



UCLA Irvine Drama

UCIrvine DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

The Department of Drama, Claire Trevor School of the Arts, at the University of California, Irvine celebrates its 45th year as a premier academic and professional training program – one which respects the legacy of our art form while actively advancing its future with a distinguished resident and guest faculty, excellent facilities, an interactive student body, and an extraordinary alumni placement record. We are committed to the development of theatre in which both performance and scholarly activity are informed by the exploration, scrutiny, and examination of a variety of social, political, and cultural phenomena. Designated a Department of Excellence in the UC system, we delight in the excitement generated from multiple points of view as represented through our diverse curriculum, student body, and faculty.

UCIrvine Drama faculty is committed to the training of outstanding students in order to prepare them for fruitful careers in the worlds of theatre, film, television, and entertainment. To this end, we are in residence in Irvine throughout the academic year while also maintaining distinguished professional careers as directors, designers, actors, stage managers, producers, and scholars across the states and internationally.

The Drama Department is committed to collegiality and professionalism, nurturing these through cooperative work within courses and production, the fulfillment of artistic practice and diligent research. Our overall aim, realized through a wide but focused variety of academic and creative experiences, is to work with students to remain among the most innovative programs in the country.

This brochure is intended to provide you with an overview of our school, programs, and faculty. For much more information, including department history, season offerings, alumni accomplishments, application information, international and multi-cultural activities, and current news updates, please visit our website.

BA in DRAMA

There can be few subjects as broad, or as fundamental to human civilization, as those of Drama and Theatre. While Drama is rightfully considered an entertainment, it is an entertainment that begins with the greatest literature ever written – from the classics of Euripides, Shakespeare and Molière to modern Americans like Tennessee Williams, August Wilson and David Henry Hwang – as presented in the most sophisticated performance techniques from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas they have developed over three thousand years. And Theatre – the practice of Drama – is a hands-on collaboration that involves real-time interactions with other artists, and displaying the results of your work to real-life audiences. Studying for your BA in Drama is part of a larger education that includes close consideration of world history and politics; human psychology and desire; music, dance, literature and art; visual and aural aesthetics, and both ancient and contemporary technologies of communication.

COURSES. The program itself consists of a comprehensive study of acting, directing, design (costume, scenic, lighting, and sound) music theatre, playwriting, stage management, theatre production, and dramatic theory, criticism, literature, and history. Plus it involves hands-on participation in productions – as an actor, designer, writer, technician or stage manager – throughout your study at UCIrvine. Regarding which, you should know that auditions for *all* productions at UCIrvine are open to undergraduates, and several – including the faculty or guest directed All-Undergraduate Production – are open *exclusively* to undergraduates.

HONORS. Honors programs exist in Acting; Music Theatre; Directing; Stage Management; Dramatic Literature, History, and Criticism; and Lighting, Scenic, Sound, and Costume Design. For much more information about the BA in Drama, Honors, auditions, all-undergraduate productions, and courses please visit: <http://drama.arts.uci.edu/baintro.html>





BFA in Music Theatre

The BFA in Music Theatre offers a unique experience in preparation for roles on the musical stage. The program focuses on developing principal actors/singers who are truthful storytellers imbued with strong acting, singing, and dance technique. The program culminates in a showcase for agents and managers in NYC.

NEW YORK SATELLITE PROGRAM. This unique immersion experience provides an intensive four-week residency in the world's central hub of musical theatre. An impressive faculty of visiting professionals offers classes and workshops in singing, dancing, acting, and auditioning technique. The business of Broadway – everything from finding an agent to finding an apartment – is central to the experience. The New York Satellite Program culminates with 4 @ 15, an off-Broadway staged reading of new musicals written expressly for program participants in association with The York Theatre. A strong New York alumni base provides supportive contacts for BFA students.

FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS. In addition to two, fully produced musicals each season, we launch the school year in a special collaboration with the Academy for New Musical Theatre in Los Angeles. Our students are showcased in new works written for us by ANMT's professional cadre of composers and librettists.

COURSES. Outstanding BA students may audition for the BFA. The curriculum includes classes in acting, private singing lessons, ballet, tap, jazz, musical theatre dance, history of the American Musical, music proficiency, script and score analysis, and repertoire building through the Drama and Dance departments.

ALUMNI. Recent graduates have appeared in featured roles on Broadway and in national touring productions of *Spring Awakening*, *Wicked*, *In the Heights*, *Hair*, *Rock of Ages*, *Jersey Boys*, *Spamalot*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Legally Blonde*, *Mary Poppins*, *All Shook Up*, *9 to 5*, *High School Musical*, *Fame*, *Grease*, *West Side Story*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

MFA in ACTING

UCLrvine is devoted to the development of working professional actors: actors who can enjoy a successful professional life in an extraordinarily competitive field and who possess the skills, insight, intelligence, creativity, and vision to create the theatre of the future. Most of our MFA graduates in the past fifteen years now perform on stages around the country, on and off Broadway, in regional theatres, or in feature films and television series. Many hold faculty positions in university theatre departments. This degree of success cannot be achieved by actors who possess mere professional competence. UCLrvine actors are successful because their talent – and their training – has made them exceptional.

