

Theatre Arts (THR, DRM)

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Degrees awarded: M.A. in Theatre; M.F.A. in Dramaturgy

The Department of Theatre Arts offers two graduate programs, a 30-credit Master of Arts in Theatre and a 60-credit Master of Fine Arts in Dramaturgy. Graduate study in this Department is unique in a number of ways. First, our program offers graduate students the chance to produce their own work in our theatres. Graduate students create their own theatre pieces, serve as dramaturgs for the season's offerings, and engage with directors and designers on main-stage productions. In the third year of the M.F.A. professional training program, our graduate students not only work in close contact with our faculty, but undertake internships with professional theatres. Second, we provide a multicultural curriculum, with classes in Eastern and Western styles of drama, styles of acting, and cultural studies. Third, our program reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the theatre arts. Among the faculty are designers, performers, playwrights, theorists, and dramaturgs, all of whom work closely with graduate students. Finally, we continue to develop an Art and Technology Laboratory in conjunction with the Departments of Music and Art. Our graduates have the opportunity to get training in computer graphics, interactive media studies, and digital performance.

The goals of the M.A. program are (1) to study the dramatic tradition and the history of the performing arts, (2) to develop an understanding of the vital relationship between theatre theory and onstage practice, and (3) to prepare students qualified to matriculate in programs of study at the M.F.A. or Ph.D. level.

The M.F.A. program focuses on the work of the dramaturg, sometimes called the literary manager. In the United States and throughout the world, the dramaturg takes a vital part in the direction of professional theatre. He or she is responsible for advising on choice of repertoire, choosing or commissioning translations of foreign plays, collaborating with directors and dramatists in research of many kinds, and making public statements about policy and

productions. The dramaturg must be well informed in historical, critical, and comparative studies, and sensitive to every aspect of theatre practice. In a three-year M.F.A. professional training program, our graduate students work in close contact with our faculty and with professional theatres. Training in dramaturgy is useful even to students who later decide to pursue other careers in the theatre or other media, or in teaching at the university level. Professional dramaturgs often become directors, producers, administrators, drama critics, teachers, or playwrights, and many combine two or three different careers. Therefore, the Stony Brook program offers opportunities for students with a wide range of interests in theatre practice and dramatic criticism to pursue individual development within a professional orientation. As this program is built on the bond between theory and practice that we believe must lie at the heart of dramaturgical training, the program culminates in the professional internship and the M.F.A. project.

Interested students should request information and application forms as early as possible, especially if they plan to apply for financial aid.

Facilities

The Department of Theatre Arts is located in the Staller Center for the Arts, which houses a 1,106-seat proscenium stage and three black box theatres. Additional dance and theatre spaces are also available on campus. A newly acquired studio/theatre space in the basement of the Staller Center is the home of the Graduate Student Cabaret. This flexible, intimate, 50-seat performance space can also be used as a studio/classroom. The Cabaret is run by the Stony Brook M.F.A. Dramaturgy students as a production space and theatrical laboratory. Each year, eight to 12 productions are presented. The Department has a Laboratory for Technology in the Arts and an Electronic Classroom.

The University Library is adjacent to the Staller Center and holds in excess of

27,000 volumes related to the study of theatre arts. Special collections of play texts, including translations, and theatre archives are being developed continually. Manhattan is an easy commute by train, bus, or car, and its many theatres, exhibitions, archives, and libraries (most notably the New York Public Library of the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center) are easily accessible.

Admission

Admission to the M.A. Program in Theatre Arts

For admission to the M.A. program in Theatre Arts, the following, in addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, are normally required:

- A. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university;
- B. Advanced undergraduate courses in theatre history, dramatic literature, and/or theatre practice;
- C. Undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0;
- D. Three letters of recommendation;
- E. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores;
- F. Supporting materials must include a sample of the applicant's writing as well as other materials such as scripts, essays, publications, portfolio, etc. (for the returned work, the applicant must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the completed application);
- G. Acceptance by both the Department of Theatre Arts and the Graduate School;
- H. If a student accepted into the M.A. program wishes to offer, either for credit toward the degree or for exemption from enrollment in courses required by Stony Brook, analogous courses taken at another university, he or she must present transcripts and other supporting materials for consideration by the graduate program director before the end of his or her first semester in the program (see Transfer of Credit from Other Universities).

