Theatre Arts Department (THA)

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities
School of Visual and Performing Arts
Department Chair: Laurie Kincman
354 Center for the Arts; 608.785.6690
Email: lkincman@uwlax.edu

Department ADA: Krista Shulka
154 Center for the Arts; 608.785.6701

www.uwlax.edu/theatre-arts

Theatre arts at UW-La Crosse offers an invigorating and fresh approach to undergraduate theatrical training. Our degree programs allow a wide range of opportunity while creating a focused and individual area of study for each student. We strive to balance vigorous classroom learning with practical production experience allowing for a well-rounded college experience with an emphasis on the collaborative and creative process. The theatre arts curriculum allows concentrations in six distinct areas of study: general theatre studies, design/technical, performance, music theatre, stage management and arts administration as well as a minor in dance. Students at UW-La Crosse can choose to major in one theatre emphasis area while minoring in another thus enhancing their educational opportunities and professional marketability.

One-on-one contact with our teaching faculty is emphasized and students are guaranteed a degree of personal attention rarely available in programs that accept higher numbers of students. In addition to its full-time faculty, the department frequently brings guest artists to campus from professional and educational theatre. The atmosphere within the Department of Theatre Arts is supportive, positive, collaborative and artistically stimulating. Students are involved in theatre productions each year as backstage crew, technicians, designers, stage managers, performers, and front of house staff. Participation in theatre productions is open to all UW-La Crosse students regardless of their major.

The performance stage is the natural extension of the classroom experience. Students receive a tremendous amount of hands-on experience through classroom projects and realized productions. The UW-La Crosse Department of Theatre Arts produces six performances each academic year allowing students to demonstrate, refine and expand the skills they’ve learned in the classroom. Additional production work is available through classroom projects, senior recitals and designs, undergraduate research grant-funded productions, and other student laboratory productions.

- Students enrolling in a theatre major must complete the theatre arts major core requirements and one area of emphasis.
- Students enrolling in the theatre arts minor must select an area of emphasis.

General education writing emphasis

This department incorporates a significant amount of writing through the required courses instead of identifying particular courses as writing emphasis courses. Students who complete a major in this department will fulfill the general education writing emphasis requirement.

2022-23 Faculty/Staff

The following is the department’s faculty and staff as of the publication date of this catalog. This list will not be updated again until the next catalog is published in July.

Professor
Joseph Anderson
Mary Leonard

Associate Professor
Laurie Kincman
Megan Morey

Assistant Professor
Nic Barilar
Amanda Kolbe
Gregory Parmeter

Associate Teaching Professor
Ben Golden
Kathryn Moran

Assistant Teaching Professor
Michelle Collyar
Ashley Dobrogosz
Kathryn Link

Administrative Support
Krista Shulka

Majors

- Theatre arts major: arts administration emphasis - BA
- Theatre arts major: arts administration emphasis - BS
- Theatre arts major: design/technical emphasis - BA
- Theatre arts major: design/technical emphasis - BS
- Theatre arts major: general emphasis - BA
- Theatre arts major: general emphasis - BS
Theatre arts major: musical theatre emphasis - BA (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/music-theatre-emphasis-ba/)

Theatre arts major: musical theatre emphasis - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/music-theatre-emphasis-bs/)

Theatre arts major: performance emphasis - BA (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/performance-emphasis-ba/)

Theatre arts major: performance emphasis - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/performance-emphasis-bs/)

Theatre arts major: stage management emphasis - BA (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/stage-management-emphasis-ba/)

Theatre arts major: stage management emphasis - BS (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/stage-management-emphasis-bs/)

Minors

• Dance minor (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/dance-minor/)

• Theatre arts minor: arts administration emphasis (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/arts-administration-emphasis-minor/)

• Theatre arts minor: design/technical emphasis (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/design-technical-emphasis-minor/)

• Theatre arts minor: general emphasis (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/general-emphasis-minor/)

• Theatre arts minor: performance emphasis (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/performance-emphasis-minor/)

• Theatre arts minor: stage management emphasis (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/theatrearts/stage-management-emphasis-minor/)

Courses

+THA 110 Cr.2

Theatre Appreciation
A study of theatre as an art form. Emphasis on the role of the audience as collaborators in the performance and their understanding and appreciation of the elements of a theatrical production. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

+THA 120 Cr.3

Acting for Non-Majors
This course emphasizes the development of the actor's instrument by introducing the student to the basic imaginative, physical, and vocal skills necessary for acting. It also enhances the student's understanding of the cooperative nature of acting. It prepares them to create, discuss, rehearse, and perform. The student will apply these techniques in an interactive studio setting. Offered Fall, Spring.

