

Theatre Arts

Dean, School of Performing Arts: Beth Leonard, M.F.A.

Theatre Arts area offers intensive training in all aspects of theatre. A student may choose from among the following emphases:

- *ACTING*
- *MUSICAL THEATRE*
- *DIRECTING*
- *SCENE DESIGN*
- *STAGE MANAGEMENT*
- *LIGHTING DESIGN*
- *THEATRE MANAGEMENT*
- *COSTUME DESIGN*
- *TECHNICAL THEATRE*

The faculty includes professional actor-teachers, designers and management staff. Theatre Arts operates three production facilities on campus, the Macklanburg Proscenium Theatre, Warehouse Thrust Theatre and an Arena Theatre, as well as a summer stock 450-seat proscenium theatre in Iowa. The department produces 10 productions on campus during the academic year and nine productions each summer at Lake Okoboji. Okoboji Summer Theatre produces four children's shows in our Boji Bantam Theatre.

The bachelor of fine arts degrees in theatre arts, theatre management or theatrical costume design are earned in three years and two summers and are offered for the student whose primary interest lies in developing pre-professional skills.

Two summer programs afford additional theatre experience with college credit: the on-campus Stephens Summer Theatre Institute and the Okoboji Summer Theatre at Spirit Lake, Iowa. At Okoboji, the students work with professional actors, directors and designers in the production of nine plays in weekly stock.

Requirements for the B.F.A. Major in Theatre Arts

The bachelor of fine arts major in theatre arts requires completion of liberal arts requirements and courses as specified below. Minimum credits for a B.F.A. are 120 semester hours of which 36 semester hours must be upper level coursework (300 level or above). B.F.A. requirements include one summer in the Summer Theatre Institute and one in Okoboji Summer Theatre, six production crew assignments over three years and two strikes per semester. Entrance to the B.F.A. program is based on faculty evaluation of each student's work at an audition/interview session the second semester of the freshman year. Elective work in the B.F.A. major may include advanced acting, stage management, directing, scene design, costume design and lighting design. A B.F.A. Theatre major must complete the first summer session requirement in order to continue in the B.F.A. sequence.

Because of the rigorous nature of the performing arts program, students are expected to demonstrate a level of dedication, effort and ethical behavior consistent with that demanded within the profession. Any student who, in the collective judgment of the department faculty in consultation with the department chair, fails at any time to live up to these standards may be required to withdraw from the B.F.A. program.

Theatre majors must achieve at least a C- in all Theater major classes or they will be required to repeat that class before enrolling in any classes that list that class as a prerequisite.

Required Courses – Acting Emphasis

THA 122: Acting I (3 hrs.)
 THA 124: Acting II (3 hrs.)
 THA 128: Theatre Speech (3 hrs.)
 THA 227: Intro to Stagecraft/Stage Mgmt (3 hrs.)
 THA 251: Make-up/Costuming (3 hrs.)
 THA 272: Acting III (3 hrs.)
 THA 313: Theatre History I (3 hrs.)
 THA 314: Theatre History II (3 hrs.)
 THA 332: Acting IV (3 hrs.)
 THA 420: Senior Acting Seminar (3 hrs.)
 ENG 345: Shakespeare (3 hrs.)

and
 one additional dramatic literature course

and

9 elective THA courses (18 hrs.)

Recommended classes:

THA 232: Directing I (3 hrs.)
 THA 248: Performance Techniques (2 hrs.)
 THA 320: Directing II (2 hrs.)
 THA 340: Movement for Actors (1 hr.)
 THA 421: Advanced Acting I - Shakespeare (3 hrs.)
 THA 422: Advanced Acting II - The Audition (3 hrs.)
 THA 423: Advanced Acting III - Acting for Camera (3 hrs.)
 THA 424: Advanced Acting IV: Comedy (3 hrs.)

Plus 6 production crew assignments over 3 years (at least three must be prep crews) and 2 strikes per semester.

In addition, two summer theatre programs are required:

Summer Theatre Institute
 (on-campus housing required)

11 credits from the following:
 THA 248: Performance Technique (2 hrs.)
 THA 258: Stage Movement (3 hrs.)
 THA 259: Acting Workshop (3 hrs.)
 THA 260: Theatre Production and Management I (3-5 hrs.)

Okoboji Summer Theatre
 (may be repeated once)

THA 360: Acting Workshop II (6 hrs.)
 THA 361: Production Workshop II (3-9 hrs.)
 THA 363: Theatre Management II (3 hrs.)