Admission to the M.F.A. Program in Dramaturgy

This M.F.A. program is intensive, and admission to it is highly selective. For admission, the following, in addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, are normally required:

A. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university;

B. Advanced undergraduate courses in theatre history, dramatic literature, and/or theatre practice;

C. Undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0;

D. Three letters of recommendation;

E. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores;

F. Supporting materials must include a sample of the applicant's writing as well as other materials such as scripts, essays, publications, portfolio, etc. (for the return of this work sample, the applicant must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the completed application);

G. Acceptance by both the Department of Theatre Arts and the Graduate School;

H. Applicants who already hold an M.A. in Theatre Arts from another institution may be admitted provisionally to the second year of the M.F.A. program. Such students are required to fulfill M.F.A. first-year course requirements not taken as part of their M.A. training elsewhere;

I. If a student accepted into the M.F.A. program wishes to offer, either for credit toward the degree or for exemption from enrollment in courses required by Stony Brook, analogous courses taken at another university, transcripts and other supporting material must be presented for consideration by the graduate program director before the end of the student's first semester in the program (see Transfer of Credit from Other Universities);

J. If so indicated on the application, an applicant for the M.F.A. program in dramaturgy can also be considered for admission to the one-year (30-credit) M.A. program in theatre arts, which runs parallel to the first year of the M.F.A. If such an applicant is admitted instead to the M.A. program, he or she may then be considered, upon successful completion of the M.A., for admission to the second year of the M.F.A. program;

K. Students in the M.F.A. program are evaluated at the end of each year of study before permission is granted to continue. If a student completing his or her first year of study is not given permission to continue, he or she may instead be redesignated as a candidate for an M.A. degree. He or she must then fulfill all requirements for that 30-credit degree (see above).

Faculty

Professor

Mangano, Nick, *Chair*, M.F.A., 1990, Columbia University: Directing.

Associate Professors

Baldwin, Phillip, M.F.A., 1987, Yale University: Scene design; interactive media; cultural studies.

Kim, Theresa, *Emeritus*, Ph.D., 1988, New York University: Asian history; acting; Eastern styles.

Lutterbie, John, Ph.D., 1983, University of Washington: Theatre history; performance theory and criticism; dramaturgy; directing.

Mayo, Deborah, *Director of Undergraduate Studies*, M.F.A., 1973, Yale School of Drama: Acting.

Sullivan, Amy, *Director of DanceSpace*, M.F.A., 1980, University of North Carolina, Greensboro: Dance with emphasis on performance and choreography.

Zelenak, Michael X., D.F.A., 1990, Yale University: Dramaturgy; criticism; theatre history.

Lecturers

Lantz-Gefroh, Valeri, M.F.A., 2003, Stony Brook University: Dramaturgy.

Marsh, Steve, *Interim Graduate Studies Director*, M.F.A., 2000, Stony Brook University: Dramaturgy.

Morin, Margaret, *Head of Production*, M.F.A., 2001, Stony Brook University: Dramaturgy.

Adjunct Faculty

Bojsza, Elizabeth, M.F.A., 2004, Stony Brook University: Dramaturgy; theatre history.

Cardillo, Frank, M.F.A., 2004, Stony Brook University: Dramaturgy; acting.

Franco-Hodges, Lydia, M.F.A., 2006, Stony Brook University: Dramaturgy; acting.

Jeffreys, Joe, Ph.D., 1996, New York University: Theatre history and criticism.

Kern, Maxine, M.F.A., 1992, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Prusslin, Norman L., B.A., 1973, Stony Brook University: Broadcast management.

Levy, Jonathan,¹ *Distinguished Teaching Professor*, Ph.D., 1966, Columbia University: Playwriting; theatre for children; dramatic criticism; Italian Renaissance drama.

