Theatre Arts

In the School of Theatre, Television, and Film
In the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

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Faculty

Randy Reinholtz, M.F.A., Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film, Director of School
Ralph Funicello, B.F.A., The Don W. Powell Chair in Scene Design
Ann-Charlotte Harvey, Ph.D., Professor of Theatre, Emeritus
Paula Kalustian, M.F.A., Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film
(Graduate Adviser)
Margaret C. Larlham, M.A., Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film
Anne-Charlotte Harvey, Ph.D., Professor of Theatre, Emeritus
Ralph Funicello, B.F.A., The Don W. Powell Chair in Scene Design
Loren P. Schreiber, M.F.A., Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film
Peter J. Cirino, M.F.A., Associate Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film
Donald J. Hopkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film
Danielle J. Bedau, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film
Denitsa D. Bliznakova, M.F.A., Assistant Professor of Theatre, Television, and Film
Rick A. Simas, Ph.D., Musical Theatre Specialist

Associateships and Assistantships

Graduate teaching associateships and graduate assistantships are available to a limited number of qualified students. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the school.

The Don W. Powell Chair in Scene Design

The Don W. Powell Chair in Scene Design was established through a trust provided by the late professor emeritus. Always concerned about students, Powell, who retired after 30 years with the theatre department, created the trust in order to enhance theatre education at S.D.S.U. The current Don W. Powell Scene Design Chair is the nationally acclaimed designer Ralph Funicello.

General Information

The School of Theatre, Television, and Film offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts degree and the Master of Fine Arts degree in theatre arts. Graduates in these programs learn in the artist-scholar model and are prepared for careers as practitioners and educators. The Master of Fine Arts degree is offered in the areas of acting, design/technical theatre, and musical theatre. The M.A. is a 30-unit program; the M.F.A. a 60-unit program. Both programs of study limit the number of students accepted in order to offer individual attention and extensive opportunity to participate in theatre production. The Dramatic Arts building contains the proscenium-style Don Powell Theatre seating 500, with state-of-the-art computer lighting and sound control, and the flexible Experimental Theatre seating 200, rehearsal and recording areas, a design studio and CADD laboratory, paint shop, wagon house, scene shop, and fully equipped costume laboratory. The theatre arts degree is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (N.A.S.T.).

Admission to Graduate Study

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at http://www.csumentor.edu along with the $55 application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the School of Theatre, Television, and Film.

Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

(1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all post-secondary institutions attended;
Note:
• Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
• Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

(2) GRE scores (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682);

(3) English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682);

Master of Arts Degree in Theatre Arts

The following materials should be mailed or delivered to:

School of Theatre, Television, and Film
(Attention: M. A. Program)
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-7601

(1) Three current and relevant letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s academic ability.

Master of Fine Arts Degree in Theatre Arts

Concentration in Acting

No students admitted to program at this time.

Master of Fine Arts Degree in Theatre Arts

Concentration in Design and Technical Theatre

The materials as outlined under Admission to the Degree Curriculum should be mailed or delivered to:

School of Theatre, Television, and Film
(Attention: Design Program)
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-7601

Master of Fine Arts Degree in Theatre Arts

Concentration in Musical Theatre

This program admits new students every other year only.

The materials as outlined under Admission to the Degree Curriculum should be mailed or delivered to:

School of Theatre, Television, and Film
(Attention: Musical Theatre Program)
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-7601
Master of Arts Degree in Theatre Arts

Admission to the Degree Curriculum

General requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing are described in Part Two of this bulletin. In addition, the student’s area adviser will judge the applicant capable of graduate work in theatre arts. The judgment will be based on (1) the applicant's transcripts of prior academic work; (2) three current and relevant letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic ability; (3) the applicant's scores on the GRE General Test; (4) the applicant's scores on the GRE Writing Assessment Test; and (5) an interview, when appropriate, revealing the applicant's ability to succeed in the chosen area. Application deadline is February 1. To inquire about the program, including spring admission, contact the director of the M.A. program. Visit our Web site at http://ttf.sdsu.edu for current contact information.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students in the Master of Arts program must meet the general requirements for advancement to candidacy, as described in Part Four of this bulletin. In addition, students seeking the Master of Arts degree in Theatre Arts (regardless of area of specialization) are required to have completed Theatre 600A, and to have removed any deficiencies assigned. It is recommended that all graduate students take Theatre 600A during their first semester.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 10071) (SIMS Code: 662504)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master’s degree as described in Part Four of this bulletin, the student must complete a graduate program of a minimum of 30 units to include Theatre 600A, 600B, 610, 621, 647A or 647B or 649, and 799A. Eighteen of the 30 units must be in 600- and 700-numbered drama courses and the remaining 12 units may be selected from 500-, 600-, or 700-numbered courses. A maximum of nine units may be elected outside the Theatre department. PLEASE NOTE: Theatre 600A, 600B, 610, 621, 647A or 647B or 649, and 799A for students in Plan A or 790 for students in Plan B and successful completion of the comprehensive examination are required courses for all Master of Arts candidates.

