

**ASSISTANT PROFESSORS:** Wendy-Marie Martin (chair), Todd Ristau  
**THEATRE LECTURER/RESIDENT DESIGNER:** Arne Johnson  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER/TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:** Shelby Love  
**VISITING LECTURERS:** Danielle Barre, Savannah Bower, Michael Mansfield, E.B. Smith  
**GUEST ARTISTS:** Nelson Barre, Ginger Poole, Moneé Stamp

The Hollins theatre department is a creative community, an identity we embrace in the classroom, the rehearsal hall, the scene shop, and on stage. We engage in the development of theatre artists, thinkers, and leaders looking to change the future of American theatre. Hollins theatre students actively help to shape departmental vision, policies, and programming, and are encouraged to create student-generated work that expresses their personal creative vision.

By combining the collaborative process, the individual creative process, and the critical/analytical process, this program of study provides a solid foundation for those wishing to engage in most areas of theatre. Through an array of opportunities, students are encouraged to engage in every aspect of theatre, from fully realized department productions to student produced work and internships. Classroom work provides a solid foundation in research and writing, history, theory, aesthetics, and technique. A student who pursues a theatre major or minor will be prepared for any environment or profession where creative problem solving, collaboration, research/analysis skills, hard work, and passion are valued.

The major in theatre requires a minimum of 44 credits, which is ideal for students interested in double majoring, and a maximum allowance of 60 credits for students interested in pursuing more in-depth studies in preparation for graduate school and/or a career in professional theatre.

### THE HOLLINS THEATRE INSTITUTE

The Hollins Theatre Institute is an umbrella that encompasses all elements of the university's theatre programs, forming a unique academic theatre center designed to develop and focus practitioners who believe theatre is more important in the 21st century than ever before:

- innovative B.A. program in theatre
- award-winning M.F.A. playwriting program: The Playwright's Lab
- opportunity to pursue a B.A./M.A. pathway with the addition of an M.A. in Theatre and New Play Development upon graduation
- undergraduate theatre abroad program in London
- undergraduate theatre abroad trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- internships at major professional theatres and arts organizations
- professional partnership with Mill Mountain Theatre

### MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

The Musical Theatre Performance certificate is being phased out in 2023-24 to give us the opportunity to redesign this program. Currently declared students will be supported to the completion of this program, but we will not be accepting any new declarations for this certificate.

### ARTS MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

This certificate connects a student's major or minor in theatre with career interests in various fields of arts management. Students take courses in business and communication studies, complete two internships in an area of arts management, and create a final project. With prudent choices in coursework, this certificate can be completed with courses that may also count toward your major, minor, or general education requirements for your degree.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN THEATRE:

44-48 credits and an experiential component

#### CORE REQUIREMENTS: (44-48 credits)

- THEA 113: Script Anatomy (4)
- THEA 151: Stagecrafts (4)
- THEA 161: Introduction to Acting Dynamics (4) or THEA 271 Advanced Acting Dynamics (4)
- THEA 242: Theatrical Design (4)

- THEA 235: Costume Construction (4)
- THEA 254: Stage Management (2)
- THEA 263: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 1 (4)
- THEA 326: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 2 (4)
- THEA 363: Directing (4)
- THEA 365: Purpose, Passion, and Possibilities (2)
- THEA 364: Playwriting Fundamentals (4)
- THEA 470: Senior Seminar (2) **and** THEA 480: Senior Project (2)
- THEA 490: Senior Honors Project (2, 2, 2)

#### **EXPERIENTIAL COMPONENT:**

All students must complete an experiential component, which consists of participation in four theatre productions as a member of the cast, crew, or staff. Students are required to participate in at least two disciplines.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN THEATRE:**

24 credits and an experiential component

- THEA 113: Script Anatomy (4)
- THEA 151: Stagecrafts (4)
- THEA 161: Introduction to Acting Dynamics (4) or THEA 271: Advanced Acting Dynamics (4)
- THEA 263: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 1 (4) or THEA 326: Episodes in Theatre History: Season 2 (4)
- One course in design:
  - THEA 242: Theatrical Design (4)
  - THEA 252: Scene Design (4)
  - THEA 253: Lighting Design (4)
  - THEA 255: Costume Design (4)
- One additional theatre course (4) of the student's choice
- Experiential Component:
  - All students must complete an experiential component, which consists of participation in two theatre productions as a member of the cast, crew, or staff. Students are required to participate in two disciplines.

