

# Theatre Arts (Thea)

<http://www.arts-sciences.und.edu/theatre-arts>

Cherry, Gunther, Matic, Murry, Ray, Reissig, and Weatherly (Chair)

The Department of Theatre Arts at the University of North Dakota strives to achieve educational theatre of the highest quality by maintaining professional standards and practice through teaching, creative activity/research, and service.

The Department of Theatre Arts fulfills the mission through the following objectives:

1. To provide a quality liberal arts foundation for all theatre majors.
2. To provide experiences that will engender an appreciation and understanding of theatre and how it enriches our life.
3. To provide academic training and practical experience appropriate for students who wish to pursue careers in theatre or who wish to continue their studies at an advanced professional or graduate program.
4. To serve as a cultural resource for the university community and the general public.

The Department of Theatre Arts aims to fulfill the objectives through the following goals:

1. All theatre majors will successfully complete the University Essential Studies courses and demonstrate significant levels of competency through completion of a Senior Project.
2. Majors and non-majors will improve creative thinking skills through theatre courses within the essential studies curriculum.
3. Majors will achieve competency in at least one of the following areas: acting, musical theatre, design and technology, or general studies in theatre.
4. The Department of Theatre will serve the university, region, and state through quality performance of a rich variety of theatre styles.

The University of North Dakota is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). The curriculum of the Department of Theatre Arts provides students with opportunities to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Arts. All undergraduate theatre majors share a common set of core courses. The Bachelor of Arts offers a well-rounded curriculum for theatre majors. The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre is a pre-professional degree that requires a high level of proficiency in theatrical performance and is an appropriate preparation for students who desire professional careers in musical theatre. The Department offers a minor in Theatre and a minor in Dance.

The Department of Theatre Arts integrates the classroom curriculum with applied, experiential learning in production. Our production season offers a rich variety of styles and genres, including musicals. Student directors and designers may apply to stage a production in the Burtness Lab Theatre.

Productions are staged in the Burtness Theatre, which boasts a fully-equipped, 365 seat, proscenium-stage and Blackbox (Lab) Theatre.

## Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre

The Bachelor of Fine Arts program is offered to students with marked abilities who desire an intensive undergraduate concentration in Theatre Arts, in preparation for either a career in professional theatre, or graduate study leading to the MFA, or both. Candidates accepted for the program will be expected to maintain a high standard of excellence and to demonstrate significant artistic growth.

Candidates seeking admission to the BFA in Musical Theatre audition as incoming freshmen or transfer students. Each student auditioning will be required to submit a resume and the BFA in Musical Theatre Program Application found on the Theatre website along with a headshot if available. Each freshman and transfer student auditioning and seeking scholarship monies will be required to complete the Freshman Scholarship Form found on the Theatre website. All applications must be submitted to the Theatre

department office a week prior to auditioning. In order to receive scholarship monies, each student must be a major in the Theatre Arts department.

For information regarding auditioning, please contact the head of the Musical Theatre program.

All applying for acceptance into the BFA in Musical Theatre program must demonstrate a satisfactory competence in scholarship, vocal ability, acting, and theatre knowledge. In order to demonstrate competence in scholarship, each student applying to the program must hold a cumulative 2.5 GPA. In order to demonstrate competence in Theatre knowledge, students must submit a theatrical resume listing his/her production work. In order to demonstrate competence in vocal ability and acting, each student will complete an audition for the program. Faculty members in Theatre Arts in the programs of acting, dance, and musical theatre will be responsible for determining acceptance into the program.