THE UC IRVINE ACTOR. Throughout the years, we've heard again and again from leading professionals in the field that UCLrvine actors, while thoroughly trained and wonderfully skilled, stand out particularly for their individuality. They are themselves. We do not believe in producing actors who bear the stamp of their training so vividly that they display their training rather than the personal truth of the actor/character they play on stage. Our curriculum is not based on a single, narrowly-defined view of the acting process, nor is the graduate actor at the mercy of a single acting teacher's evaluation. Within the program, the faculty works very closely as a team, with profound respect for, and regular consultation with, each other and with the students.

SHOWCASE. UCLrvine's Showcase "Coast to Coast" is completely funded and considered to be one of the very best in the country. Each year, hundreds of agents, managers, and casting directors request interviews with UCLrvine actors. Our recent graduate actors have signed with major agencies in Los Angeles, New York, or in both cities.

COLLEAGUES. We offer an extraordinarily distinguished faculty, a well-planned and effective curriculum, and excellent production facilities. But the most important single element of your experience is your colleagues. Our standards are high and we accept eight actors – four men and four women – into the program. Because of this arduous admissions ratio, you are in the company of some of the very best young actors in the country. These actors will challenge you with their high level of ability and expect you to challenge them as well.





MFA in DIRECTING

IN THEORY. The director is an artist and a craftsman, a philosopher and traffic cop. We are the high judges of what passes on stage, not through our own agendas, but through contemplation and critical perspective, through native ability and shared experience in judging which forms best illuminate the text and penetrate and engage the audience. We also carry the responsibility for organizing the life of the play – both onstage and behind the scenes – in a smooth and efficient manner. Throughout the program, we deal with many academic and real-world instances to hone our craft and grow more mature in our art. We are concerned with striking a balance between humility and leadership. Six quarters of our nine-quarter program are centered on tutorials and lab work – each focused on a theme. These themes are sequenced to move from the most basic historical forms of theater through complex, advanced stages. We begin with Classicism and move through Realism/Naturalism. Whenever possible, we explore material similar to that in the MFA actors' development, so that we address common issues throughout the training.

IN PRACTICE. We emphasize hands-on directing. Working with both undergraduate and MFA actors, MFA directors stage at least five productions in their three-year residency – including fully budgeted production in our season. From the first quarter, student directors are trained in various modes of collaboration with designers and actors and begin work immediately on workshop productions. Students meet faculty mentors in private tutorials, and present scene work in the weekly Directors' Lab. All MFA directors' work is evaluated in faculty and peer critiques. Tutorials and lectures focus on the history of directing, classical and romantic styles, Shakespeare, realism/naturalism, comedy, and postmodern and meta-theatrical experimentation. Directed reading from Aristotle to Artaud engages each student in a personal exploration of theory to balance the intensely practical program. Many MFA directors find internships with Equity companies during their tenure at UCI. UCIrvine is proud of its many MFA directing alumni who are now professionally active throughout the country and in such centers of live drama as New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Britain, and Europe.

MFA in SOUND DESIGN

Sound is one of the fastest growing and progressive design areas in theatre and the entertainment industries, and UCIrvine is well poised to educate, guide, and prepare students for a successful career after graduation. We believe a strong foundation in design for the theatre and the opportunity to explore digital tools will develop unique and thoughtful artistic collaborators. The program centers on finding the critical balance of theatrical aesthetic/process, audio engineering, music, and professional practice that is unique to each student. Combined with comprehensive training in and exposure to the latest in sound technology, our students are prepared for success in traditional theatre and the digital future.

PRODUCTION. MFA Sound Designers will design four to six fully-supported productions during their tenure and may also engage in a number of workshop, experimental, and non-Drama Department designs. Students may choose to focus on musical theatre sound by designing and supporting our season of musicals. Each fully-supported sound design is critiqued by the sound design faculty and students, creating an opportunity for designers to discuss creative challenges and ideas in a real-world setting.

CURRICULUM. The Sound Design curriculum at UCIrvine is unique and rigorous. The linear series of coursework is complemented by a 3-year series of rotating studio courses. This rotating series is constantly updated so that it evolves with advances in technology and artistic practice in the industry, while still focusing on developing the designer's real-world skills and vision.

FACILITIES. The Sound Design program is equipped with the very latest in audio technology, including a state-of-the-art design studio/classroom and a wide range of modern production equipment. Our program, however, is not about the technology: the equipment and facilities serve only as tools, which the sound designer may (or may not) choose to use in their creative process.

