to define a path of study. Students may focus in one theatrical discipline by choosing three courses from the same area (when offered), or courses from multiple areas to emerge as a theatre generalist.

#### **ACTING AND DIRECTING:**

- THEA 212: Acting Studio-Voice, Body, and Text (4)
- THEA 240L: Acting Shakespeare (4) (Hollins Abroad-London course)
- THEA 247: Applied Musical Theatre Performance Techniques (4)
- THEA 258: Viewpoints (2)
- THEA 261: Contemporary Scene Study (4)
- THEA 284: Writer as Performer (4) (also listed under Playwriting, Dramaturgy, Dramatic Literature)
- THEA 361: Classical Scene Study (4)
- THEA 363: Directing (4)
- THEA 250/350: Acting or Directing Special Topics Courses (2 or 4)

#### **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY:**

- THEA 157: Theatre Design-Through the Looking Glass (4) (if not used as course course)
- THEA 210: Stage Makeup (4)
- THEA 235: Costume Construction (4)
- THEA 251: Drafting for the Theatre (4)
- THEA 252: Scene Design (4) (if not used as core course)
- THEA 253: Lighting Design (4) (if not used as core course)
- THEA 254: Stage Management (2)
- THEA 255: Costume Design (4) (if not used as core course)
- THEA 256: Props Crafting (2)
- THEA 259: Scene Painting (4)
- THEA 345: Advanced Theatre Technologies (4)
- THEA 250/350: Design/Tech Special Topics Courses (2 or 4)

#### **PLAYWRITING, DRAMATURGY AND DRAMATIC LITERATURE:**

- THEA 262: Non-Western Theatre (4)
- THEA 284: Writer as Performer (4) (also listed under Acting and Directing)
- THEA 364: Playwriting Fundamentals (4)
- THEA 384/584: Playwriting Styles (4)
- THEA 250/350: Literary Special Topics Courses 2 or (4)
- ENG 310L: Shakespeare as Dramatist (4) (Hollins Abroad-London course)

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN THEATRE:**

24 credits and an experiential component

- THEA 113: Script Anatomy (4)
- THEA 151: Stagecraft (4)

- THEA 161: 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 157: Theatre Design – Through the Looking Glass (4)
  - THEA 252: Scene Design (4)
  - THEA 253: Lighting Design (4)
  - THEA 255: Costume Design (4)
- One theatre elective (4) from the area courses listed above
- Experiential Component:
 

All students must complete an experiential component, which consists of participation in two theatre “main stage” productions (which may include the January Touring Show Production and other approved productions) as a member of the cast, crew, or staff.

## 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 as MUS 137. Open to first-years. No Prerequisite. Offered Term 2.

### THEA 151: STAGECRAFT – WOMEN WITH POWER TOOLS (4)

Forsman

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 1. (Q, CRE)

### THEA 156: THEATRE APPRECIATION (4)

Zulia

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 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. Offered Term 1. (AES)

### THEA 157: THEATRICAL DESIGN – THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (4)

Department

This introductory course will take you through the visual landscape of theatre design. Explore the processes, technologies, and aesthetics of costume, scenery, 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. Not offered in 2018-19.

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

Forsman, Zulia

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: ACTING DYNAMICS (4)

Department

An introduction to the craft of acting from the perspective of freeing the creative spirit. This approach involves exercises in movement, voice, and imagination with an emphasis on improvisation and class participation, plus monologue and scene work. This course is intended to assist the student in tapping her own creativity and to open

the student 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)**

**Wahl-Fouts**

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 2018-19. (AES)

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

**Kendrick**

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 2.

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

**Krause**

Also listed and described as ART/DANC/FILM/MUS 175. Not offered in 2018-19. (r)

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

**Nelson**

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)**

**Department**

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 first-year students. Not offered in 2018-19. (CRE)

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

**Nelson**

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. Offered Term 2. (CRE)

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

**Department**

The costume shop is often thought of as the heart of a theatre. This fun, hands-on course will provide an introduction to equipment, procedures, and personnel in the design and execution of costumes for theatrical productions. 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. Not offered in 2018-19.

