

Theater and Dance Department

Contact Us

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<http://www.theater.emory.edu/Theater-Studies/>

Description

Theater and Dance are among the richest and most rewarding of educational disciplines. They combine interests in creative arts, humanities, and social sciences. Through their integration of thinking and doing, of analysis and creative problem solving, they develop the mind, body, sensibility, and imagination. We offer a Theater Studies major and minor, a Dance major and minor, and a joint major in Playwriting with the Creative Writing Program. Each area has its own focus and requirements.

Theater Studies

Our course of study offers an excellent broad-based undergraduate education. A liberal arts education in theater not only challenges and develops the student in our discipline, but also offers practical preparation for a variety of careers, including law, business, medicine, education, and communications. Excellent teaching and mentoring are high priorities for the faculty and interactions occur in a variety of settings: small classes, individual consultations, master classes, rehearsals, and performances.

The major and minor require a study of the various subfields of the theater, with a strong core of dramatic literature. Advanced courses in all areas are available. Emory's unique combination of a liberal arts undergraduate program and a professional theater provide a strong and flexible training ground. All of this makes the study and practice of theater at Emory demanding, memorable, and rewarding.

The Dance Program

The Emory Dance Program provides a range of opportunities for students to experience dance, from performance and production to technique and theory. The mission of the Emory Dance Program is to provide a curriculum that interweaves both the practical and theoretical to foster students' creative, intellectual, and communicative powers in the field of dance. The Emory Dance Program emphasizes performance and choreography based on the primary tenets of modern dance, which value individualism, innovation, and interdisciplinary approaches to the arts.

The study of dance is perhaps the most unique and all-encompassing pursuit in the fine arts. It involves the total exploration of the self-emotional, intellectual, and kinesthetic. The program develops students' awareness and appreciation of movement in all its diverse forms and their ability to communicate through non-verbal expression. Dance develops insights into a broad range of studies; therefore it plays a viable role in the liberal arts education. Since dance is so multi-faceted, it enhances the student's preparation for a variety of careers.

[Follow this link to view details about the Dance Program.](#)

The Joint Major in Playwriting

The playwriting joint major brings together the disciplines of Theater Studies and Creative Writing in an innovative synthesis designed to educate playwrights both as writers and as theater professionals. A playwright must understand the workings of narrative and storytelling and have opportunities to develop dramatic, fully realized narratives. The playwright also needs a strong grounding in the literature and mechanics of theater and in the collaborative process, since these are the worlds he or she seeks to inhabit, and the instrument for which the playwright composes.

Concentrations

Majors are offered in the area(s) of: **Theater Studies; Playwriting; Dance and Movement Studies**. For details, see the Major page for each area. **Minors** are offered in the area(s) of: **Theater Studies; Dance and Movement Studies**. For details, see the Minor page for each area.

Faculty

Chair/Director: Leslie Taylor
Director of Undergraduate Studies: Janice Akers

Core Faculty

Janice Akers; John Ammerman; Alice Benston; Michael Evenden; Timothy McDonough; Donald McManus; Patricia Miller; Vincent Murphy; Lisa Paulsen; Leslie Taylor; Randy Fullerton; Scott Little; Robert Schultz; Gregory Catellier; Anna Leo; Sally Radell; George Staib; Lori Teague

Adjunct Faculty

Denise Arribas; Andrew Benator; Susan Booth; Blake Covington; Ariel deMan; Warren Milford; Joseph Monaghan III; Mary Owen; Holly Godwin; Sheri Latham; Kathleen McManus; Sara Ward

Emeriti Faculty

Brenda Bynum

Courses

Core Subjects

This department offers courses in the following subject(s): **Theater Studies, Dance**. For a list of specific courses in each subject area, see the course descriptions page for that subject.

Programs

Honors Program

See "Honors Program" under the curriculum section of the catalog and consult either the Dance Office Manager, the Theater Studies Academic Degree Program Coordinator, or the Creative Writing Program Coordinator.

Interested students with the requisite GPA will identify a potential advisor and submit an Honors proposal in April of their junior year. The Academic Procedures Committee of the department or program makes the selection of the Honors participants.

Theater Studies

All Theater Studies Honors candidates will complete the Aesthetics and Criticism Senior Seminar (THEA 490WR) in the fall of their senior year and the Theater Studies Honors course (THEA 495R) in the spring of their senior year, culminating in the research project or paper that is the equivalent of a BA or BS thesis.

Playwriting

Interested Playwriting majors with the requisite GPA will submit their Honors proposal according to the Creative Writing guidelines, with an application deadline in March of their junior year. Selection of Playwriting Honors candidates is made by the Playwriting advisors in consultation with the Academic Procedures Committees in both Theater Studies and Creative Writing.

Creative Writing Honors Guidelines are [available via this link](#).

Playwriting Honors candidates who have their application accepted are either enrolled in Honors in Playwriting (ENG or THEA 494RWR) both fall and spring semesters of their senior year, or complete the Aesthetics and Criticism Senior Seminar (THEA 490WR) in the fall semester and Honors in Playwriting in the spring.