For more information: <http://sound.arts.uci.edu/>



HERVINE DRAWN



drama-arts.uci.edu





MFA in LIGHTING DESIGN

The lighting design program at UCIrvine is dedicated to the professional training of advanced students committed to developing their talents and skills in the art and technology of lighting design. The multi-disciplined program encourages students to explore diverse aspects of lighting, and to discover their own areas of expertise. Thus, our students begin to focus on careers that are well-suited to their personal interests and talents.

CURRICULUM & PRODUCTION. The program provides a balanced exposure to both the design and craft of lighting so that students develop artistic and intellectual sensibilities along with professional maturity. Course topics include conceptual, digital, compositional, plotting, history, architectural/theme park lighting, electrical theory, 2d digital drafting for theatre and architectural lighting, 3d digital modeling and sectioning, digital and hand rendering, light plot and paperwork graphics, business and lighting theory, and technical skills. The curriculum offers the latest in digital design training while providing a strong foundation in core theatrical practices. The process of lighting design is empha-

sized as much, if not more, than the results of lighting design. Most important to the program is the direct guidance and critical evaluation provided by UCIrvine's award-winning lighting design faculty. Committed and talented students are treated as members of a design community with individual attention given to their creative growth and problem solving ability. We offer each student a minimum of six shows in a variety of venues as well as professional internships. This education is uniquely designed to prepare students for careers in theatrical, entertainment, concert, and architectural lighting.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS. Through UCIrvine's extensive network of lighting design alumni, graduate students are connected to leading theatrical production companies, entertainment design groups, architectural lighting design studios, and major theme park design offices. Future employment opportunities are enhanced by the many industry contacts provided throughout the student's residency.

MFA in SCENIC DESIGN

Scenic Design is a process of discovery. As designers create, they discover which choices best clarify, support, and at times re-contextualize the story being told. The design is that series of choices initiated by the designer, responded to by the director, and lived by the actor that defines the world of the play. The scenic design program at UCLrvine bases its curriculum on nurturing your process of discovery and revealing the alert and incisive artist within. Beginning with a nuanced reading of the text, you learn to make bold choices, evaluate them, and communicate them through thoughtful conversations with your colleagues. Our process champions using your eye before your mind, reason before logic, perception before conception. This training is the bedrock for work in all design media: television, film, live events, installations, dance, opera, and, of course, theater.

CURRICULUM. Key tools in the designer's process are the eye and hand. We train your hand in a series of technique-based classes that include drafting, figure drawing, color-media, 3D modeling, and digital imagery. The development of your eye occurs in a series of studio design courses that emphasize the discovery of design ideas, critical engagement with your own work, and critical response to the work of your classmates.

PRODUCTION. Realized projects are vital. Production work begins in the first quarter of the first year. Typically, students design between four to six realized projects during their tenure at UCLrvine. Production work is mentored through a collaborative process. Our students learn to advocate for their ideas while constantly evaluating what will best serve the play..

LIFE EXPERIENCE. Scenic Design at UCLrvine is a rigorous enterprise that prepares students to enter the professional world while beginning a lifetime of creative exploration. Expect a difficult but rewarding experience in which setbacks are seen as fundamental to the process of making art.





MFA in COSTUME DESIGN

The MFA in Costume Design is structured to develop professional artists for the next generation. Practical professional training exposes students to stage, musical theatre, opera, film, dance, television, and theme park design. UCIrvine's close proximity to Los Angeles provides a vast choice of costume materials, supplies, rental houses, research venues and career connections for the future. We prepare graduates for employment as professional artists by emphasizing the concept of costume design as a fine art. We teach students to see with "the eye of the mind" and use creative imagination to render passion into reality, bringing life to characters and stories with color and style as well as cultural and historical sensitivity.

CURRICULUM. Areas of study include drama as literature and as a performed art, traditional and digital presentation, costume history, and design technique studies in masks, millinery, and fabric modification among others. Students work and study with leaders in their fields, thus making important connections for the future. Budgets, construction, humanistic studies, familiarity with contemporary practices, the business of professional costume design, and career transitioning are addressed in the Classroom, through On-Site visits, in participation in The Television Academy's Internship Program, and attendance at Design Showcase West.

PRODUCTION. Each graduate student designs three to five productions during their residency. Students learn budgeting, supervising construction methods, fitting etiquette and procedure. Costumers utilize LA sources, suppliers, and rental houses to familiarize themselves with the same sources they will use professionally. The UCIrvine design process teaches students to present design concepts professionally, using both traditional and digital presentation methods frequently used in the entertainment industry.

DIGITAL TEXTILE PRINTER. The Costume Design Program is the only university drama curriculum in the U.S. to have its own digital textile printer. Featured recently in an episode of Project Runway, the printer allows our designers to produce their own fabrics or re-create the historical patterns from days gone by.

