We’re the perfect fit for you.

The School of Theatre & Dance has the advantages a large university provides with the one-on-one attention that only a close-knit artistic home can offer.
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Be part of a community.

We are the perfect fit for you - as big as you want us to be with the advantages a large university can provide, but as small as you need us to be with the one-on-one attention only a close-knit artistic home can offer. We have a deep understanding of traditional theatrical techniques and craft, with expertise in state-of-the-art digital media and equipment. The School of Theatre & Dance is located in West Virginia’s beautiful mountains, only a short drive from major cities in the Northeast.
School of Theatre & Dance

10,000 patrons that see our performances

average class size 15

small town, big neighbors
Located within easy driving distance from Pittsburgh, PA, Cleveland, OH, Washington DC, and New York City.

Morgantown, WV has been rated the “No. 1 Small City in America” by BizJournals.com.

8 shops and laboratories

15,000 average class size

6 mainstage productions per year

WVU COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS

5 performance spaces

Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre
1,444 seat proscenium theatre

Gladys G. Davis Theatre
216 seat thrust theatre

Antoinette Falbo Theatre
104 seat black box theatre

The Metropolitan Theatre
800 seat proscenium theatre

Vivian Davis Michael Laboratory Theatre
80 seat classroom theatre

8 performance spaces

3 dance concerts per year

offering nationally accredited programs

WVU is a fully accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre.
Dr. Malarcher’s Theatre Fundamentals class was my first introduction to theatre history and literature. It opened the door to a whole new world that I hadn’t even known existed. The freshmen directing workshop let me begin acting right away. Between these two classes, I was learning theory and putting it into practice right from the start.

MEGAN MASSIE
Hometown: Princeton, WV
BFA Acting 2012
Dream Job: Actor

“Dr. Malarcher’s Theatre Fundamentals class was my first introduction to theatre history and literature. It opened the door to a whole new world that I hadn’t even known existed. The freshmen directing workshop let me begin acting right away. Between these two classes, I was learning theory and putting it into practice right from the start.”
Build a foundation.

The students’ first year develops a foundation of theatrical skills, including fundamentals of acting, stagecraft, and theatre literature and history. Students may then specialize in several different areas of interest. All of the School’s programs emphasize hands-on learning, with an active season of fully produced shows offering the student real-world experience.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program is a professional training program with a conservatory-style intensity in the context of a liberal arts education. The School offer four BFA degrees: Acting, Musical Theatre, Theatre Design & Technology, and Puppetry & Creative Drama.

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) program gives students great flexibility in pursuing areas of interest in theatre or dance. The BA offers a strong liberal arts education, while offering a solid hands-on dance and theatre education. The BA serves well for students wishing to double-major or pursue a minor.

The School of Theatre & Dance also offers minors in Dance, Theatre, and Theatre Production. All of the Theatre programs at West Virginia University are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST), ensuring that the students’ coursework meets rigorous national standards.
"I understand the fundamentals that are the building blocks I need for lighting and sound. Knowing these lets me build on each of my designs and try new things each time I design something new. You don’t have to do just theatre with this major. Lighting and sound design can be used all over the job market. This type of design is a great skill to have."

JOHN KISELICA
Hometown: Bethel Park, PA
BFA Design & Technical Theatre, 2012
Dream Job: Lighting designer for concerts
Design & Technical Theatre

BFA in Design & Technical Theatre

The BFA in Design & Technical Theatre program introduces the student to all aspects of theatre production in a rigorous mix of collaboration, conceptualization, and construction in classroom, studio, and shop settings. Students gain experience by working on mainstage shows as early as their first year. Opportunities for students to design on the mainstage are available during the junior and senior years. Course offerings range from time-honored techniques to cutting-edge, industry-standard digital media. The program is designed for the motivated student who intends to pursue a professional theatre career, further graduate study in theatre, or who may choose to enter a related field in entertainment design or technology.

COSTUME DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Study in the area of Costume Design takes the student through an introduction of the elements of design, drawing, and costume history. The course of study then moves toward an intensive application of designing the character in the world of the play, through course work, practical design, and construction.