+THA 130 Cr.3

Multicultural U.S. Plays: Acting the Text
In this performance-based course students will study and perform dramatic literature from multiple cultures within the U.S. society. Plays will be selected from African-American, Asian-American, Native American, Hispanic-American, Lesbian/Gay/Transgendered/Bisexual and other cultures for study. Students will research cultural context, analyze the plays, develop basic skills in performance, and prepare and perform scenes from the plays under study, in order to enhance student awareness and exchange ideas about the multicultural nature of the U.S. No acting experience required. Offered Spring.

+THA 201 Cr.3

Dramatic Literature and Theatre Arts
From text to theatre, how does dramatic literature translate into live performance? To read plays is but one aspect of the art of drama. To create a theatrical performance from a play script is to appreciate the full artistic potential of dramatic literature. International and multicultural theatre ranging from the classical to the contemporary will be the basis for explorations into the significance and beauty of the dramatic arts. An interdisciplinary approach in both content and method will be used as the dramatic literature is considered in the context of history and culture, literature and art. Offered Fall.

THA 210 Cr.3

Foundations of Theatrical Production
This course introduces the student to the fundamentals of theatre by exploring the theories and practices of production elements, script analysis and the specific goals, procedures and policies of the theatre arts department. Offered Fall.

THA 220 Cr.3

Acting I: Fundamentals
Theory and practice of the fundamentals of stage acting, including improvisational techniques, audition techniques, acting terminology and development of dramatic action. Offered Spring.

THA 221 Cr.3

Movement for the Stage
Theory and practice in training the actor's body to serve as a skillful and expressive means of communication. Emphasis on the student's awareness of movement as a foundation for character development. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

THA 222 Cr.3

Voice and Diction for the Stage
Theory and practice of the fundamentals of vocal production: breathing control, articulation, projection, quality, and expressiveness for the actor. Offered Fall - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 223 Cr.2

Foundations of Dance
An introduction to the field of dance, this course examines the ideas, concepts, and trends important to studies in dance through lecture, readings, studio experience, and discussion. This course provides an overview of Western dance forms and esthetics, professional standards and practices related to rehearsal/productions, career options in dance, basic human anatomy, injury prevention, and conditioning for dance. Lect. 1, Studio 2. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

THA 225 Cr.2

Jazz Dance I
This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of jazz dance technique. This course focuses on basic jazz dance vocabulary, style, rhythms, and progressions while developing strength and flexibility as well as an anatomical awareness of the dancer's body. Lect. 1, Studio 2. Offered Fall - Odd Numbered Years.
THA 226 Cr.2
Tap Dance I
This is an introduction to the fundamentals of basic tap techniques, style, and rhythms. Lect. 1, Studio 2. Offered Fall - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 227 Cr.2
Ballet Dance I
This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of ballet dance techniques. This course focuses on the history, vocabulary, and techniques of beginning ballet. Lect. 1, Studio 2. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

THA 228 Cr.2
Modern Dance I
This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of modern dance techniques. Students learn and execute the fundamentals of modern dance by practicing movement exercises and dance phrases designed to increase knowledge of modern dance. Lect. 1, Studio 2. Offered Spring - Even Numbered Years.

THA 229 Cr.2
Musical Theatre Dance I
This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of dance techniques employed by musical theatre. This class will focus on the different styles and techniques of musical theatre dance. Lect. 1, Studio 2. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

THA 231 Cr.3
Stagecraft
Theory and practice of scenic construction. A study of the stage and its equipment; the planning, building and painting of scenery and the practical aspects of stage lighting. Offered Spring.

THA 232 Cr.3
Costume Crafts
Theory and practice of basic costume construction. Emphasis on the construction of stage costumes and accessories, including, but not limited to, basic pattern adaptation, millinery techniques, costume jewelry techniques and mask construction. Prerequisite: THA 210 for theatre majors and minors. Offered Spring - Even Numbered Years.

