



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Department of
Theatre & Dance



LIVE, STUDY AND PERFORM IN MEMPHIS

Memphis has a thriving arts community with lots of theatre venues and companies offering a wide variety of opportunities for our students.

Students enjoy the benefits of a large, world-class research university and the personal instruction and one-on-one mentoring and nurturing of a smaller university.

Plan a Visit! We encourage you to visit us — take a class, tour the facilities, see a show, meet current students and faculty!



Best Undergraduate Theatre Program in Tennessee
-Onstage Blog



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bridging the gap between an educational venue and the professional world is important in order to prepare students for the workforce after graduation. Exposure to a wide range of professionals in the field is essential to this goal. We support the professional development of our students by bringing in guest artists, connecting students with internships, paying for our students to attend the South Eastern Theatre Conference (SETC), Unified Professional Theatre Auditions (UPTA), United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT), American College Dance Association (ACDA) and other professional audition opportunities, funding a student run production and a New York City senior showcase.

AUDITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

All BFA programs require an entrance audition and interview. Students who apply by Dec. 1 are automatically considered for academic scholarship. Performance scholarships are available for students who complete their in-person or recorded audition/interview by the last scholarship date found on the web at memphis.edu/theatre.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

"Through a connection from my advisor, I was able to get an internship at the Manhattan Theatre Club working on 'Prince of Broadway,' a brand new Broadway musical directed by Harold Prince and choreographed by Susan Stroman. This was an opportunity that was unique to the University of Memphis."

– Justin Braun (MFA '19)
Los Angeles



"During my time at the UofM, I've gotten the chance to be a part of seven season productions as well as multiple smaller projects. I've also been able to be a part of four professional shows with the Tennessee Shakespeare Company because of their partnership with the University of Memphis Department of Theatre & Dance. I am extremely grateful to have had the chance to work with professionals during my undergraduate experience because I feel that it has really taken my training to a whole new level."

– Blake Hamilton Currie (BFA '19)
Memphis



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"One of the things I loved about the University of Memphis is that I was able to work hands-on in shows from my very first semester. We learned about things from the classroom, but we really had most of our experience in a practical environment working on shows all four years. That was a really fantastic foundation for my professional career."

– Travis Blackwell (BFA '15)
Equity Stage Manager, Hamilton first national tour



DEGREES

BFA IN THEATRE

We offer the BFA degree with concentrations in musical theatre, performance, dance, dance science and design and technical production. We tailor our program to your needs, offering dynamic performance, design and production opportunities both in the classroom and in our four performance spaces.

BFA Musical Theatre Program Highlights

- Extensive training in singing, acting and dance
- Private vocal instruction with a faculty member every semester
- Training in all styles of the American musical from classical to modern pop/rock
- A season that includes at least two musicals
- Career and business preparation leading to a NYC showcase

BFA Design and Technical Production Program Highlights Lights, Sound, Scenery, Costume, Stage Management

- Mentoring with practicing professionals
- Design experiences that reinforce coursework
- Develop a professional, competitive portfolio
- Opportunities to design in the community

BFA Dance Program Highlights

- Opportunities to perform and choreograph as a freshman
- Guest artist residencies and master classes with world-renowned dance companies
- Dynamic courses in performance, technique, composition and pedagogy
- Fully produced dance concert each semester
- Internship opportunities through partnerships with professional dance companies
- Opportunities to perform at dance conferences





MFA IN THEATRE DIRECTING & DESIGN AND TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

The goals of the MFA degree programs are to provide the tools, opportunities and skills for the talented student to become a master craftsman by immersing them in an environment that balances intellectual insight, creativity and practical experience.

MFA Programs Highlights

- Flexible theoretical and practical curriculum
- Opportunities to direct/design each semester
- Strong hands-on mentorship
- Training on current professional technology
- Accelerated degree including distance learning
- Collaborate in a variety of theatrical spaces
- Assistantships available

BFA Performance Program Highlights

- Exposed to multiple performance methodologies
- Curriculum that focuses on the individual artist
- Opportunities to perform your first year
- A graduate directing program that creates additional performance opportunities
- Actor training in TV & film
- Opportunities to explore other areas of interest, such as playwriting, solo performance, dance, theatre of diversity, devised theatre, masked performance, private voice, directing and theatre as community engagement

BFA Dance Science Program Highlights

- Full engagement in all dance opportunities
- Preparation for science-related movement fields
- Interdisciplinary course of study with exercise sport and movement sciences
- Dance science internship placement



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[umtheatredance](https://www.instagram.com/umtheatredance)



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