Master of Fine Arts Degree in Theatre Arts

Admission to the Degree Curriculum

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as described in Part Two of this bulletin, a student must satisfy the following requirements before being recommended for classified graduate standing:

1. Possess a bachelor’s degree in theatre or an approved affiliated field with a grade point average of not less than 2.85 overall in the last 60 units of study attempted and a 3.0 undergraduate average in the major.
2. Complete undergraduate requirements commensurate with the proposed concentration in the M.F.A. program.
3. Satisfy additional concentration requirements listed below.

Students who have not met certain criteria or demonstrate deficiencies in undergraduate preparation or basic skill development, may be granted conditional admission with the understanding that remedial coursework will be completed prior to advancement to classified standing. Remedial coursework cannot be applied to the 60-unit minimum requirement for the degree. Students who do not satisfy the requirements for an M.F.A. degree will not automatically be considered for an M.A. degree. A student holding an M.A. degree in theatre arts from San Diego State University or any other institution of higher learning must formally apply for the M.F.A. degree. PLEASE NOTE: Applicants holding an M.A. or M.F.A. degree from an accredited institution may transfer up to 30 units upon review and recommendation of the faculty in the area of specialization, and the graduate coordinator of the School of Theatre, Television, and Film, and the approval of the graduate dean.

Students already accepted into the program who request a change of specific concentration at a later date, will be required to meet the admission requirements for the new concentration.

Concentration in Acting

In addition to meeting the admission requirements listed above, a student must demonstrate exceptional artistic talent in the acting area by providing:

1. A resume of acting accomplishments.
2. An audition, either in person or via videotape (VHS), which would include two contrasting works: one contemporary piece and one classical piece from Shakespearean drama (total time not to exceed 12 minutes).
3. Three letters of recommendation attesting to the candidate’s academic qualifications and level of competence in acting.

For specific audition dates and locations, write to the Director, Graduate Acting Program, School of Theatre, Television, and Film, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-7601.

Concentration in Design and Technical Theatre

In addition to meeting the admission requirements listed above, a student must demonstrate outstanding abilities in a particular area of design/technical theatre by submitting the following items:

1. Those students primarily interested in design must submit a design portfolio which contains sketches, renderings, graphics, floor plans, elevations, plots, color/fabric swatches, and photographs of productions, revealing the applicant's creative ability in the chosen area or design.
2. Those students primarily interested in technical theatre must submit a portfolio which contains evidence of technical direction and management experiences in scenic, lighting, or costume technology and design.
3. A resume which contains documentation of participation in not less than five full-length theatrical productions.
4. Three letters of recommendation attesting to the candidate's academic, professional and personal qualifications from academic or professional theatre sources.

For specific interview dates and locations, write to the Director, Design Program, School of Theatre, Television, and Film, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-7601 or visit our Web site at http://ttf.sdsu.edu.

Concentration in Musical Theatre

In addition to meeting the admission requirements listed above, a student must demonstrate professional potential in musical theatre by providing:

1. A resume of musical theatre accomplishments.
2. An audition, either in person or via video or DVD, to include two contrasting vocal selections and two contrasting monologues.
3. Three references attesting to the candidate’s academic qualifications and level of competence in the areas of acting, singing, and dancing.
Theatre Arts

For specific audition dates and locations, write to the Director, Musical Theatre Program, School of Theatre, Television, and Film, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-7601 or visit our Web site at http://flt.sdsu.edu.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must meet the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Four of this bulletin. Candidates for the M.F.A. must have completed 30 units within their official program with a minimum grade point average of 3.0. A minimum of 24 units in the official program must be enrolled in and completed concurrently with or after advancement to candidacy. Students in each concentration must have successfully completed Theatre 600A and removed any deficiencies noted by the faculty.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree

(Major Code: 10072) (SIMS Code: 662505)

Forty-five of the sixty units required must be completed in courses numbered 600 or above. The remaining units may be selected from 500-, 600-, or 700-numbered courses in theatre or outside departments.