B.F.A. in Musical Theatre with a Major in Theatre Arts (p. ) B.A. with a Major in Theatre Arts (p. )

## College of Arts and Sciences

### B.F.A. in Musical Theatre with a Major in Theatre Arts

Required 125 credits (36 of which must be numbered 300 or above, and 60 of which must be from a 4-year institution) including:

I. Essential Studies Requirements (See University ES listing): 36 credit hours

II. The Following Curriculum:

Major Requirements

#### Music Courses

MUSC 130	Music Theory I	3
MUSC 131	Aural Skills I	1
MUSC 133	Keyboard Skills I	1
	Choral Ensemble (audition required)	1
	Individual Lessons (taken every semester)*	16

#### Theatre Courses

THEA 110	Introduction to Theatre Arts	3
THEA 120	Voice and Movement I	2
THEA 161	Acting I	3
THEA 201	Theatre Practicum	1
THEA 220	Voice and Movement II	2
THEA 230	Text Analysis	3
THEA 240	Ballet I	2
THEA 241	Jazz Dance I	2
THEA 242	Tap Dance	1
THEA 270	Stagecraft	3
THEA 271	Intermediate Acting I: The Actor in You	3
THEA 225	Makeup for the Stage	3
THEA 204	Introduction to Acting for Musical Theatre	3
THEA 300	Play Direction I	3
THEA 371	Advanced Acting: Advanced Scene Study	3
THEA 344	Musical Theatre Dance Style	2
THEA 404	Acting for the Music Theatre	3
THEA 423	History of the Theatre: Classical, Medieval and Renaissance	3
THEA 424	History of the Theatre: Seventeenth Century to the Present	3
THEA 494	Senior Project	4
THEA 450	Musical Theatre History	3
<b>Electives</b>		
THEA 243	Contemporary Dance I	2
THEA 330	Contemporary Theatre	3
THEA 340	Ballet II	2

THEA 341	Jazz Dance II	2
THEA 342	Contemporary Dance II	2
THEA 425	Play Direction II	3
THEA 442	Choreography	3
THEA 471	Advanced Acting III: Shakespeare	3
THEA 488	Playwriting	3
MUSC 134	Music Theory II	3
MUSC 135	Aural Skills II	1
MUSC 136	Keyboard Skills II	1
MUSC 242	Diction for Singers	2
MUSC 269	Opera Workshop	1
Others by Advisor Approval		12

\* Course number for individual lessons determined at registration.

## B.A. with a Major in Theatre Arts

Required 125 credits (36 of which must be numbered 300 or above, and 60 of which must be from a 4-year institution) including:

I. Essential Studies Requirements (Thea 424 fulfills the Essential Studies Capstone requirement.) 39 cr.

II. 28 credits in the Theatre Core for all BA students

III. Selection of a Track from either Acting, Design/Tech, or Generalist

IV. 45 credits of Electives. Electives can be any theatre course not in the student's current degree plan or other courses as approved by the student's advisor.

V. The following curriculum:

28 credits, including:

### THEATRE CORE

#### All BA Theatre Students Must Complete the Following:

THEA 110	Introduction to Theatre Arts	3
THEA 161	Acting I	3
THEA 201	Theatre Practicum	1
THEA 225	Makeup for the Stage	3
THEA 230	Text Analysis	3
THEA 270	Stagecraft	3
THEA 300	Play Direction I	3
or THEA 335	Stage Management	
THEA 330	Contemporary Theatre	3
THEA 423	History of the Theatre: Classical, Medieval and Renaissance	3
THEA 424	History of the Theatre: Seventeenth Century to the Present	3

#### Students Select One of the Following Tracks:

##### Acting Track

THEA 271	Intermediate Acting I: The Actor in You	3
THEA 371	Advanced Acting: Advanced Scene Study	3
THEA 120	Voice and Movement I	2
THEA 220	Voice and Movement II	2
THEA 204	Introduction to Acting for Musical Theatre	3

##### Design/Tech Track

THEA 427	Costume Design	3
THEA 426	Scene Design for the Stage	3
THEA 326	Lighting for Stage I	3
THEA 260	Costume Craft	3
THEA 201	Theatre Practicum	1

##### Generalist Track

Level II Proficiency in a Foreign Language		
THEA 300	Play Direction I (Generalists are required to take THEA 300 AND THEA 335)	3

or THEA 335	Stage Management	
THEA 201	Theatre Practicum (1 credit, to be repeated for 2 credits)	2