Required Courses – Technical Emphasis

THA 122: Acting I (3 hrs.)
 THA 211: Drafting for Technical Theatre (3 hrs.)
 THA 215: Rendering for the Theatre (2 hrs.)
 THA 216: Scenic Design I (3 hrs.)
 THA 218: Theatrical Lighting I (3 hrs.)
 THA 227: Intro to Stagecraft/Stage Mgmt (3 hrs.)
 THA 251: Makeup/Costuming (3 hrs.)
 THA 313: Theatre History I (3 hrs.)
 THA 314: Theatre History II (3 hrs.)
 THA 425: Senior Production Seminar (3 hrs.)
 ENG 345: Shakespeare (3 hrs.)

and
 one additional dramatic literature or Art History course

and

7 elective THA courses (19 hrs.)

Recommended classes:

THA 219: Sound Design I (3 hrs.)
 THA 228: Stage Management II (1-3 hrs.)
 THA 229: Stagecraft II (1-2 hrs.)
 THA 232: Directing I (3 hrs.)
 THA 235: Scene Painting (3 hrs.)
 THA 252: Costume Design I (3 hrs.)
 THA 310: Technical Theatre Practicum (1 hr.)
 THA 317: Scenic Design II (3 hrs.)

Plus 6 production crew assignments over 3 years (at least three must be prep crews) and 2 strikes per semester.

In addition, two summer theatre programs are required:

Summer Theatre Institute
 (on-campus housing required)

11 credits from the following:
 THA 248: Performance Technique (2 hrs.)
 THA 258: Stage Movement (3 hrs.)
 THA 259: Acting Workshop (3 hrs.)
 THA 260: Theatre Production and Management I (3-5 hrs.)

Okoboji Summer Theatre
 (may be repeated once)

THA 361: Production Workshop II (3-9 hrs.)
 THA 363: Theatre Management II (3 hrs.)

Requirements for the B.F.A. in Theatre Management

Required Courses

Theatre Courses

THA 122: Acting I (3 hrs.)
THA 124: Acting II (3 hrs.)
THA 216: Scenic Design I (3 hrs.)
THA 218: Theatrical Lighting I (3 hrs.)
THA 227: Intro to Stagecraft/Stage Management (3 hrs.)
THA 232: Directing I (3 hrs.)
THA 251: Make-up/Costuming (3 hrs.)
THA 313: Theatre History I (3 hrs.)
THA 314: Theatre History II (3 hrs.)
THA 425: Senior Production Seminar (3 hrs.)
ENG 345: Shakespeare (3 hrs.)

And

One additional dramatic literature or Art History course

Plus 4 production crew assignments, two strikes per semester, and 1 internship in the Playhouse Box Office

Business Courses

ACC 210: Accounting I (3 hrs.)
ACC 220: Accounting II (3 hrs.)
BUS 171: Foundations of Business (3 hrs.)
BUS 225: Principles of Management (3 hrs.)
BUS 250: Principles of Marketing (3 hrs.)
BUS 305: Human Resource Management (3 hrs.)

In addition, two summer theatre programs are required:

Summer Theatre Institute (on-campus housing required)

11 credits from the following:

THA 248: Performance Technique (2 hrs.)
THA 258: Stage Movement (3 hrs.)
THA 259: Acting Workshop (3 hrs.)
THA 260: Theatre Production and Management I (3-5 hrs.)

Okoboji Summer Theatre (may be repeated once)

THA 360: Acting Workshop II (6 hrs.)
THA 361: Production Workshop II (3-9 hrs.)
THA 363: Theatre Management II (3 hrs.)

Requirements for the B.A. Major in Theatre Arts

The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts is designed for students who wish to include more intensive work in liberal arts in the degree program as preparation for graduate study or a private teaching career. The Bachelor of Arts major in Theatre Arts requires completion of liberal arts requirements and 33 semester hours as specified below. At least 15 hours of Theatre Arts must be at or above the 300 level. In addition, students are required to complete two production crew assignments and two strikes.

Theatre majors must achieve at least a C- in all Theater major classes or they will be required to repeat that class before enrolling in any classes that list that class as a prerequisite.

Required Courses

THA 122: Acting I (3 hrs.)
THA 124: Acting II (3 hrs.)
THA 128: Theatre Speech (3 hrs.)
THA 227: Intro to Stagecraft/Stage Management (3 hrs.)
THA 232: Directing I (3 hrs.)
THA 251: Make-up/Costuming (3 hrs.)
THA 313: Theatre History I (3 hrs.)
THA 314: Theatre History II (3 hrs.)
ENG 345: Shakespeare (3 hrs.)