At least 30 units of the student's program must be completed in residence at San Diego State University, and the student must be in residence not less than two semesters. No more than six units in 798 will be accepted for credit toward the degree.

Concentration in Acting

(SIMS Code: 662517)

No students admitted to program at this time.

Candidates for the M.F.A. with a concentration in acting, in addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing, must complete a 60-unit graduate program consisting of the following courses: Theatre 600A, 600B, 607* (must be taken four times for a total credit of 12 units), 610, 621, 644, 645, 746, 795 (maximum two units), 631*, 632*, 633*, 634*, 746, 795, 799A.

Concentration in Design and Technical Theatre

(SIMS Code: 662539)

Candiates for the M.F.A. with a concentration in design and technical theatre, in addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing, must complete a 60-unit graduate program to include 35 units of core courses as follows: 1) three units selected from Theatre 532, 533A, 533B, among the 12 units of electives. In special circumstances, additional courses acceptable for graduate credit in other departments may be selected with the approval of the student's adviser. Students in the concentration in acting will be reviewed by a faculty panel each semester to determine if their progress warrants continuation in the program. In conjunction with the completion of Theatre 746 and 799A, students must complete an adjudicated performance thesis project established and approved by their thesis committee. This project will be supported by a written thesis project report (analysis/apologia).

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Programs in Theatre Arts (THEA)

Concentration in Musical Theatre

(SIMS Code: 662587)

Candidates for the M.F.A. with a concentration in musical theatre, in addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing, must complete a 60-unit graduate program which includes a core of courses totaling 48 units as follows: Theatre 555B (maximum credit eight units), 600A, 600B, 620A, 620B, 622A, 622B, 623, 627 (maximum credit 16 units), 630 (maximum credit four units), 650, and 659. The student must also complete nine units of Theatre 746 (internship), 795 (practicum), and (Plan A) 799A (thesis/project report) or (Plan B) 790 (preparation for comprehensive examination). Three additional units are to be selected with the approval of the student's graduate adviser from courses acceptable for graduate credit. Candidates will either: (Plan A) successfully prepare a written thesis project report or (Plan B) successfully complete a comprehensive examination.

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Programs in Theatre Arts (THEA)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

THEA 510. Creative Drama and Language Arts (3)
Prerequisite: Theatre 310 or 315.
Advanced techniques in using creative drama to teach literature and language. Emphasis on use of drama in teaching of reading and world literature. Practical experience through fieldwork in elementary or middle school classrooms.

THEA 523. Stage Combat (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisites: Theatre 355 and by audition.
Skills and choreography of armed and unarmed stage combat. Performance application to selected scenes from world drama.

THEA 525. Dramaturgy (3)
Prerequisite: Theatre 325 or graduate standing.
Theory and application of various aspects of dramaturgy and theatre literary management. Production-oriented synthesis of advanced test analysis, dramatic theory and criticism, historical research, and dramatic literature. Attendance at select plays required. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

THEA 530. Period Dress and Decor (3)
Prerequisite: Theatre 240 or graduate standing.
Visual survey of relationships and cultural significance of period dress, architecture, and decorative arts as applied to theatrical productions. Emphasis on significant historic periods in dramatic literature. Theatre 530A is not open to students with credit in Theatre 530.
A. Ancient World Through Eighteenth Century
B. NeoClassical Through Twentieth Century

THEA 532. Advanced Acting and Directing (3)
Prerequisites: Theatre 332 and either Theatre 320 or 355.
Problems in characterization in contemporary drama, and in plays of Ibsen, Strindberg, Chekhov, and Shaw. Maximum credit six units.
THEA 533A-533B. Theory and Styles in Acting and Directing I and II (3-3)
Prerequisites: Theatre 332 and either Theatre 320 or 355.
Acting and directing problems in theory and style related to the production of plays from great periods in theatre history, with attention to characterization, dramatic values, creative directing, and production approaches.