**THEA 247: APPLIED MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES (4)** **Morgiewicz, Kendrick, Poole**

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 2018-19. (CRE)

**THEA 249: DESIGN LAB (2)**

**Department**

Students work closely with the set, lighting, or costume designer, helping to produce the design for the current semester's production and assisting with the design/planning for the next production. Duties/projects may include painting, shopping, crafts, attending fittings or rehearsals, researching images, sketching, and more. Prerequisite: sophomore standing and permission of department chair. May be repeated for credit (course limit of three). Offered any term.

**THEA 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: SHAKESPEARE FROM PAGE TO STAGE (4)****Department**

Examine Shakespeare through the lens of performance as well as textual analysis. Selected plays and specific scenes will be analyzed and performed to illuminate the text and also provide understanding of the performance skills that illuminate the drama (and comedy) of the greatest playwright in the English language. This energetic and fun course is designed for anyone interested in Shakespeare from either a performance or literary point of view. Also listed as ENG 250. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1.

**THEA 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: PASSION, POSSIBILITIES AND PURPOSE: PERSONALIZING THE ART OF MAKING THEATRE (4)****Nelson, Zulia**

What makes us choose to participate in the art of making theatre? It goes beyond the satisfaction and recognition that come with putting a carefully rehearsed performance, or a beautifully executed design, or a well crafted play in front of an audience. This course examines the art of making theatre as a way of living in the world, while at the same time making the world a better place. Theatre is an art form that is both deeply personal and gloriously collaborative. It takes on many forms as imagined by the artist. It demands a generosity of spirit to be shared with both fellow theatre makers and willing audiences. The student will explore personal and public philosophies that will serve as guideposts along an unfolding theatrical journey. In addition, the course will help identify the many skills acquired while studying and working in theatre, and how those skills can be applied to a positive and productive life in any arena. Offered Term 2.

**THEA 251: DRAFTING FOR THE THEATRE (4)****Forsman**

Designed to teach the basic principles and practices of executing technical drawings as they relate to scenic and lighting design. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Lab fee: \$75. Not offered in 2018-19.

**THEA 252: SCENE DESIGN (4)****Kayser**

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 1. (o, CRE)

**THEA 253: LIGHTING DESIGN (4)****Courtney**

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 2018-19. (Q, CRE)

**THEA 254: STAGE MANAGEMENT (2)****Courtney**

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 2.

**THEA 255: COSTUME DESIGN (4)****Department**

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 2018-19. (o, CRE)

**THEA 256: PROPS CRAFTING (2)****Forsman**

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 2018-19. (CRE)

**THEA 257: TECHNICAL THEATRE LAB (2)****Forsman**

Under guidance of the theatre technical director, students take on leadership roles for the semester production. Opportunities include: assistant technical director, stage manager, and master electrician. Prerequisite: sophomore standing and permission of department chair. May be repeated for credit (course limit of three). Lab fee: \$25-60. Offered any term.

**THEA 258: VIEWPOINTS (2)****Kendrick**

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 2018-19. (CRE)

**THEA 259: SCENE PAINTING (4)****Kayser**

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. Offered Term 1. (Q, CRE)

**THEA 261: CONTEMPORARY SCENE STUDY (4)****Kendrick, Poole**

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. (o, CRE)

**THEA 262: NON-WESTERN THEATRE (4)****Department**

Students explore major historical and contemporary theatre forms that have as their basis something other than Greek and Roman foundations. Topics include drama from the African continent, India, China, and Japan. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (r, AES, GLO)

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

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

Also listed and described as ART 276. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2.

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

This course will focus on the creation of original performance pieces where the writer will be the principle 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. Offered Term 1.

**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)****Nelson**

A survey of the history of the western 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)****Forsman**

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 2.

**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 2018-19. (CRE)

**THEA 363: DIRECTING (4)****Zulia**

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. The work culminates in the directing of a one-act play as a final project. Prerequisites: THEA 252 and THEA 261. 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. Not offered in 2018-19. (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 in 2018-19.

**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)****Zulia**

Senior theatre majors shape and define their individual creative visions and explore marketing tools to promote that vision within the theatre industry. Offered Term 1.

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

Senior theatre majors are required to enroll for a project in the senior year. Prerequisite: THEA 470. Offered Term 2.

**THEA 490: SENIOR HONORS PROJECT (2, 2)****Zulia**

Juniors with a 3.0 average in the major or by invitation of the faculty may apply for an honors project 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 the 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.