#### **COURSES IN THEATRE:**

##### **THEA 100: THEATRE PRODUCTION PRACTICUM (4)**

**Department**

This hands-on practicum introduces students to the fundamental aspects of theatre production. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the behind-the-scenes elements that bring theatrical productions to life. The course covers six key areas: costume technology, set construction, lighting technology, audio technology, stage management, and producing. Students will rotate through modules in each area, developing basic skills they can then apply to ongoing theatre department productions. By the end of the course, participants will have a broad understanding of theatre disciplines and appreciate the collaborative nature of theatrical production. No prerequisites are required. Open to first-year students.

##### **THEA 113: SCRIPT ANATOMY (4)**

**Ristau**

Introduction to script analysis techniques from the varying perspectives of designers, directors, actors, and playwrights. Through the examination of several plays, students learn to analyze a theatrical script for production. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (AES, SMN)

##### **THEA 151: STAGECRAFTS (4)**

**Johnson, Love, Mansfield**

An introduction to technical theatre, emphasizing the development of basic knowledge and craftsmanship necessary for scenery construction, stage lighting, and backstage crew assignments. Students are required to attend 20 hours of practical lab experience during shop hours to work on the semester project. Intended primarily for first-year students and sophomores, with preference to theatre majors for whom it is required. Prerequisites: *q* and permission from instructor. Lab fee: \$75-100. Offered Term 1. (Q, CRE, C&I)

##### **THEA 156: THEATRE APPRECIATION (4)**

**Department**

Emphasizes the appreciation and evaluation of theatre in production. The course examines, at the introductory level, the functions of playwrights, actors, directors, and designers in the production process. Students are required to

attend several evening performances (which may be extended beyond designated class time) and to view theatre productions on videotape. Lab fee for theatre tickets. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Lab fee: \$150-185. Not offered in 2024-25. (AES)

**THEA 160: PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION WORKSHOP (1 or 2)**

**Department**

This departmental workshop is open to students interested in working in any phase of a main stage theatre production. Work may include acting, set construction, lighting, sound, box office, stage management, run crew, etc. Students must audition or interview and be assigned a role (either on stage or backstage) and will be registered by the director. Department faculty determine number of registered credits. Counts as free elective credit for non-majors and theatre majors or minors who have satisfied their experiential component. May be repeated for credit. Open to first-year students. Offered both terms. (CRE- 4 credits required for CRE)

**THEA 161: INTRODUCTION TO ACTING DYNAMICS (4)**

**Barre**

This course offers an introduction to the craft of acting for non-actors and a review of the basics for students with acting experiences. Training involves exercises in movement, voice, imagination, and community building with an emphasis on improvisation and class participation. This course is intended to introduce students to a broader awareness of the art of acting. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (CRE, C&I, F)

**THEA 163: AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE (4)**

**Department**

A critical review of musical theatre from the 18th century to present. Styles, forms, and social and artistic significance are discussed. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Also listed as MUS 163. Not offered in 2024-25. (AES)

**THEA 165: MUSICAL THEATRE DANCE STYLES (2)**

**Department**

This studio course will expose students to various dance styles often found in musical theatre choreography, including jazz, ballet, and tap. Students will learn basic techniques, while acquiring a vocabulary and awareness of the styles frequently used in musical theatre. Also listed as MUS 165 and DANC 165. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2024-25.