12 Hours of additional theatre courses required, 6 hours must be at 300 level

Plus 2 production crew assignments and 2 strikes

One of the following four:

THA 216: Scenic Design I (3 hrs.)
THA 218: Theatrical Lighting I (3 hrs.)
THA 219: Sound Design I (3 hrs.)
THA 252: Costume Design I (3 hrs.)

One of the following two:

THA 420: Senior Acting Seminar (3 hrs.)
THA 425: Senior Production Seminar (3 hrs.)

Requirements for the B.F.A. Major in Theatrical Costume Design

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatrical Costume Design requires completion of liberal arts requirements and courses as specified below. BFA requirements include one summer in the Summer Theatre Institute and one in Okoboji Summer Theatre, six production crew assignments over three years and two strikes per semester. A total of 120 semester hours and a cumulative gpa of 2.0 is required for all degrees.

Required Courses

Theatre Courses

THA 122: Acting I (3 hrs.)
THA 215: Rendering for the Theatre (2 hrs.)
THA 227: Introduction to Stagecraft/Stage Management (3 hrs.)
THA 251: Make-up/Costuming (3 hrs.)
THA 252: Costume Design I (3 hrs.)
THA 313: Theatre History I (3 hrs.)
THA 314: Theatre History II (3 hrs.)
THA 352: Costume Design II (3 hrs.)
THA 412: Advanced Production Design (3 hrs.)
THA 425: Senior Production Seminar (3 hrs.)

Plus 6 crew assignments and 2 strikes

Fashion Courses

FAS 111: Beginning Clothing Construction (3 hrs.)
FAS 214: Draping and Patternmaking I (5 hrs.)
FAS 315: Pre-20th Century Costume (3 hrs.)
FAS 375: 20th Century Costume (3 hrs.)

Art Courses

ART 105: Beginning Drawing (3 hrs.)
ART 201: Life Drawing (3 hrs.)
ART 203: Painting and Color (3 hrs.)
In addition, two summer theatre programs are required:

Summer Theatre Institute (on-campus housing required)

11 credits from the following:
THA 248: Performance Technique (2 hrs.)
THA 258: Stage Movement (3 hrs.)
THA 259: Acting Workshop (3 hrs.)
THA 260: Theatre Production and Management I (3-5 hrs.)

Okoboji Summer Theatre (may be repeated once)

THA 361: Production Workshop II (6 hrs.)
THA 363: Theatre Management II (6 hrs.)

Requirements for a Minor in Theatre Arts

Required Courses

THA 122: Acting I (3 hrs.)
THA 227: Stagecraft/Stage Management (3 hrs.)
THA 232: Directing I (3 hrs.)
THA 251: Make-up/Costuming (3 hrs.)

THA 313: Theatre History I (3 hrs.)
THA 314: Theatre History II (3 hrs.)

Theatre Arts Courses

THA 122: Acting I—Mind and Body: The Actor's Preparation (3 hrs.)

(Open only to Theatre majors)

A course designed to provide beginning theatre students an understanding of the senses and an awareness of self, others and the world in order to develop basic acting skills.

THA 124: Acting II—Scene Study (Acting emphasis) (3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 122, open only to Theatre Majors)

Provides the tools necessary for breaking down the script, making effective choices and communicating the intent of the scene in a dramatic and effective way.

THA 128: Theatre Speech (3 hrs.)

(Open to all students)

Designed to give students the tools to develop vocal quality and speech standards for performance in theatre, film, television and radio.

THA 211: Drafting for Technical Theatre (3 hrs.)

(Open to all students)

Introduction to basic mechanical drawing for theatrical design and construction.

THA 212: Beginning Production Design and Management (1-3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: permission of instructor; may be repeated for credit.)

Hands on practical application of technical knowledge through projects or positions of responsibility on department or warehouse productions. Typically an assistant or smaller warehouse assignment.

THA 215: Rendering for the Theatre (2 hrs.)

(Open to all students)

Introductory course for theatre designers in the techniques of rendering in watercolor, pencil, charcoal and other media. May be repeated one time for credit.

THA 216: Scenic Design I (3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 211 or permission of instructor)

Introduction to the theory and practice of stage design, including drawing of floor plans, elevations, detail drawings and beginning rendering.

THA 218: Theatrical Lighting I (3 hrs.)

Introduction to the theory and practice of stage lighting, including light plots, focus charts and schedules, hookups, the creation of lighting cues and functions and qualities of light.

THA 219: Sound Design I (3 hrs.)