LIGHTING DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Students gain practical experience in lighting technology, including moving lights, state-of-the-art consoles, LED equipment, and special effects, while developing a strong aesthetic eye. Students learn to develop a lit environment on stage to serve the production, through a combination of studio classes and production work. Our students work with industry-standard software and equipment, preparing them for the professional world.

SCENE DESIGN

Training in Scene Design begins with the mastery of basic design skills and develops to the more advanced creation of stage worlds, using a combination of practical problem-solving along with conceptual ideas that enhance and extend the performance’s meaning.

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

Technical Production encompasses the design, construction, and implementation of scenery. Students gain hands-on experience in planning and managing the process, from design development to strike. Training includes carpentry, welding, rigging, and Computer-Assisted Design (CAD).
The BFA Acting program is competitive with the best university acting programs in the country, both in intensity and in class time devoted to actor training. Freshman and sophomore students receive six hours of acting per week. Beginning in the sophomore year, students also receive an additional four hours per week of movement or voice/speech.

These first two years are set against the backdrop of a wide range of rigorous liberal arts coursework. Following a successful audition the end of the sophomore year, students enter the Studio Acting Program for the junior and senior years. The Studio Acting Program centers on 20 hours a week dedicated to performance training in movement, voice/speech, scene study, and acting.

The junior year is grounded in contemporary American realism and early modern realistic and non-real European drama. The senior year is dedicated to work in Shakespeare and other period styles, as well as acting for film and television, voice-overs, and musical theatre. Upon graduation from our program, students either enter into the profession immediately or are admitted to a high-caliber graduate training program. Throughout the four years, students progress through well-coordinated core theatre studies coursework covering dramatic theory, text analysis, theatre history, dramatic literature, directing, and special topics studies.

“My sophomore year, I had the chance to work with the children’s theatre production through the School. I served as choreographer for our production of Willy Wonka Jr. It was great to work with the kids and see their progress throughout the process. I loved being able to share my love of theatre with them!”

CJ BONDE
Hometown: Cleveland, OH
BFA Acting, Dance Minor, 2013
Dream Job: Performing
Faculty
Jessica Morgan Bishop
Lee Blair, AEA
Laura Hitt
Jerry McGonigle
Roger Smart, SDC
The BFA in Musical Theatre program’s primary focus is to create professional collaborative performers who not only have the ability to shine on any stage, but the knowledge to get in the stage door in this highly competitive entertainment industry. Our triple threat approach to training involves equal emphasis on Acting, Music and Dance, while exposing our students to all other elements of the Theatre. Our selected students will have hands on training in all three elements every semester with some of the best instructors in the country and receive a truly high quality musical theatre education.

The program is competitive with similar programs in the country, especially in the limited number of accepted students, disciple intensity, and class time devoted to the study, practice and performance of music, theatre, and dance. All four years of study mesh with a wide range of liberal arts courses drawn from the University’s General Education Curriculum. The full course of study includes classes in acting, dance techniques, choreography, theatre history, vocal techniques, stage production, music theory, voice lessons, and musical theatre literature. These artistic mediums will also address skills necessary for career management, including auditions, resumes, and professional representation. Through the Schools’ existing programs in acting and voice, students will be able to take courses in traditional acting or vocal training and enroll in opera workshops.

Students will have the opportunity to perform in one major musical and several minimally produced performance and showcase productions each academic year. In addition to a number of different performance opportunities in musicals, Musical Theatre majors will have the opportunity to cross traditional lines and benefit from participating in fully-staged, dance, drama, and opera productions. A typical BFA student may perform in as many as fifteen productions during the course of study at WVU.
“The time I can best show my own work as a Stage Manager is when calling a show during performances. If a show is going well and everything is running as smoothly as possible on a particular night, then you know I am doing a good job.”

LOGAN GARRETT
Hometown: Bel Air, MD
BFA Theatre Design and Technology, 2012
Dream Job: Broadway stage manager
Develop your passion.

Opportunities

The School annually produces ten to twelve theatrical works in one of three recently renovated performance areas: the Gladys G. Davis Theatre, the Vivian Davis Michael Laboratory Theatre, or the Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre.