**THEA 175: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ARTS ADMINISTRATION (4)**

**Smith**

Also listed and described as ART/DANC/FILM/MUS 175. Not offered in 2024-25. (r)

**THEA 206: THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (4)**

**Martin**

Performance and performativity are radical ways to engage with notions of self, society, and identity politics. Who are we? How do we connect to our communities? How do we change alone and together? This class delves into these questions, pulling from the world of queer and feminist theory, philosophy, and performance aesthetics, and exploring the exciting new territories that spring up when these worlds collide. Also listed as GWS 206. Open to first years. No Prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (DIV, DJP)

**THEA 210: STAGE MAKEUP (4)**

**Department**

This is a studio course in which students get hands-on experience at how to manipulate the materials of stage makeup on the canvas of a human face. Projects include age, injuries, animals, and fantasy characters among others. Students may also work with latex prosthetics. Lab fee: \$50-90. Open to theatre majors/minors only or by permission of department chair. Offered Term 2. Not offered in 2024-25. (CRE)

**THEA 212: ACTING STUDIO – VOICE, BODY, AND TEXT (4)**

**Department**

In this studio course, students will build their actor's toolbox as they learn to develop and integrate their physical and vocal instruments through various theatre techniques. Skills will be synthesized into a final showcase performance. This class enhances the work of dancers, actors, singers, poets, and anyone who stands before an audience. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2024-25. (CRE)

**THEA 235: COSTUME CONSTRUCTION (4)**

**Department**

The costume shop is often thought of as the heart of a theatre. This fun, hands-on course will introduce students to equipment, procedures, and personnel in the design and execution of costumes for theatrical productions. The course will teach basic construction techniques with a series of projects, each building in difficulty and using a different patterning approach. There will be as much hands-on practice as possible, as this is a craft learned by doing. Quality garments will be produced utilizing machine and manual industry sewing and pattern and draping techniques. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: permission from instructor. Offered Term 2. (C&I, F)

**THEA 242: THEATRICAL DESIGN (4)****Johnson, Mansfield**

This introductory course will take you through the visual landscape of theatre design. Explore the processes, technologies, and aesthetics of costume, scenery, audio, video, and lighting design through historical and contemporary theatre practice. Enjoy the collaborative process with fellow students as you enter the world of the play through visual imagery to create production elements that reflect a cohesive artistic vision inspired by the script. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Lab fee: \$75-100. Offered Term 1. (C&I, F)

**THEA 249: STAGECRAFT: CONSTRUCTION & RIGGING (4)****Johnson**

This course serves as a comprehensive foundation in stagecraft with a focus on set construction techniques and rigging principles. The curriculum combines basic concepts with hands-on applications. Through a combination of informative lectures, guided demonstrations, and practical hands-on projects, students will develop familiarity and growing confidence with a range of power tools commonly used in theatre workshops. The course places a strong emphasis on establishing solid shop safety practices. Students will progress from basic to moderately challenging construction projects, learning fundamental techniques for building and finishing scenic elements. The course also introduces elementary concepts of theatrical rigging and trains students on our computerized fly system. By the semester's end, students will have acquired a solid foundation of technical skills and safety awareness, preparing them for more specialized coursework and setting the stage for future growth in theatre production roles. Prerequisite: THEA 100. Open to first-year students. Course fee is required. Lab fee: \$75-100.

**THEA 247: APPLIED MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES (4)****Department**

Musical theatre performance techniques will be explored throughout the semester. Each student will prepare, memorize, and perform two solos from Broadway musicals while applying learned acting, singing, and movement techniques. They will also learn musical theatre ensemble choreography, which will be presented along with at least one solo in the performance of a musical revue at the end of the semester which is open to the public. Additional written and research work required. There is a lab fee for accompanist and royalties. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2. This class will be offered for the last time in the 2024-25 academic year. (CRE)

**THEA 251: DRAFTING FOR THE THEATRE (4)****Johnson**

Designed to teach the basic principles and practices of executing technical drawings as they relate to scenic and lighting design. Open to first-year students with permission. Prerequisite: THEA 151. Lab fee: \$75. Not offered in 2024-25.