THEA 539. Theatre Rendering (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Theatre 240.
Rendering for scenic, costume, and lighting designer. Techniques, media, and portfolio preparation. Maximum credit four units.

THEA 540. Scene Design II (3)
Prerequisites: Theatre 440 and 530A or 530B.
History of scene design and application of contemporary styles to various types of dramatic production.

THEA 541. Scene Painting (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Theatre 530A or 530B.
Theories and techniques of scene painting, including both historical backgrounds and modern procedures. Full-scale projects executed in scenery studio.

THEA 545. Mechanical Drawing for the Theatre (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Theatre 240 or admission to MFA in Design.
Theatre drafting standards and techniques. Floor plans, sections, elevations, perspective drawings, and light plots.

THEA 546. CADD for the Theatre (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Theatre 545.
Computer aided drafting applications for theatre designer.

THEA 547. Lighting Design II (3)
Two lectures and three hours of laboratory.
Prerequisite: Theatre 447.
Advanced design theories and lighting practice for theatre and dance. Laboratory and production related activities.

THEA 548. Sound Design for the Theatre (3)
Two lectures and two hours of activity.
Prerequisites: Theatre 240, 325.
Theories and techniques of sound design and reinforcement for theatrical performance. Laboratory experience in sound production.

THEA 549. Lighting and Sound Technology (2)
One lecture and three hours of laboratory.
Prerequisite: Theatre 447.
Use of electrics for the stage. Lighting, sound, computer. Practical applications emphasized.

THEA 550. Software for Theatrical Design (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisites: Theatre 440, 447, 452, or 546.
Application of computer software for theatre, including scenery, costume, lighting, and sound design. Maximum credit four units.

THEA 552. Costume Design II (3)
Prerequisites: Theatre 452 and 530A or 530B.
Advanced studies in costume design. Emphasis on theatrical style, rendering layout, design problems, materials, and budget.

THEA 553. Technical Direction (3)
Two lectures and three hours of activity.
Prerequisites: Theatre 240, 442.
Modern technical direction including project management (budgeting and procurement, managing employees); design and engineering; automation, rigging, advanced stagecraft (metalcraft, CNC machinery, composite construction), and safety. Maximum credit six units.

THEA 554A. Costume Design Technology I (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Theatre 240.
Current materials and practices of costume technology: advanced construction techniques, fabric selection and use, period pattern drafting, draping, and cutting. Maximum credit four units.

THEA 554B. Costume Design Technology II (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Theatre 240.
Advanced costume craft construction techniques and management procedures for costume production: millinery, fabric dyeing and painting, jewelry, and related crafts. Maximum credit four units.

THEA 555A. Movement for the Theatre II (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisites: Theatre 332 and 355.
Movement techniques for the theatre. Movement patterns, phrase development, and partnering leading to scene work. Maximum credit four units.

THEA 555B. Movement for the Theatre II (2)
Four hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Theatre 440, 447, or 452; or admission to MFA in Design.
Design projects in areas of scenery, costume, lighting, sound, or makeup. Maximum credit six units for Theatre 570A and six units for Theatre 570B.
   A. Independent Study
   B. Design for Department Public Performances

THEA 580. Theatre in the Classroom (3)
Prerequisites: Theatre 310 and 315.
Methods of teaching theatre in elementary, middle, and secondary schools. Emphasis on pedagogy, organization of curriculum, play selection, and principles of producing plays in the classroom.

THEA 596. Selected Topics in Theatre (1-3)
Prerequisite: Twelve units in theatre.
A specialized study of selected topics from the areas of theatre. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor’s degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor’s degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master’s degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

GRADUATE COURSES

THEA 600A. Research and Bibliography (2)
Basic reference works, scholarly and critical journals; introduction to bibliographical techniques; exercises and problems in methods and exposition of research as it relates to the various areas of theatre. Recommended for first semester of graduate work, and prerequisite to advancement to candidacy.

THEA 600B. Thesis Preparation (1)
Prerequisite: Theatre 600A.
Development and presentation of thesis with focus on writing and formal parameters.