Dance

For Dance Honors coursework information, please consult the Dance Program.

For information pertaining to Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) grants, see the Independent Study and Research section.

Study Abroad

Study abroad programs and opportunities are developed and provided through Emory's Center for International Programs Abroad (CIPA). (www.cipa.emory.edu)

Theater Studies has three approved study abroad opportunities:

The Accademia dell'Arte program in Arezzo, Italy, includes courses in Italian language and theater, design, scene painting, costume design, commedia/mask, commedia skills, voice and performance, and studio/production. This study abroad opportunity will fulfill one semester of the language requirement in Italian. Visit www.dell-arte.org for more information.

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) is designed for performing arts majors and minors, providing students with conservatory theater training in acting. Training is based on three central elements: acting (including improvisation), movement (including movement theater, clown, and historic dance), and voice (including poetry, prose, solo and chorus singing). Visit <http://www.lamda.org.uk> for more information.

The British Studies Emory College Summer Program includes courses in Shakespeare and often, contemporary British Drama. The program includes visits to Stratford-upon-Avon, London, and the Oxford environs and has frequently included a special five-day trip to Scotland that visits cultural and historical venues in Edinburgh and St. Andrews.

For information on the Dance Program's study abroad opportunities, consult with the Dance Program faculty.

Advising

Each Theater Studies major and minor is assigned a mentor advisor--ideally this is a faculty member in the student's main area of interest--whom they have gotten to know through a class or a production.

Playwriting Majors are assigned an advisor from either the Creative Writing or Theater Studies faculty. Available advisors for Playwriting majors are identified by the Chair of Theater Studies and the Director of the Creative Writing Program.

For students involved with Theater Emory, Theater Studies often provides acting and/or vocal coaching to ensure the most meaningful experience possible. It is made clear to the professional artists involved in the productions that part of their role is to serve as models and mentors for the students.

All Dance majors and minors are assigned a faculty advisor to assist them in planning their course of study. Advisors also facilitate research projects, internships, and off-campus study opportunities.

Language Study

The semester abroad program in Arezzo, Italy, fulfills one semester of the College language requirement in Italian.

Internship

Theater, Dance, and Playwriting students may receive credit for approved internships with local organizations. Playwriting students may receive credit for approved internships either through the English Department or Theater Studies.

Dance, Theater, and Creative Writing faculty help students find appropriate internships for their skills and interests. Students may receive credit for summer internships through the Emory University Summer Internship Program (EUSIP), a no-cost, non-residential program for either paid or unpaid internships. One credit that fulfills federal labor requirements may be earned through a non-tuition based course.

Awards and Honors

Theater Honors and Prizes

The Alice N. Benston Award in Theater Studies is awarded annually by the departmental faculty to one or two graduating seniors or recent graduates who have shown exceptional dedication, promise, and intellectual rigor, to encourage their continuing education in theater.

The Friends of Theater at Emory Award annually recognizes students who have made outstanding contributions to Theater Emory.

The Fine Award honors a junior or senior major or minor in Theater Studies for outstanding acting.

The Brenda Bynum Theater at Emory Award is given to the student who has offered selfless and generous contributions of time, ability, and enthusiasm to the Theater @ Emory community, which includes the Theater Studies Department, Theater Emory, and Student Theater.

Dance Honors and Prizes

The Sally A. Radell Friends of Dance Summer Scholarship Program was established in 1996 to make summer dance study more accessible to Emory students. It enables dance majors and minors to study either in the United States or abroad with notable practicing artists, dance programs, and dance companies of their choice.

The Pioneer Award is given to a senior dance major or minor who is "breaking new ground." This award recognizes creative application and creative potential in the field of dance. It is defined by an in-depth investigation in technique, performance, choreography, or movement studies.

Playwriting Awards

The Creative Writing Program awards prizes in poetry, fiction, and drama, including the Artistine Mann Award in Playwriting. Students interested in submitting entries should watch for the contest announcements early in the spring semester or consult the department.

Other Arts Awards

Emory College of Arts and Sciences awards the Sudler Prize in the arts each year for outstanding student achievement in studio art, creative writing, dance, music, or theater. Students are nominated by the department and selected by the Sudler Committee.

The Woman's Club Arts Scholarship is an academic scholarship given to a student in dance, film, music, or theater studies. The award rotates among departments each year.

Independent Research and Study

Theater Studies and Playwriting:

1. Directed Study in Theater (THEA 397R) and Creative Writing: Independent Study (ENG 397WR). Independent readings and research under the direction of a faculty member.
2. Senior Project (THEA 497) and Special Project in Theater (THEA 499R). Supervised projects in any area of theater.
3. Tutorials for advanced students in dramaturgy, design, administration, and acting.
4. Laboratories in production and acting.

Dance:

Independent study projects in dance can be arranged in the areas of technical production, choreography, historical or theoretical research, performance, directing, or choreography.

Undergraduate Research Grants:

Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) research grants are available to students for both independent and Honors projects. Dance, Theater, and Creative Writing faculty mentor students through both the application process and projects.

Theater Emory