**THEA 252: SCENE DESIGN (4)****Johnson**

Students will engage in the processes used in designing environments for production of theatrical texts. Script-based projects include development of graphics skills such as drafting, rendering techniques, and model making, as well as concept development and collaboration. Open to first-year students with permission. No prerequisite. Lab fee: \$50-70. Not offered in 2024-25. (o, CRE)

**THEA 253: LIGHTING DESIGN (4)****Department**

Students examine the potentials and problems of theatrical lighting through lab exploration with standard industry equipment. These studies are applied to script-based design projects that include development of all the technical support information needed to produce a design. Prerequisite: q. Lab fee: \$40-60. Not offered in 2024-25. (Q, CRE)

**THEA 254: THEATRICAL OPERATIONS: PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGEMENT (4)****Love**

Production and stage managers form the backbone of theatrical institutions and productions. This class covers the fundamentals of both roles, from planning calendars and organizing production teams to managing rehearsals, filing reports, and running performances from backstage and the booth ("Mission Control"). Students will learn essential skills in organization, execution, and oversight for all aspects of theatrical production. These skills are highly transferable to project management roles in various industries. Emphasis will be placed on both the broader scope of production management and the detailed responsibilities of stage management, preparing students for careers in theatre and beyond. No prerequisite.

**THEA 255: COSTUME DESIGN (4)****Department**

Students study the special challenges of designing costumes for the stage, focusing on character analysis and the potentials of different fabrics. Development of graphics skills include figure drawing, rendering techniques, and collage. No prerequisite. Lab fee: \$50-100. Not offered in 2024-25. (o, CRE)

**THEA 256: PROPS CRAFTING (4)****Johnson**

Learn the tricks of the trade for creating properties for the stage. Students learn to think creatively to see items not only for their intended uses, but for the possibilities of what they could become. Projects include creating imitation stained glass, building and upholstering furniture, painting faux finishes, turning trash into treasures, and more. Prerequisite: THEA 151 or permission of instructor. Lab fee: \$75-100. Offered Term 2. (CRE, C&I)

**THEA 257: STAGECRAFT: THEATRE TECHNOLOGIES (4)****Love, Mansfield**

This course provides a hands-on introduction to essential theatre technologies, focusing on lighting, sound, and projection systems. In lighting technology, students will learn how to hang and focus lights, as well as program and operate lighting consoles. The sound component covers fundamental audio concepts and familiarizes students with our theatre's sound systems. Students will learn to program and run both sound and projection cues. Throughout the semester, students will have ample opportunity to work directly with the equipment in our theatre spaces, gaining valuable hands-on experience. By the end of the course, students will have developed practical skills in operating lighting, sound, and projection technologies, preparing them for crew positions and more advanced studies in technical theatre. Prerequisite: THEA 100: Theatre Production Practicum. Open to first-year students.

**THEA 258: VIEWPOINTS (2)****Department**

Study, practice, and application of the Viewpoints technique, which includes a training discipline for performers, a technique for improvisation, a process for collaborative creativity, a tool for staging, and a language for communication among artists. The Viewpoints offer a method for performers to exercise all muscles—physical, imaginative, and emotional—resulting in increased observational abilities and responsiveness. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. May be repeated for credit. Not offered in 2024-25. (CRE)

**THEA 259: SCENE PAINTING (4)****Department**

A studio class in which students study and practice the basic techniques used in theatrical scene painting. Students are expected to develop an understanding of these techniques, as well as how to combine them effectively on advanced projects. Topics range from basic brush techniques to paint-mixing skills and ratios, to color matching from primary sources, to exercises in graphic layout on the large scale. Open to first-year students with permission. Prerequisite: *q* and theatre major or permission of department chair. Lab fee: \$100-130. Not offered in 2024-25. (Q, CRE)

**THEA 260: INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE & PRODUCTION WORKSHOP (1)****Department**

This hands-on workshop offers theatre majors and minors practical experience in a fully realized theatrical production. Students may focus on performance or technical theatre. Performance track students engage in character development, rehearsals, and public performances. Technical track students work on various aspects such as set/props construction, costuming, wardrobe/stage crew, board operation, or assistant stage management. Both tracks collaborate with directors and crew members, applying theoretical knowledge to real-world production challenges. This immersive experience deepens understanding of theatre processes, enhances problem-solving skills, and provides insights into the collaborative nature of production. Prerequisite: Audition/technical interview and permission of instructor/production manager. May be repeated for credit as roles vary each semester.