## Minor in Theatre Arts

Required 25 credits, including:

THEA 110	Introduction to Theatre Arts	3
THEA 161	Acting I	3
THEA 201	Theatre Practicum	1
THEA 330	Contemporary Theatre	3
Select one of the following:		3
THEA 260	Costume Craft	
THEA 270	Stagecraft	
Select one of the following:		3
THEA 300	Play Direction I	
THEA 335	Stage Management	
Select one of the following:		3
THEA 423	History of the Theatre: Classical, Medieval and Renaissance	
THEA 424	History of the Theatre: Seventeenth Century to the Present	
Select two of the following:		6
THEA 225	Makeup for the Stage	
THEA 230	Text Analysis	
THEA 271	Intermediate Acting I: The Actor in You	
THEA 326	Lighting for Stage I	
THEA 425	Play Direction II	
THEA 426	Scene Design for the Stage	
THEA 427	Costume Design	
THEA 488	Playwriting	

Total Credits 25

## Minor in Dance

Required 20 credits, including:

Select six of the following (Dance Technique):		12
THEA 240	Ballet I	
THEA 241	Jazz Dance I	
THEA 242	Tap Dance	
THEA 243	Contemporary Dance I	
THEA 340	Ballet II	
THEA 341	Jazz Dance II	
THEA 342	Contemporary Dance II	
THEA 344	Musical Theatre Dance Style & THEA 161 and Acting I	
THEA 442	Choreography	
Select two of the following:		2
THEA 201	Theatre Practicum	
Additional technique class/classes		

## Courses

### THEA 110. Introduction to Theatre Arts. 3 Credits.

Basic orientation and historical perspective to theatre arts. Study of the roles of playwright, director, actor, designer, producer, and audience members in current theatre practice. Course will include attendance at area performances. Course includes 16 hours of experiential work in scene/costume shop or on a production. F,S.

### THEA 120. Voice and Movement I. 2 Credits.

Development of the student's physical and vocal awareness. Emphasis on freeing the actor and identifying personal habitual response patterns. F.

**THEA 161. Acting I. 3 Credits.**

Basic principles of acting with emphasis on movement; basic character development through improvisation and script. F,S.

**THEA 201. Theatre Practicum. 1 Credit.**

Participation in theatre pre-performance and performance capacities, both technical and acting, under faculty direction. Repeatable to 8 hours. Repeatable to 8 credits. F,S.

**THEA 204. Introduction to Acting for Musical Theatre. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the unique style of performance techniques for musical theatre including voice and movement work, acting, and staging. Prerequisite: THEA 161. F, even years.

**THEA 210. Selected Topics in Theatre. 1-3 Credits.**

Topics of special interest to faculty and students, such as Stage Management, and others. Repeatable up to 9 credits. Repeatable to 9 credits. On demand.

**THEA 220. Voice and Movement II. 2 Credits.**

A sequential continuation of Theatre 120: Voice and Movement I with focus on freeing the channel for sound, improving range, and articulation. Emphasis in movement will be on posture and introducing somatic techniques. Prerequisite: THEA 120 or consent of instructor. S, even years.

**THEA 225. Makeup for the Stage. 3 Credits.**

Introduction to the basic techniques of makeup for the stage design and application. F.

**THEA 230. Text Analysis. 3 Credits.**

An analysis of the dramatic text from the standpoint of production and performance. Prerequisites: THEA 110 or THEA 130. S.

**THEA 240. Ballet I. 2 Credits.**

An introductory ballet class designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of ballet. This class will contain a ballet barre, warm-up, barre stretch, an adagio center combination and floor exercises designed to enhance alignment, flexibility, strength and center. Repeatable to 6 credits. F.

**THEA 241. Jazz Dance I. 2 Credits.**

This course is designed to introduce the student to principles and techniques characteristic of jazz dance. Students will execute movement combinations in a variety of jazz styles. Emphasis will be placed on movement fundamentals of alignment, flexibility, endurance, dynamic range, and strength. Repeatable to 6 credits. F, odd years.