Teaching assistants, Fall 2008: 15

1) Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1991

Degree Requirements Requirements for the M.A. Degree in Theatre

In addition to the minimum Graduate School Requirements, the following are required:

A. Courses

Courses required for the degree are:

THR 500 Introduction to Graduate Studies

THR 510 and 521 Western Theatre History and South and Southeast Asian Theatre and Drama

Or:

THR 511 and 520 Far Eastern Theatre and Drama and Western Dramatic Literature

THR 535 Theories of Theatre

Or:

THR 635 Theories of Performance

THR 550 Teaching Practicum

THR 590 M.A. Thesis (six credits)

In addition, students select from among a range of courses in consultation with the graduate program director and a faculty advisor. A minimum of 30 credits is required for graduation.

B. Examination

Successful completion of the M.A. exam is required, normally at the end of the second semester of full-time residence.

C. Foreign Language

Proficiency in a foreign language must be demonstrated.

D. Teaching Experience

Teaching for at least one semester at the University level is required of all graduate students.

E. Master's Thesis

A master's thesis must be successfully completed under the direction of a faculty advisor.

F. Residency Requirement

This program is normally completed in one to two years of full-time residency. Students may be enrolled in the M.A. program on a full-time or part-time basis.

G. Time Limitations

Depending on the student's first-time, matriculated enrollment in the Graduate School, full-time students must complete all degree requirements within three years, part-time students in five years.

Requirements for the M.F.A. Degree in Dramaturgy

In addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, the following are required:

A. Courses

Courses required for the degree are:

THR 500 Introduction to Graduate Studies and Dramaturgy
 THR 505 Dramaturgy I: Production Dramaturgy
 THR 506 Dramaturgy II: Literary Management
 THR 510 and 511 Western Theatre History and Far Eastern Theatre and Drama
 THR 520 and 521 Western Dramatic Literature and South and Southeast Asian Theatre and Drama
 THR 535 Theories of Theatre
 THR 550 Teaching Practicum
 THR 635 Theories of Performance
 THR 680 Dramaturgy Workshop
 THR 690 M.F.A. Internship
 THR 691 M.F.A. Project

Recommended courses are:

THR 507 Performance Dramaturgy
 THR 523 Theatre in New York
 THR 560 Acting: Theory and Practice
 THR 570 Directing: Theory and Practice
 THR 640 Scenography and New Media
 THR 650 Playwriting Workshop
 THR 660 Acting Workshop

In addition, students select from a range of courses in consultation with the graduate program director and a faculty advisor. A minimum of 60 credits is required for graduation.

B. Examination

Successful completion of the M.F.A. exam is required, normally at the end of the second semester of full-time residency.

C. Projects

Successful completion of the following projects is required:

THR 680 Dramaturgy Workshop (six credits)
 THR 690 Internship (three credits)
 THR 691 M.F.A. Project (three credits)

D. Foreign Language

Proficiency in a foreign language must be demonstrated usually through the translation of a play.

E. Teaching Experience

Teaching for at least one semester at the University level is required of all graduate students.

F. Residence Requirement

This program is normally completed in three years of full-time residency. One semester of the last year is spent in a professional internship program.

G. Time Limitation

The M.F.A. program is normally completed in three years. The time limit for completion of the M.F.A. program, given unusual circumstances, is six years.

University Requirements

The granting of master's degree is based upon the completion of any special Departmental requirements in addition to the items listed below.

A. Courses and Grade Point Average

A student must achieve a 3.0 overall grade point average for a minimum of 30 credits of graduate work to receive the M.A. degree and 60 credits for the M.F.A. degree.

At the discretion of the Department, a student who retakes a course for which an F grade was received may replace the F grade with the new grade in the G.P.A. calculation. The student may use this option for one F grade only.

B. Teaching

At least one semester of supervised teaching experience is required except for those programs in which teaching is not germane to the degree objectives.

C. Registration

Degree candidates must be registered in the program granting their degree for at least one credit in the semester in which the diploma is awarded.

Courses

THR 500 Introduction to Graduate Study in Theatre Arts

This course surveys the field of theatre scholarship, introducing students to research tools, research methods, critical writing, and scholarly values. Discussions include reference to basic texts in dramatic literature and representative research problems.