**THEA 261: CONTEMPORARY SCENE STUDY (4)****Department**

Using the work done in Acting Dynamics and/or Script Analysis as a foundation, this course focuses on the analysis of contemporary scenes and characters and on performance techniques used to bring those analyses to life on stage. Daily scene work. Prerequisite: THEA 113 or THEA 161 or THEA 271. Not offered in 2024-25. (o, CRE)

**THEA 263: EPISODES IN THEATRE HISTORY: SEASON 1 (4)****Martin**

A survey of the history of the theatre from its origins to the 18th century, including the study of the dramatic literature of each period. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (*r*, AES, PRE, DJP)

**THEA 271: ADVANCED ACTING DYNAMICS (4)****Barre**

This course is intended for advanced acting students to expand their understanding of the fundamentals of acting, voice, and movement, and begin to interface with text analysis and various acting methods, including those established by Stanislavski, Chekhov, Hagen, and Bogart, among others. Students will explore character, action, and objective through in-class exercises, monologues, and scene work. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: permission from instructor. Not offered in 2024-25.

**THEA 276: PHILANTHROPY AND THE ARTS (4)****Smith**

Also listed and described as ART/DANC/FILM/MUS 276. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2.

**THEA 282: THE ART OF SOUND DESIGN (4)****Gerber-Stroh**

The process of recording and creating high quality sound is a critical skill and art form to master when making films, videos, webcasts, and numerous other visual and performing arts. This course will broadly cover the methods, technology, and artistry of sound design while introducing students to the resources of the film department's SoundCraft recording studio. Assignments include short production exercises and a final project. Also listed as FILM 282. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2024-25. (CRE)

**THEA 284: WRITER AS PERFORMER (4)****Ristau**

This course will focus on the creation of original performance pieces where the writer will be the principal performer. The course will have a strong writing component, taking ideas from various sources (current events, adaptation, memoir/journal, etc.) and guiding their development from initial inspiration to completed text. There will also be instruction in performance styles and skills, including acting and directing, along with objective peer evaluations of student work using established methods of criticism. By the end of the course, each student should have a collected body of work suitable for performance or for use as audition pieces. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2024-25.

**THEA 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)****Department**

Independent study below the advanced level. Application with faculty approval required for registration. Offered any term.

**THEA 326: EPISODES IN THEATRE HISTORY: SEASON 2 (4)****Martin**

A survey of the history of theatre from the late 19th century to the present, focusing primarily on trends from the 20th century, and including the study of a broad range of dramatic literature. This course builds on the foundations of historical research, analysis, and criticism laid in Episodes of Theatre History: Season I. Prerequisite: THEA 263 or permission of instructor. Offered Term 2. (AES, MOD, SMN)

**THEA 345: ADVANCED THEATRE TECHNOLOGIES (4)****Love, Mansfield**

This advanced theatre technology class focuses on filling the gap between theatrical design and its implementation. Students will be required to work with video projectors, lighting, sound, computers, Q-lab, pneumatics, rigging and scenic automation equipment. Students will demonstrate proficiency in problem-solving techniques and theatre technology through major projects related to the season productions. Lab fee: \$100. Prerequisite: THEA 151 and THEA 252, 253, 255, or permission of instructor. Not offered in 2024-25

**THEA 360: ADVANCED PERFORMANCE & PRODUCTION WORKSHOP (1)****Department**

This advanced workshop offers upper-level theatre majors and minors the opportunity to take on leadership roles in a fully realized theatrical production. Students may focus on advanced performance (lead roles), design (set/props, costume, lighting, projection, or sound), producing, production management, or stage management. All students collaborate across disciplines, applying advanced theoretical knowledge and skills to complex production challenges. This immersive experience cultivates leadership and creative problem-solving skills and provides deep insights into professional theatre practices. Prerequisites: Audition/technical interview, THEA 260: Production Workshop, and permission of instructor or production manager. Junior or senior standing required. May be repeated for credit as roles vary each semester.