The School also produces in the Antoinette Falbo Theatre and the historic Metropolitan Theatre, located in downtown Morgantown. These productions provide practical experience for our theatre students, and serve the community audience a balance of classical, modern, and contemporary theatre.

“During my four years, I have performed countless times in the Clay Theatre, as well as other venues around the state and in surrounding states. I’m never as happy as when I’m performing and it’s what I would like to do as a profession for at least a few years, so I’m thankful for each of these opportunities. Also, I had the chance to choreograph my own piece and go through the process of selecting a cast, working with costume and lighting designers, and getting it ready to be performed in the formal dance concert. It was extremely rewarding to see how my piece grew from being a simple concept in my mind to a full production on the Clay Theatre stage.”

VALERIE GUIDO
Hometown: Clarksburg, WV
Exercise Physiology Major, Dance Minor 2012
Dream Job: Dancer in a professional company
“The broad skill set I received from WVU enabled me to fit myself into the mold of any job I applied for. I have worked as a costumer, milliner, set builder, run crew member, in wig maintenance, and as a performer. These are all skills that I acquired while studying at the Creative Arts Center. My various employers and supervisors have always been impressed when I say, “Oh yeah, I can do that.” My favorite professors are Joann Siegrist and Mary McClung. Joann for her endless energy and volume of knowledge on puppetry and Mary because of the invaluable skills she gave me in fabrication and my approach to design.”

MATTHEW LAIRD
Hometown: Orange City, IA
BFA Creative Dramatics / Puppetry 2010
Employed as a Fabricator at Animax Designs

Puppetry & Creative Drama

BFA in Puppetry & Creative Drama

The BFA in Puppetry & Creative Drama program is one of only three in the country. It includes intensive study in Theatre for Young Audiences, the exploration and practice of Puppetry/The Inanimate Object/“Non-Human Actor” as a theatrical art form for young and adult audiences, Creative Drama for many settings, including classrooms, museums, libraries, and puppet theatres. In addition to a broad-based curriculum in theatre studies, the program allows students to operate a complete puppetry theatre where their comprehensive experiences include a variety of construction, manipulation, and performance opportunities.

The School operates the WVU Puppet Mobile, which tours the state and region, while mainstage and laboratory productions and full summer intern work opportunities round out the performance arena. Puppetry graduates work for the following prestigious companies: Walt Disney, Grey Seal Puppet Company, Little Who Productions, Puppet Pizzazz, Houston Children’s Festival, Theatre West Virginia, The Pittsburgh Children’s Museum, Holden Puppets, Kids on the Block, and Nashville Sesame Street Live Touring, Center for Puppetry Arts, Tears of Joy, and Animax.
The Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre is a broad-based program of study combining a liberal arts education with a general theatre curriculum. The BA meshes perfectly with minors, and especially double majors, potentially increasing interest from future graduate schools or employers. Typically, the BA student in Theatre is one who chooses not to specialize in any one area of the art form, but prefers instead to keep as many educational and career options open as possible. The BA program is also well-suited for students looking to explore multiple areas of study within the theatre discipline, such as stage management, directing, or producing.

"Every time the theatre has a mainstage show, I get to look up and say that I made something for that show. It is such a great feeling to see your hard work brought to life on stage."

JALYN RIGGLEMAN
Hometown: Jane Lew, WV
BA Theatre Arts, 2012
Dream Job: To build wigs professionally for theatre and film
"I am majoring in dance because I’ve been dancing my entire life, and I wanted to continue to train and grow as a dancer. Dancing allows me to express myself without words. I was really impressed with the dance faculty at WVU, and I think it’s exciting to be a part of an up and coming program."

RICKY ROGERS
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
WVU Mountaineer Football Team
Dance Major, 2017
The Dance major offers a four-year undergraduate program leading to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree. Students have the opportunity to develop and improve on dance techniques in a liberal arts environment that offers both an experiential and theoretical dance education. This degree has at its core a variety of dance genres and subjects, including Ballet, Modern, Jazz, and Tap, as well as World Dance, Contemporary Dance, Choreography, Dance History and Dance Criticism. The major emphasizes theory, technique, and performance and offers students both on and off-campus performance and production opportunities that permit them to fully immerse themselves in the creative experience of dance.