THEA 610. Seminar in Design Aesthetics for Theatre, Television, and Film (3)
Prerequisites: Admission to graduate program in theatre arts or television, film and new media production.
Aesthetic theories and practice. Design aesthetics as applied to theatre, television, film and new media production.
THEA 620. Seminar in History of Musical Theatre (3)
Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. musical theatre program.
Chronological survey of representative works from musical theatre history including major productions, personalities, styles, and genres.
A. Nineteenth Century Viennese Operetta through 1950
B. 1950 to Present
THEA 621. Seminar in Theories of the Theatre (3)
Prerequisite: Minimum three units of upper division theatre history. Theories of dramatic literature and performance, reflecting major stylistic movements and aesthetic philosophies of the stage from the classical Greeks to today (e.g., Aristotle, Lessing, Appia, Brecht, and Grotowski).
THEA 622A-622B. History of Musical Theatre Laboratory (1-1) Cr/NC
Three hours of laboratory.
Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. musical theatre program. Laboratory component of Theatre 620A-620B. Theatre 622A must be taken concurrently with Theatre 620A; Theatre 622B must be taken concurrently with Theatre 620B.
THEA 623. Seminar in Musical Theatre Script and Score Analysis (3)
Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. musical theatre program. Representative works from musical theatre analyzed in terms of dramatic and musical aesthetics.
THEA 627. Musical Theatre Studio (4)
Eight hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. musical theatre program. Exploration of literature in the field of theatrical performance. Maximum credit 16 units.
THEA 630. Individual Vocal Instruction (1)
Individual voice instruction/coaching for students in M.F.A. musical theatre program. Maximum credit four units.
THEA 642. Theatre Practicum Skills (1) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. in design and technical theatre program.
Design projects for department productions. To be arranged with area adviser. Should be repeated each semester during the first two years of study for maximum credit four units.
THEA 643. Collaborative Studies in Design (3)
Two lectures and two hours of activity.
Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. design and technical theatre program. This course must be repeated each semester by the M.F.A. design student for a maximum of 12 units.
Design of theatrical productions with emphasis on artistic collaboration and integration of scenery, costumes and lights. Attention to graphic presentation techniques as well as designs produced.
THEA 644. Seminar in Contemporary Designers (3)
Prerequisite: Theatre 643.
Major set, costume, and lighting designers working in contemporary theatre, film, and television.
THEA 645. Seminar in Theatrical Lighting (3)
Prerequisite: Theatre 643.
Aesthetics of stage lighting as it applies to the areas of scenery and costume design. Exploration of literature in the field of theatrical lighting. Investigation of commercial and architectural lighting. Projects involving use of color and distribution of light.
THEA 647. Seminar in History of Theatre and Drama (3)
Prerequisite: Admission to M.A. or M.F.A. theatre arts program.
A. British and Continental Theatre
B. American Theatre
THEA 649. Topics in World Theatre (1-3)
Prerequisite: Admission to M.A. or M.F.A. theatre arts program. Intensive study in specific areas of world theatre. Forms, technologies, genres, cultural expressions, and contemporary developments. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to the M.A. or M.F.A. degree in theatre arts.
THEA 650. Seminar in Musical Theatre Dance History (3)
Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. musical theatre program.
Study of choreographic styles of musical theatre.
THEA 659. Musical Theatre Stage Direction (3)
Prerequisite: Admission to M.F.A. musical theatre program.
Special problems in directing for the musical theatre.
THEA 746. Theatre Internship (3) Cr/NC
Prerequisites: Theatre 621 and consent of graduate coordinator and program director. Professional field experience in areas of design/technical theatre, acting, directing, musical theatre, and theatre for young audiences. (Formerly numbered Drama 746B.)
THEA 790. Directed Readings in Theatre Arts (3) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy. Preparation for the comprehensive examination for those students in the M.F.A. program under Plan B.
THEA 795. Practicum in Theatre Arts (1-6)
Prerequisite: Theatre 621.
Faculty supervised projects leading to public presentation. Maximum credit six units.
THEA 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite: Project/assignment to be arranged with area adviser. Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.
THEA 799A. Thesis or Project (3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy. Theatre 795 (Practicum in Theatre Arts) is a prerequisite if the student elects the preparation of a project. Preparation of a project report or thesis for the master’s degree.
THEA 799B. Thesis or Project Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis or Project 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.
Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.
THEA 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.
Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master’s degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.