

GRADUATE REVIEW

Department of Theatre and Drama 2016

I. Program Introduction, Mission, and Objectives

The Department of Theatre and Drama holds a mission to educate through and for the world of theatre. The department strives to do this by offering vibrant and varied course offerings, mounting productions, and creating communities of artists, scholars, teachers, and mentors. It is through rigorous, hands-on training that students explore intellectual and creative challenges, critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration.

The department embodies a model of creative excellence that leads students, the campus, and wider communities to produce work that embraces the social, intellectual, and artistic potential of theatre. They strive to bring insight, imagination, and discipline to the artistic and scholarly life of the campus and community.

The Acting, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, and Theatre Technology specializations serve to integrate into a comprehensive collaboration in theatre. The faculty in Theatre and Drama are leaders in their field. Together they have many credits in all facets of the profession. Their contributions to undergraduate and graduate teaching have been, and will continue to be, through a curriculum that emphasizes (1) professional standards and discipline and (2) development of both an articulate artist and collaborator through interrelating studies of theory and practice. We seek to prepare multifaceted actors and designers and technicians who are prepared for the needs of the 21st century. While continuing to provide a strong foundation in the art and craft of the theatre, the curriculum will:

Knowledge and Skills Learning Goals

- Exhibit exceptional skill and professional competence in theatre practice exemplified by a knowledge and achievement signified by a large body of work.
- Applies advanced analytical levels of inquiry and investigation in the creation, performance, production, or communication of theatre practice.
- Possesses a broad knowledge of theatre literature as well as visual and cultural history and applies that knowledge to the production process.
- Demonstrates the requisite artistic and technical skills to meet professional standards.
- Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, performances and/or techniques that advance the field.
- Articulates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.

Professional Conduct Learning Goals

- Recognizes and applies principles of ethical and professional conduct.
- Collaborates effectively, creatively, and generously through respect for the contributions of others.

II. Questions for the External Review

The faculty of the MFA programs have engaged in analyzing their offerings and developing a clear focus for their respective programs in the past few years. Currently, the MFA program in Acting is on a two-year hiatus and hopes resume recruiting for a class entering in the fall of 2017. The Graduate Academic Affairs Committee in Theatre and Drama has been synthesizing our concerns about the present and future health of the design/tech and acting programs in a self-study, from which we have developed the following questions to pose to our outside reviewers:

1. Are the department's mission and the MFA student learning outcomes clear and focused?
2. Do our current curriculum/requirements and faculty/staff configurations set up our MFA students for success in meeting our learning outcomes? If not, what changes should we consider?
3. Do the department's facilities and performance spaces support the curriculum and MFA student learning outcomes?
4. Given the resources that exist as well as our geographic location, how can we capitalize on our strengths to best develop a unique identity among other MFA programs?

Materials to be Provided to the Review Team

1. Current Curriculum/Proposed Curriculum
2. Graduate Student Handbook
3. Data on courses offered and enrollments in the past 5 years
4. Data/trend reports/employment history on all MFA graduates over the last 10 years
5. Application and Admission data
6. Comparative school curriculums/requirements
7. Vitas/Faculty bios for all current faculty
8. NAST standards
9. Health and Safety concerns
10. Theatre and Drama Graduate Student Learning Outcomes

III. Review Team Candidates

The Theatre and Drama MFA program review would receive the most comprehensive feedback if structured to include participation of higher education professionals and industry professionals, as the program aims to prepare students for entry-level careers. It is proposed that, in addition to higher education professionals, one reviewer from a technical theatre industry background, and one reviewer from an artistic director background (acting/directing) be selected to participate in this review.

Higher Ed (pick 2)

1. Sherry Wagner-Henry (Director of the Bolz Center for Arts Administration)
2. Marc Shanda, (Professor, The Ohio State University; President Elect, USITT)
3. Dan Carter (Director of Theatre, Pennsylvania State University)
4. Alan McVay (Chair of the Theatre Arts Department, University of Iowa)
5. Sarah Marty (Arts Program Area Director and coordinator of UW Continuing Studies, Theatre, Arts Management, and Dance Programs)
6. Laura Crow, (Professor Emeritus, UConn)
7. Susan Mickey, (Professor, Associate Chair, UT-Austin)
8. Brant Pope, (Professor, Chair, UT Austin)
9. Cameron Jackson, (Director, School of Theatre, Florida State University)
10. Rives Collins, (Former Chair, Northwestern University)
11. Paul Steger, (Chair, University of Nebraska)

Industry (pick 1)

1. Tracy Fitch (Technical Support Engineer, Electronic Theatre Controls)
2. Denise Martel (Chair of Performance Production, Cornish College of the Arts)
3. Mark Turner (Production and Facilities Director, Skylight Opera, Milwaukee)

Regional Theatre (pick 1)

1. Joe Dowling (former Artistic Director of the Guthrie Theatre-MN)
2. Michael Wright (Artistic Director—Milwaukee Chamber)
3. Janet Allen (Artistic Director--Indiana Repertory Theatre)
4. Martha Lavey (Artistic Director—Steppenwolf, Chicago)
5. Robert Falls (Artistic Director—Goodman Theatre, Chicago)
6. Jennifer Uphoff Gray, (Forward Theatre)

IV. Program Review Budget

Chair of Review Team	
Honorarium	\$ 900
Round Trip air fare & ground transportation	\$ 670
Hotel (2 nights @ \$105/night)	\$ 210
Meals (\$35/day x 2 days)	\$ 70
Review Team Member #2	
Honorarium	\$ 400
Round Trip air fare & ground transportation	\$ 670
Hotel (2 nights @ \$105/night)	\$ 210
Meals (\$35/day x 2 days)	\$ 70
Review Team Member #3	
Honorarium	\$ 400
Round Trip air fare & ground transportation	\$ 670
Hotel (2 nights @ \$105/night)	\$ 210
Meals (\$35/day x 2 days)	\$ 70
Local Madison Review Team Member (1)	
Honorarium, if not UW staff	\$ 400
2 Lunches @ \$10	\$ 20
1 Dinner @ \$20.	\$ 20

Grand Total: \$4990