

Theatre Arts

Chair

- Mary Beth Easley

Undergraduate major: theatre arts (BA)

Undergraduate minor: theatre arts

Graduate degree: MFA in theatre arts

Faculty: <https://theatre.uiowa.edu/people>

Website: <https://theatre.uiowa.edu/>

The Department of Theatre Arts offers academic programs for undergraduate and graduate students. It also stages live performances throughout the academic year and during the summer. The department also administers the Certificate in Digital Arts and the Certificate in Social Justice and the Performing Arts.

The department educates students who plan to enter other fields in which understanding of the arts and experience with theatre skills are useful. Some earn a major in theatre arts, sometimes with a second major in another discipline. Others earn a minor or take theatre classes as nonmajors. For information, view the minor in theatre arts in the catalog or see "Courses for Nonmajors."

Several of the department's courses are approved for the GE CLAS Core; look for courses with the prefix THTR in the GE CLAS Core section of the catalog.

Courses for Nonmajors

Most theatre arts courses are open to all students, regardless of their majors, and are appropriate for nonmajors interested in theatre. The following courses are designed specifically for nonmajors.

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:1140	Basic Acting	3
THTR:1141	Basic Acting II	3
THTR:1400	Theatre and Society: Ancients and Moderns	3
THTR:1401	Theatre and Society: Romantics and Rebels	3
THTR:1410	Musical Theatre History	3
THTR:1411	Comedy and Society	3
THTR:1412	The Arts in Performance	3
THTR:2301	Playwriting I	3
THTR:2320	Playwriting in a Global World	3
THTR:2405	Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance	3
THTR:2605	Monsters, Victims, and Villains: Changing Perceptions	3
THTR:2610	Acting for Success	3
THTR:2620	Improvisation for Engineers, Scientists, and the Curious	3
THTR:2690	Sound Excursions: The Evolving Soundscape and the Reverberations of Human Activity	3
THTR:3210	Makeup Design for the Stage	3

THTR:3301	Playwriting II	3
THTR:3510	Introduction to Arts Management	3
THTR:3615	Action! Engage! Art! Creative Placemaking for the Public Good	3

Productions and Auditions

The Department of Theatre Arts presents around 20–25 public productions each year. These include a mainstage series of five plays, a festival of new works, and other productions, most of them new plays written by students.

Special attention is given to the process of developing new works and to the collaborative process that involves writers, directors, designers, dramaturgs, stage managers, and actors. Graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and visiting guest artists work together on large and small projects throughout the year.

Auditions for Theatre Arts Productions

Auditions for theatre arts productions are open to everyone. For academic considerations, priority is given to theatre arts majors first, and then all other University of Iowa students and members of the local community. There are many excellent roles available throughout the year and many nonmajors and actors from the surrounding community are cast each season. Occasionally, professional guest actors are employed.

General auditions are held at the beginning of the fall semester. Additional general auditions usually are scheduled in early November and in March. Information about auditions is available on the Department of Theatre Arts website. Notices of auditions are posted on the department's online call board.