Prerequisite: Admission to graduate program
Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 505 Dramaturgy I: Production Dramaturgy

An introduction to production dramaturgy in which students explore the types of research and concept development necessary to prepare already produced scripts for performance.

Research tools and methods, investigations of cultural and social history, critical writing, and issues in adaptation and translation are discussed. Means of facilitating communication within a production team and between actors, designers, and directors are examined. Other topics include season planning, promotion and publicity, educational outreach materials, preparation of protocols, post-play discussion, and other audience development techniques.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 506 Dramaturgy II: Literary Management

Examining the roles of the literary manager in the contemporary theatre, this course explores the process of new play development and the preparation of a new play for production. The ability to read and write sensitively about new plays, reading new plays and preparing sophisticated play reports, how to talk to playwrights about their plays, and how to facilitate discussions with directors and actors as they encounter a play for the first time are issues examined in this course. New plays from a variety of venues, including professional theatres in New York City, are read and discussed, and the process of developing new plays from staged readings through public performances are studied.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Spring, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 507 Dramaturgy of Process: Theatre, Drama, and Performance

This course for advanced students of Dramaturgy allows them to apply practical theatre skills to the development of new work. Students will assist in the workshop production of a new play. This will explore NPD process as it exists in the American Regional Theatre, and learn the practical skills of running a play-reading series, commissioning new plays, communicating with playwrights, casting, and marketing.

Spring, alternate years, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 510 Western Theatre History

Theatre forms in the Western tradition, from ancient to modern. This course is centered on a particular critical or theoretic problem or theme.

Spring even years, 3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit as an independent study with the permission of the instructor.

THR 511 Far Eastern Theatre and Drama

Course surveys the traditional theatre of three Far Eastern (China, Korea, and Japan) countries as related to: history, dramatic literature (Yuan drama and Beijing Opera of China; Pongsan Korean Masked Dance-Drama; a Noh play cycle, Kabuki, and Joruri Puppet Theatre of Japan). The points of departure will be: the Eastern world view (namely Shamanism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism) and theatre; the concept of the actor's body and mind as microcosmic presentation of a macrocosmic universe; his performance as an act of becoming one with the macrocosm; and the total nature of all performing arts elements harmoniously operating together in creating beauty on stage.

Spring, every year, 3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated once for credit

THR 520 Western Dramatic Literature

Course surveys forms of Western drama, with particular reference to theatrical performance. Focus is placed on key periods and themes such as gender issues, political violence, death and dying, love, etc.

*Spring, odd years, 3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated once for credit*

THR 521 South and Southeast Asian Theatre and Drama

Course surveys the traditional and modern theatre of South and Southeastern Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan), as related to: mythic origins, history, dramatic literature, aesthetic theory, ritual functions, conventions of productions, and actor training. The point of departure will be cosmology, especially that of Hinduisim, and the world view of the people.

*Fall, every year, 3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated once for credit*

THR 523 Theatre in New York

A workshop seminar on contemporary, alternative performance forms and mainstream theatre. Emphasis is on the development of critical perspectives and the writing skills needed to articulate them through seminar discussions and writing workshops relevant to performances seen on trips to theatres in New York and the region.

Spring, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 525 Topics in Theatre and Drama

Intensive studies of selected forms of theatre and drama from various countries and periods, designed to supplement rather than repeat areas of study already undertaken in the curriculum.

*Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Fall or spring, alternate years, 1-3 credits,
ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit*

THR 530 Directed Reading in Theatre and Drama

Students read and evaluate the literature on a topic of special academic interest under the supervision of a faculty member.

*Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Fall and spring, 1-3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit*

THR 535 Theories of Theatre

Theories of the theatre, from the ancient to the contemporary, are read critically to develop a complex and varied conception of the philosophical basis underlying approaches to the theatre. Theorists read might include Aristotle, Plato, Diderot, Rousseau, Nietzsche, Artaud, Brecht, Stanislavski, Grotowski, Barba, Mnouchkine, Suzuki, and Zeami.