Introduces students to the design and technology of sound as it is utilized in the theater and entertainment fields. The class will combine lecture, demonstration and several hands-on projects. Topics will include microphone selection and use, amplification and speakers, multi-track recording, aural aesthetics and the theatricality of sound.

THA 227: Introduction to Stagecraft/Stage Management (3 hrs.)

(Open only to Performing Arts majors)

Lecture, demonstration and practical work assignments to develop basic production skills and provide a base knowledge of various areas of theatre production. Introduction to the contemporary practice of stage management.

THA 228: Stage Management II

(1-3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 227 and by permission of instructor)

A course designed to improve the student's knowledge of the role of the stage manager in all phases of the production process including pre-production, rehearsal and performance. A major focus will be on the skills needed to assemble a complete production script.

THA 229: Stagecraft II

(1-2 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: THA 227 and permission of instructor)

Lecture, demonstration and practical work assignments to develop more advanced skills in production techniques.

THA 232: Directing I

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: THA 124, THA 227 or permission of instructor)

A study of the function of the director and basic theories of composition, picturization and movement. Practical staging assignments. Development of practical skills as directors through classroom discussion and the direction of scenes. Assembly of a complete director's script for a final project.

THA 235: Scene Painting

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students)

Introduction to basic techniques used in the painting of stage scenery.

THA 236: Properties Design and Production

(3 hrs.)

Students will learn design requirements of theatrical space (arena, thrust, proscenium); become familiar with sketching process as communication tool; skill in areas of craft construction and upholstery; be able to write script analysis with a properties chart; be able to design, create and procure props for script and for a directors parameters.

THA 248: Performance Techniques

(2 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 124; may be taken three times for credit)

Intensive study of the skills for singing on the stage, practical experience and individual attention concerning performance and singing techniques. Delivery, expression, interpretation of lyrics and stage presence will be studied and developed through individual attention and practical experience.

THA 251: Makeup/Costuming

(3 hrs.)

(Open only to Performing Arts majors)

Study of basic techniques of designing and applying stage makeup for straight, character and stylized roles. Study of beginning costuming skills through class discussions and laboratory work.

THA 252: Costume Design I

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 251 or permission of instructor)

An introduction to costume design through the study of script and character analysis. Period styles and rendering techniques.

THA 258: Stage Movement (STI)

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: THA 124, THA 227, THA 251 and/or program approval)

Development of stage movement and dance skills for acting students in the Summer Theatre Institute.

THA 259: Acting Workshop I (STI)

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: THA 124, THA 227, THA 251 and/or program approval)

Application of theories and techniques learned in first-year acting classes through class assignments, rehearsal and public performances in the Summer Theatre Institute.

THA 260: Theatre Production and Management I (STI)

(3-5 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: THA 124, THA 227, THA 251 and/or program approval)

Development of basic skills in technical theatre through class assignments and crew work and a study of general principles and accepted practices in theatre management. Summer Theatre Institute only.

THA 272: Acting III—Scene Analysis: Character Study

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 124, STI; open only to BFA Acting Sequence Students or by permission of instructor)

Scene analysis to form an approach to discovering the essence of the character—motivation and intention. Scenes used to implement character study, create given circumstance and develop technique for credible characterization and proper execution.

THA 280: Topics in Theatre Arts

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students)

Topics courses are devoted to special subjects that may not be covered in depth in other courses, to issues of current interest or to the newest research available in a discipline.

THA 300: Theatre Acting Practicum

(1 hr.)

Practical application of acting technique learned in the classroom. Performance experience is developed while working collaboratively to mount a theatre production. Students have opportunity to practice the technique and essentials of their particular interest in a realized endeavor.

THA 310: Theatre Technical Practicum

(1 hr.)

Practical application of technique learned in the classroom. Technical/Design/Crew experience is developed while working collaboratively to mount a theatre production. Students have opportunity to practice the technique and essentials of their particular interest in a realized endeavor.

THA 312: Intermediate Production Design and Management

(1-3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: permission of instructor; may be repeated for credit)

Hands on practical application of technical knowledge through projects or positions of responsibility on department or warehouse productions. Typically an assistant position or a major warehouse position.

THA 313: Theatre History I

(3 hrs.)

(Open to all students)

A study of the theatre of ancient Greece and Rome, dealing primarily with the development of the physical theatre structures, production methods and major theatrical figures. Continuing with the study of theatre from 1100 to 1700 dealing primarily with the development of physical theatre structures, production methods and major theatrical figures.

THA 314: Theatre History II

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 313 or permission of instructor)

A study of theatre from 1700 to 1875 dealing primarily with the development of physical theatre structures, production methods and major theatrical figures. Continuing with a study of "modern" theatre, from the emergence of realism (ca. 1875 to the present), dealing primarily with styles, production methods and major theatrical figures.