**THEA 242. Tap Dance. 1 Credit.**

This class is designed to introduce the student to the basic principles of tap dance. Warm-up, exercises, and combinations in tap technique will provide opportunities for the student to develop an efficient use of weight, alignment, articulation of footwork, coordination, and musicality. Repeatable to 4 credits. F.

**THEA 243. Contemporary Dance I. 2 Credits.**

Introduction to the elements of contemporary dance and practice of the fundamentals of the technique with attention given to both the art and craft of the dance form. Emphasis on postural alignment, shape, sequence, flexibility, as well as the body in relation to space, time, force, and movement initiation. Repeatable to 6 credits. F.

**THEA 250. Readings in Dramatic Literature. 3 Credits.**

Readings in dramatic literature from ancient to contemporary, with a strong emphasis on written and verbal analysis of realist texts. On demand.

**THEA 260. Costume Craft. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the basic principles, theory, and techniques of costume construction. This hands-on class will reach from basic to advanced skills. On demand.

**THEA 270. Stagecraft. 3 Credits.**

This course is intended to teach the basic functions, aesthetics, history, methods and materials of scenery, properties, lighting and sound. Practical experience, shop procedures are tied to hands-on experience in departmental productions. F.

**THEA 271. Intermediate Acting I: The Actor in You. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the Meisner Technique and to scene study. Special emphasis will be placed on using and trusting yourself to inform your work, working together, and applying rehearsal techniques to scripted work. Prerequisite: THEA 161 or consent of instructor. F.

**THEA 300. Play Direction I. 3 Credits.**

Principles and techniques of directing for the theatre. Student laboratory directing experiences. Prerequisites: THEA 161 and THEA 230. F, odd years.

**THEA 325. Scene Craft. 3 Credits.**

Specialized construction and rigging of scenery, advanced technology applications to the stage, drafting projects and practical problem solving. Prerequisites: THEA 270. On demand.

**THEA 326. Lighting for Stage I. 3 Credits.**

The principles, mechanics and design of stage and lighting; its relationship to set, makeup and costume design; plus laboratory participation in University productions. Prerequisite: THEA 270 or consent of instructor. S, odd years.

**THEA 330. Contemporary Theatre. 3 Credits.**

Readings in dramatic literature from 1880s to contemporary times. Strong emphasis on written and verbal analysis of current dramatic techniques beyond realism. S, odd years.

**THEA 335. Stage Management. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the procedures, responsibilities, and best practices for stage management. F.

**THEA 336. Lighting for Stage II. 3 Credits.**

The principles, mechanics and design of stage and television lighting; its relationship to set, makeup and costume design; plus laboratory participation in University productions. Prerequisite: THEA 270 or consent of instructor. S, even years.

**THEA 339. Production Design. 3 Credits.**

The development of the entire theatrical event, from conception to closing, with particular attention to the collaboration of various artists, craftspersons, and managers. Prerequisites: THEA 130, THEA 226, THEA 270 and THEA 300, or consent of instructor. S.

**THEA 340. Ballet II. 2 Credits.**

Ballet II is a continuation of Ballet I. Students will continue to develop advanced ballet skills and technique in relationship to form, strength, flexibility, center, line, choreography and physical expression. Prerequisite: THEA 240 or consent of instructor. Repeatable to 6 credits. S.

**THEA 341. Jazz Dance II. 2 Credits.**

This course is designed to be a continuation of THEA 241. Students continue to explore the principles and techniques characteristic of jazz dance through a variety of jazz dance styles. Emphasis will be placed on applying efficient form and dynamic energy to intermediate level movement combinations in center and across the floor. Prerequisites: THEA 241. Repeatable to 6 credits. S.

**THEA 342. Contemporary Dance II. 2 Credits.**

In this course students will continue to refine the skills learned in Contemporary Dance I and explore the principles and techniques characteristic of contemporary dance. Emphasis will be placed on correct alignment, spatial awareness, musicality, and dynamic energy as applied to intermediate level movement combinations. Prerequisite: THEA 243 or consent of instructor. Repeatable to 6 credits. S.