Fall, alternate years, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 540 Design Theory and Practice

Course surveys principal design areas, providing information about aesthetic theory and methods of stage design. Students address design problems and analyze a topic in design theory in conjunction with readings and instruction.

Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 550 Teaching Seminar

Supervised student teaching of undergraduate courses accompanied by a seminar in methods and strategies of teaching theatre arts at the university level. An independent teaching project, in which the student works with a particular faculty member, may be substituted.

Fall or spring, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 560 Acting Theory and Practice

Course surveys the field of acting—its history, formal principles, primary techniques, and contemporary practice. Students develop course papers and/or projects in conjunction with advanced readings and instruction.

*Spring, alternate years, 3 credits,
ABCF grading*

THR 570 Directing Theory and Practice

Course surveys the art and craft of the Director, with focus on contemporary practices of directing and approaches to pedagogy. Students will write papers and develop projects in conjunction with advanced reading and instruction.

3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 590 M.A. Thesis

Independent study and research for M.A. students, on special topics, theoretical or cultural issues, or problems. Development of material for research paper.

*1-3 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit*

THR 591 Independent Project

Special project allowing advanced individual work in an area of theatre study or practice. Must be scheduled by arrangement with instructor. Should result in an advanced paper or project report.

*Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
1-3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit*

THR 625 Theory and Criticism

Study of major issues in dramatic theory and criticism and in performance theory.

*Fall or spring, alternate years, 3 credits,
ABCF grading
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor to
repeat course
May be repeated once for credit*

THR 630 Dramaturgy Colloquium

Through interaction with theatre professionals, students develop independent projects around topics of common concern to the profession, and develop strategies for implementing alternate plans for improving and developing theatre.

*Fall or spring, alternate years, 3 credits,
ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit*

THR 635 Theories of Performance

This course examines different theories of performance as they relate to theatre and everyday life. Students explore ways of thinking about the performing body and different modes of cultural expression. There is a performing component to the course in addition to a final paper.

*3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated once for credit*

THR 640 Theatre Design Workshop

Advanced assignments in theatre design. May include design work on Departmental productions.

*Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated once for credit*

THR 650 Playwriting Workshop

Students write and discuss original plays, evaluate their work, study techniques of composition and formal organization, and develop strategies for audience communication. Advanced students may study techniques for revision and the development of material for performance. Some plays may be selected for Department production.

*Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading*

THR 660 Acting Workshop

Intensive advanced study in a particular acting technique, such as Kutiyattam, Suzuki, musical theatre, Brecht, etc. Offered in conjunction with Departmental productions.

*Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Fall or spring, alternate years, 3 credits,
ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit*

THR 670 Directing Workshop

Advanced training in directing, which may involve concentrated scene work, formal experiments in performance, work on period styles and problems, or preparation of performances for public showing.

*Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Fall or spring, alternate years, 3 credits,
ABCF grading
May be repeated once for credit*

THR 680 Dramaturgy Workshop

Students serve as dramaturgs for the production of a play, providing research support, studying editorial and interpretive techniques, attending rehearsals, and developing program materials for the audience.

*Fall or spring, 3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit*

THR 690 Professional Internship

A full-term internship at a professional theatre. Students should submit an internship description in the first month of work, then a journal or evaluation of their work experience.

*Prerequisite: Permission of graduate studies director
Fall or spring, 6 credits, ABCF grading*

THR 691 M.F.A. Project

The project is to be undertaken at a professional theatre or as part of the mainstage production season at Stony Brook University. Students submit a proposal for a project in which they have a major responsibility as an assistant dramaturg on a production or an equivalent position. All proposals for projects outside of the University must be submitted in writing to the faculty supervisor and graduate program director for approval.

Fall or spring, 3 credits, ABCF grading

THR 800 Summer Research

Independent study and research on special topics or problems related to work on the M.A. or M.F.A. degree.

0 credit, S/U grading

May be repeated

THR 850 Summer Teaching

Supervised student teaching of undergraduate courses accompanied by a tutorial in methods and strategies of teaching theatre arts at the University level.

0 credit, S/U grading