THA 317: Scenic Design II

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 216 or permission of instructor)

A course designed to assist the student in developing proficiency as a designer of stage scenery through research, classroom discussion and design projects.

THA 318: Theatrical Lighting II

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 218 or permission of instructor)

A course designed to assist the student in developing proficiency as a designer of stage lighting through research, classroom discussion and design projects.

THA 320: Directing II

(2 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 232 or permission of instructor)

Advanced study in directing techniques, including theories concerning the director's choices regarding scenery, lighting and costuming. Each student directs a one-act play.

THA 332: Acting IV—Scene Study: Styles

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 272)

Introduces different styles and period pieces to broaden the student's perspective. Scene study is to be the basic means used to develop the technique required to create the style and ambiance of a period.

THA 340: Movement for Actors

(1 hr.)

(Prerequisite: THA 332)

This movement class will cover the basic Viniyoga principles, including yoga postures, breath work, meditation techniques and tools for using yoga to enhance flexibility and concentration.

THA 348: Advanced Performance Technique

(2 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: THA 248 and permission of instructor; may be taken three times for credit)

Advanced techniques for musical comedy presentation.

THA 352: Costume Design II

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 252)

Continuation of THA 252 Costume Design I.

THA 360: Acting Workshop II (Okoboji)

(6 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: THA 332 and program approval)

Students learn through practical experience, performing three to six roles during a 10-week summer stock season at the Okoboji Summer Theatre.

THA 361: Production Workshop II (Okoboji)

(3-9 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: 27 hours in Theatre Arts and program approval)

Students learn through practical experience, participating in crew work for a 10-week summer stock season at the Okoboji Summer Theatre.

THA 363: Theatre Management II (Okoboji)

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: 27 hours in Theatre Arts and program approval)

Students learn more advanced principles and practices of theatre management through classes and work assignments during a 10-week summer stock season at Okoboji Summer Theatre.

THA 380: Topics in Theatre Arts

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: see current course schedule)

Topics courses are devoted to special subjects that may not be covered in depth in other courses, to issues of current interest or to the newest research available in a discipline.

THA 412: Advanced Production Design and Management

(1-3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: permission of instructor; may be repeated for credit)

Hands on practical application of technical knowledge through projects or positions of responsibility on department or warehouse productions. Typically a major department production position.

THA 413: Stagecraft III

(3 hrs.)

(May be taken four times for credit)

(Prerequisites: THA 214, THA 216, THA 218 and permission of instructor)

Practical work experience designed to aid the student in attaining professional quality skills through completion of a major construction project.

THA 420: Senior Acting Seminar

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: THA 332, senior standing and permission of program)

An intensive course where actors develop the fundamental business skills, materials and marketing techniques necessary for a career in the entertainment industry.

THA 421: Advanced Acting I—Shakespeare

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 332 or permission of instructor)

Shakespeare for the actor. Voice, movement and script analysis in classical drama.

THA 422: Advanced Acting II—The Audition

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 421, which may be taken concurrently, or permission of instructor)

Creation of an audition package for presentation at the national URTA auditions for advanced work in graduate schools, summer stock and professional repertory theatre.

THA 423: Advanced Acting III—Acting for Camera

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 332 or permission of instructor)

Acting for camera in TV and film (in conjunction with the Mass Media Program).

THA 424: Advanced Acting – IV Comedy

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisite: THA 332 or permission of instructor)

Comedy: theory and acting techniques. Course includes study in slapstick farce, stand-up monologues, contemporary comic playwrights and "period" plays (Restoration, Wilde, Coward).

THA 425: Senior Production Seminar

(3 hrs.)

(Prerequisites: senior standing and one of the following: THA 312, 317, 318, or 412)

A required course for all theatre production/design and management students. The production seminar is an intensive course to prepare students looking to enter the working world of theatre or gain acceptance to a graduate program. The core of the course is the development and refinement of both a digital and practical portfolio for presentation/interviews during the semester. The course includes readings, discussions and interviews with theatre professionals about practical, moral and ethical issues that students encounter in professional theatre today.

THA 432: Directing III

(3 hrs.)

(May be taken four times for credit)

(Prerequisite: THA 320 or permission of instructor)

Direction of a major production with the approval of the program chair.

Independent Study

Independent studies (special studies, tutorials, readings, projects) may be proposed by students who wish to investigate a subject not otherwise available. Information about independent study may be obtained in the department offices or in the Office of the Registrar.