**THEA 344. Musical Theatre Dance Style. 2 Credits.**

In this course students will learn the vocabulary, styles, and techniques associated with musical theatre dance. Building upon the movement basics learned in the prerequisite courses, students will refine their dance skills and increase their knowledge base through the practice and assimilation of repertory from the classic musical theatre. Prerequisites: THEA 241. S.

**THEA 371. Advanced Acting: Advanced Scene Study. 3 Credits.**

Advanced script analysis applied to plays that place advanced demands on the actor. Prerequisites: THEA 272 or consent of instructor. F.

**THEA 397. Cooperative Education. 1-6 Credits.**

A practical work experience with an employer closely associated with the student's academic area. Arranged by mutual agreement among student, department, and employer. Repeatable to 12 credits. Prerequisites: GPA of 2.5 and junior standing. Repeatable to 12 credits. F,S,SS.

**THEA 404. Acting for the Music Theatre. 3 Credits.**

Appreciation of and performance techniques for musical theatre including: voice and movement work, acting, and staging. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. S, odd years.

**THEA 415. Selected Problems in Theatre Arts. 1-3 Credits.**

Topics of special interest to faculty and students, such as Theatre Management, Women's Issues in Drama, Polish Theatre and Drama, Improvisation, Scene Painting, and others. Repeatable up to 9 credits. Repeatable to 9 credits. On demand.

**THEA 423. History of the Theatre: Classical, Medieval and Renaissance. 3 Credits.**

The theatre in performance. The origins of theatrical forms and their relationships to acting style, physical theatre and audience with the cultural environment. F, even years.

**THEA 424. History of the Theatre: Seventeenth Century to the Present. 3 Credits.**

A continuation of topics covered in THEA 423 beginning with the Seventeenth Century and continuing to the present. Student need not take THEA 423 prior to enrolling in THEA 424. S, odd years.

**THEA 425. Play Direction II. 3 Credits.**

A continuation of THEA 300 with emphasis on contemporary theories, analysis, research, conceptualization, and implementation. Laboratory experience. Prerequisite: THEA 300 or consent of instructor. S, even years.

**THEA 426. Scene Design for the Stage. 3 Credits.**

The analysis, research, and conceptualization of the physical context of theatre productions. Emphasis on individual creative projects. Repeatable up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: THEA 270. Repeatable to 6 credits. F.

**THEA 427. Costume Design. 3 Credits.**

Elements, principles, and styles of design applied to the visual creation of a dramatic character. Repeatable up to 6 credits. Prerequisites: THEA 260 or consent of instructor. Repeatable to 6 credits. S, even years.

**THEA 442. Choreography. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to choreography that offers the student training in the sequential application of basic principles of movement and form to a small group of dancers. Prerequisites: THEA 342 or consent of instructor. S, odd years.

**THEA 450. Musical Theatre History. 3 Credits.**

A survey of the history of musical theatre in performance, genre and world presence. Prerequisite: THEA 204. F, even years.

**THEA 471. Advanced Acting III: Shakespeare. 3 Credits.**

A detailed examination of Shakespeare in performance. Prerequisite: THEA 371. On demand.

**THEA 481. Theatre Practicum. 1-2 Credits.**

Projects in all areas of theatre and interpretation in a supervisory capacity. Specific assignments in production/planning with faculty approval. Repeatable to 8 hours. Repeatable to 8 credits. F,S.

**THEA 488. Playwriting. 3 Credits.**

The playwright's problems as revealed through practice of writing plays; experimental productions of the student's creative work whenever possible. Repeatable up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: Sufficient background in theatrical arts and creative writing and consent of instructor. Repeatable to 6 credits. F, odd years.

**THEA 494. Senior Project. 4 Credits.**

Individual work in an approved area. Prerequisite: Theatre BA or BFA students only. F,S.