MFA in STAGE

MANAGEMENT

The Stage Management program at UCIrvine is dedicated to the professional preparation of advanced students interested in developing their skills, knowledge, and abilities for future work in theatre, dance, music, themed entertainment, and special events.

PEOPLE. Graduate stage managers work with directors, choreographers, musical directors, and designers in various genres including drama, musical theatre, dance, opera, and special events. Through the course of the program, production assignments grow in complexity. Additionally, students gain exposure to industry professionals who are invited to the campus or who are visited on field trips throughout the Southern California area.

PRODUCTION. Stage Managers work on a steady stream of productions in the season. They organize and participate in a series of collaboration and production meetings for each production assignment. These meetings assure communication between all production team members. In addition to the supervision of

performers, they interview and select assistants for each production as well as supervise running crews, which can number up to 60 students. In turn, professional faculty and staff mentor graduate stage management students throughout every phase of production.

COURSES. Students pursue the art and science of stage management via a theme for each quarter. These include: Entertainment Law, The Science and Art of Cue Calling, Inside Actor's Equity, Self Marketing, Psychology for Stage Managers, Production Management, Special Event Management, and Directing for Stage Managers. In addition, instruction is augmented by a long list of professionals from every area of the live entertainment industry, television, and film. These ties, along with UCIrvine's alumni network, provide graduate stage management students with multiple opportunities for internships and future employment.





DOCTORAL STUDIES

The only one of its kind in the country, the combined faculties at UCIrvine and UC San Diego offer a doctorate in drama, theatre, performance, and theory. The program's ultimate goal is to prepare each student for successful entry into a professional career at either a research university or a major liberal arts college. The program provides each student with unique developmental experiences that produce a unique body of innovative work. The extensive and diverse UCIrvine doctoral faculty is highly visible at both the national and international levels in both research and publication, encouraging students toward the widest vistas.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES. Drama, Theatre, English, and other departments offer opportunities for direction and dramaturgy; our program encourages development of both of these and other creative skills. Students are encouraged to dramaturg major departmental and workshop productions. Like the Drama

department as a whole, the program is committed to collegiality and professionalism, nurturing these through cooperative work within seminars, organized events, and teaching opportunities. Thus the overall program aim, realized through a wide but focused variety of academic and creative experiences, is to work with students to remain among the most innovative programs in the country.

PREPARATION. The program focuses on effective oral conference and classroom presentations, and on techniques for discussion, defense, and development of ideas. Program faculty place a primary focus on development of writing skills in a variety of distinct forms, including those for the seminar, for conference participation, and for potential publication.

CONTACT & FACILITY

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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FAST FACTS

Location: Irvine, Orange County, California
42 miles from downtown Los Angeles
85 miles from San Diego
7 miles from the beach

Undergraduate programs: BA in Drama, BFA in Music Theatre

Undergraduate students: 364

Graduate programs: MFA in Acting, Directing, Sound, Costume, Scenic, Lighting, Stage Management, and PhD in Doctoral Studies.

Graduate students: 75

Theatres: Little Theatre – seats 165
Studio Theatre – blackbox, variable seating
Winifred Smith Hall – seats 205
Irvine Barclay Theatre – seats 756
Claire Trevor Theatre – seats 287
Nixon Theatre – seats 65

Productions: 10 yearly, including 3 all-undergraduate shows and 30 workshop productions.

Annual festival of new musical theatre: In association with the Academy for New Musical Theatre in Los Angeles, featuring student performers and designers, faculty directors, and top-tier musical theatre professionals.

New York Satellite Program: A four-week music theatre program in New York City for undergraduates, with instruction by working theatre professionals.

BFA Music Theatre Showcase: NYC

MFA Showcase Coast To Coast: NYC AND LA with Harvard/ART

Meyer Sound Design Studio: A million dollar state-of-the-art studio and instructional facility made possible by generous support from Meyer Sound Laboratories, Berkeley, CA.

Design and directing student internships in the last year: South Coast Repertory, Cirque Du Soleil, The Jim Henson Company, Lincoln Theatre (Washington, DC), Utah Shakespearean Festival.

Faculty members: 28

Faculty projects in professional theatre and themed entertainnet in the last year: 68

Faculty performances, courses, research abroad: England, Australia, Canada, China, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Poland, Romania, South Korea, the Netherlands, and France.

Books published: 65; 10 this year.

Scholarly articles, book chapters published: 106; 9 this year.

Play and book reviews: 300+

Alumni performing, designing, directing, and stage managing in London, on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Regionally: Too many to count! Please see our Alumni Newsletter.

Photos by Paul Kennedy and Philip Channing.

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SCHOOL *of the* ARTS