Theatre (Performance), MFA

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MFA Theatre (Performance)

The MFA program in theatre with a concentration in performance re-envisions the role of the artist in society focusing on the devising and development of new work. The program stresses an actor-creator model as well as fostering a critical, conceptual thinker and collaborator by offering skills for developing artistic entrepreneurship, innovating performance applications in multimedia and transdisciplinary collaboration, informed by artistic integrity and social responsibility.

The school offers multiple approaches to new work development:

- connected motion
- devising
- Fitzmaurice voicework
- Lecoq
- new play development
- performance technology
- rasaboxes
- solo and collaborative performance
- Viewpoints

In addition to core physical and vocal training, the program offers a rich variety of guest artists each semester, undergraduate-level teaching opportunities, study abroad opportunities, funding for national and international conference travel, and career development internship opportunities.

During the third year of study, candidates conduct professional career development internships. In the past, students have completed internships at:

- Chicago Dramatist Theatre
- Cleveland Playhouse
- Dah Theatre, Belgrade, Serbia
- Hartford Stage
- North Coast Rep
- One Yellow Rabbit
- SITI Company
• Synetic Theatre
• Theatre L'Homme Dieu
• The Bali Purnati Art Centre
• Victory Gardens

Eight performers will be admitted to the cohort every three years.

At a Glance

• College/School: Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
• Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

60 credit hours including the required applied project course (THP 693)

This is a three-year program culminating in an applied project.

The first year is dedicated to intensive movement, acting and Fitzmaurice voice training, and ensemble building and devising with a focus on Lecoq, Rasaboxes, Viewpoints and Meisner. The year will culminate in a final site-specific showcase performance.

Second-year training provides opportunities for students to explore their work in a wide range of performance modalities such as community-embedded drama, performance art, solo performance, performance and technology, devising and working with guest artists. Performers collaborate with the MFA designers, directors and playwrights to devise a new scripted performance for the mainstage season.

The third year culminates in an applied performance project serving as a bridge between the educational and professional worlds and the communities they serve.

Students conclude their graduate studies with an applied performance project, specifically suited to their needs and interests. Academic and artistic progress is evaluated at the end of each semester by a faculty committee. Program continuation is contingent upon a successful review. A professional career development internship is required.
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. current resume
4. statement of purpose
5. academic writing sample
6. three letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the student's work
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Students are admitted to this program every three years, forming a cohort with their colleagues in the other Master of Fine Arts programs in theatre practice.

Applicants will need to do an interview, either on campus or at one of the university or resident theatre association sites, and an audition.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms.

Contact Information

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