**THEA 361: CLASSICAL SCENE STUDY (4)****Department**

An advanced acting class focusing on period styles and an actor's approach to the classics. Scene study includes the plays of Ancient Greece, Shakespeare, Moliere, and the Restoration. Prerequisite: THEA 161 or 261. Not offered in 2024-25. (CRE)

**THEA 363: DIRECTING (4)****Martin**

An introduction to the creative and aesthetic challenges faced by the director. Included is an examination of the director's relationship to the text, the actor, and the audience. The approach is both theoretical and practical, involving reading, class exercises, papers, and attendance at theatre events. Prerequisites: THEA 161 or THEA 271, and THEA 242: Theatrical Design or permission. Offered Term 2. (CRE)

**THEA 364: PLAYWRITING FUNDAMENTALS (4)****Ristau**

An introductory workshop in the creation and development of scripted material for the stage. Each week students explore a different theatrical element through written exercises. Each student's work culminates in the writing of a one-act or full-length play. Students also read selected contemporary plays that provide models for meeting the

challenges inherent in writing for the stage. Prerequisite: THEA 113, THEA 263, THEA 264, or permission. Offered Term 1. (w, CRE, C&I)

**THEA 365: JUNIOR SEMINAR: PURPOSE, PASSION, AND POSSIBILITIES (2)**

**Love, Martin**

This course examines the art of making theatre as a way of living in and seeing the world. Students will question the stories they want to see performed and why. Students will examine personal and communal values on the path to creating a theatrical company. Together, students will develop an artistic and vision statement for their company and plan the theatrical project they will collaboratively produce in the spring of their senior year. Students will present their company philosophy and collaborative project to faculty for approval at the end of the term. This course serves as a Junior Seminar for Theatre majors and minors. Prerequisite: junior standing and theatre major or minor. Offered Term 1.

**THEA 384: PLAYWRITING STYLES (4)**

**Ristau**

This course builds on the foundations of playwriting and, through targeted exercises, students will explore a broader range of styles, genres, and approaches to writing for the stage. Students will read representative texts in a variety of styles and write several original ten-minute plays in those styles. A 25-35 page one-act play will serve as their final project. Students will also provide feedback on the work of their peers as well as be expected to take every opportunity to see productions of plays at theatre venues on and off campus. Prerequisite: THEA 364 or permission. Not offered 2024-25.

**THEA 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**

**Department**

Independent study at the advanced level. Application with faculty approval required for registration. Offered any term.

**THEA 399: INTERNSHIP (4)**

**Department**

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed for any term.

**THEA 470: SENIOR SEMINAR (2)**

**Smith**

Senior theatre majors will explore pathways of professional development in order to plan first steps as theatre makers outside of the university setting. Offered Term 1.

**THEA 480: SENIOR PROJECT (2)**

**Martin**

Senior theatre majors are required to enroll for a project in the senior year. This project will consist of a faculty-approved and mentored collaborative production experience planned, designed, directed, and produced by all senior theatre majors as a company. Corequisite: THEA 470. Offered Term 2.

**THEA 490: SENIOR HONORS PROJECT (2, 2)**

**Martin**

Juniors with a 3.0 average in the major, or by invitation of the faculty, may apply for an honors project in theatre research to be completed in the senior year during Term 1, Short Term, and Term 2. Corequisite: THEA 470.

**ALPHA PSI OMEGA**

The Drama Association consists of student actors, directors, designers, and technicians who seek to stimulate dramatic activities on campus and to assist in the staging of all departmental workshops and major productions as well as productions of visiting dramatic groups. The Drama Association offers an opportunity for involvement in theatrical events and stage works of all types to all interested members of the Hollins community. Apprenticeship is available to every person expressing an interest in the organization, and membership is earned by subsequent work on productions.