Students have three scheduled performances each year as part of the School of Theatre and Dance annual production season. These include Dance Now! our main stage concert; a fall concert; and an informal student showcase in the spring. Students in the program also have opportunities to perform in musicals and operas, as well as participating in local, regional and national dance festivals and conferences. Our program holds a membership with the American College Dance Association (ACDA) and the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO). Dance majors and minors are encouraged to become members of the National Dance Honors Society, which allows them to graduate with honors in Dance.

Recent graduates of the WVU Dance Program have gone on to pursue careers in dance by continuing their education in graduate school, and by working in the professional dance field and in theatre. Others have achieved excellence in disciplines and vocations, such as journalism, law, health, engineering, and physical education, to name a few. Students have attended summer intensives around the country, from Paul Taylor Dance Company School in New York City, to the North Carolina Dance Theatre School in Charlotte, and in study abroad programs, such as the ProDanza Italia/USA Workshop in Tuscany, Italy. They have also held internships and continue to work with such organizations as Walt Disney World in Florida and Busch Gardens in historical Williamsburg, Virginia. Students in the dance program also have the opportunity to work on campus as counselors or instructors during the WVU Summer Dance Academy.

**Minor in Dance**

The Dance Minor is designed for any WVU student who is pursuing a recognized University major and who has an interest in dance. The emphasis has been extended to Ballet, Jazz and Tap, in addition to Modern Dance.

**KATHLEEN SWEAT**

Hometown: Cross Lanes, WV  
Dance Major, Sport and Exercise Psychology minor, 2017

“Dance has always been my personal form of escape and a place that I have to be completely honest with myself. No one can touch it or take it away because it’s a part of who I am. The dance program at WVU is a family. We all have a passion for dancing and music, and that brings us all together in a very special way. As a dance major, I’m challenged physically and mentally on a daily basis.”
How to Apply

**THEATRE**
1. You must apply to and be accepted by WVU. [admissions.wvu.edu](http://admissions.wvu.edu)
2. You must audition/interview for admission into the BFA in Theatre. Please contact the School of Theatre & Dance to schedule an audition. [theatre.wvu.edu](http://theatre.wvu.edu)

**DANCE**
1. You must apply to and be accepted by WVU. [admissions.wvu.edu](http://admissions.wvu.edu)
2. You must audition for admission into the BA in Dance. Please contact the School of Theatre & Dance to schedule an audition. [theatre.wvu.edu](http://theatre.wvu.edu)

### Degrees Available
- Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre
  - Acting
  - Puppetry and Creative Drama
  - Design and Technology
  - Musical Theatre
- Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
- Bachelor of Arts in Dance
- Multi-Disciplinary Studies
- Minors
  - Dance
  - Theatre Production
  - Theatre

### Important Dates
- **September 15**: WVU begins processing admission applications.
- **October 15**: WVU begins awarding scholarships. Housing starts accepting completed applications.
- **December 1**: Pick up FAFSA information at your high school guidance office or the WVU Financial Aid Office.
- **January 1**: You can begin to submit the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
- **February 1**: Deadlines for WVU administered academic scholarship consideration, priority for WVU admission, housing roommate request. Housing assignments begin today.
- **March 1**: Deadline for institutional need-based financial aid and academic deposit priority. WV Residents - deadline for Promise Scholarships and WV state grants.
- **May 1**: Last day to receive a full refund on your academic deposit or a partial refund on your housing deposit. Deadline to register for New Student Orientation.

Visit campus, see if you qualify for WVU administered scholarships or retake your ACT or SAT if necessary.
Contact the School of Theatre & Dance for scholarship information.
Financial Aid award letters are mailed to admitted students.
Submit final transcripts and immunization records.
Get a head start.

For more information, including audition requirements and applications, visit theatre.wvu.edu

To schedule a visit to the WVU School of Theatre & Dance, contact James Froemel, Program Coordinator of Undergraduate Admissions.

James Froemel
ccarecruitment@mail.wvu.edu
304-293-4339

WVU School of Theatre & Dance
1 Fine Arts Drive
Morgantown, WV 26506-6111