THA 240 Cr.3
Rendering for Theatre
This course will focus on the study of the elements and principles of rendering and their application to theatrical design. Students will focus on application of various rendering techniques used by scenic, costume, lighting and makeup designers in the creative process of interpreting a play script and translating it into visual form. Repeatable for credit - maximum six. Offered Fall - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 241 Cr.3
Stage Makeup
The theory and practice of the fundamentals of painted theatrical makeup, including various theatrical makeup materials and their applications. The course will rely heavily on the imagination and creative skills of the student and will include research in physical analysis, character analysis, and color theory. Each student will serve as the makeup designer for all projects in this course. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

THA 250 Cr.3
Theatre Studies I: Antiquity to the 18th Century
This course is a survey of Western theatre history, dramatic literature and theory in cultural context from origins through the 18th century. Particular attention is paid to the relationship of theatre to religion during antiquity and to the relationship of theatre to nation-building in the 17th and 18th centuries. Recommended to be taken before THA 350. Offered Fall - Odd Numbered Years.
THA 328 Cr.2
**Modern Dance II**
This course provides the student with advanced development and practice in the diverse styles of contemporary/classical principles of modern dance technique. Advanced modern dance includes active participation in center, movement across the floor, proper alignment, improvisation, and personal growth within performance techniques. Lect. 1, Studio 2. Prerequisite: THA 228. Offered Spring - Even Numbered Years.

THA 329 Cr.2
**Musical Theatre Dance II**
This course is designed to give the musical theatre performer the essential training in various dance techniques, an understanding of the structure behind stage choreography, and an insight into the necessary showmanship and performance of that choreography. Students explore various dance styles through technical training and explore their historical context and artistic impact on the musical theatre genre. Students engage in comprehensive technique and training practices, movement analysis, and anatomical study, as well as prepare performance pieces in a variety of dance styles and techniques of developing choreography. Lect. 1, Studio 2. Prerequisite: THA 229. Offered Spring - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 330 Cr.3
**Scene Painting**
Theory and practice of scene painting techniques for the theatre. Emphasis is on working with a variety of materials and techniques necessary to reproduce the aesthetics of designer’s renderings or scaled elevations as actual scenic pieces. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

THA 331 Cr.3
**Scenery Design**
The research and application of current technology in the theatre, including the exploration of new materials and construction techniques. The course will include an introduction to computer-Assisted drafting software, the examination of health, safety, and liability issues. Prerequisite: THA 231. Offered Spring - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 332 Cr.3
**Sound Design**
The course provides the student with a working knowledge of sound design for theatre. It emphasizes the creation of sound environments for theatre through the use of modern digital and physical sound technology. The course also covers basic acoustics through the lens of theatrical sound. Prerequisite: THA 210. Offered Spring - Odd Numbered Years.
THA/MUS 347 Cr.3

Sound Recording and Engineering
Students will explore the theory, methods, and technologies of live sound engineering and sound recording. Through hands-on projects, students will learn basic acoustics, sound technologies, live sound mixing, as well as the recording and digital editing of music. Lect. 2, Lab 2. Prerequisite: junior standing. (Cross-listed with MUS/THA; may only earn credit in one department.) Offered Spring - Even Numbered Years.

THA 350 Cr.3

Theatre Studies II: 19th Century to the Present
This course is a survey of Western theatre history, dramatic literature and theory in cultural context from the 19th century to the present day. Particular attention is paid to realism and the explosion of styles in reaction to it, along with the study of political, environmental, feminist, multicultural, and postmodern theatre and performance art. Recommended to be taken after THA 250. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

+THA 351 Cr.3

World Theatre
Survey of historical and contemporary theatre in cultural context from various cultures/geographic regions around the world. These areas include India and the near east, China, Japan, and the far east, Africa, Latin America, and the middle east. Particular attention is paid to local custom, religious practice and theatrical practice. Prerequisite: THA 110. Offered Spring - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 355 Cr.3

Dramaturgy
This course introduces students to the role of the dramaturg on a theatrical production. Students will learn to conduct historical, social, political, and cultural research and analysis, and develop best practices for sharing this information with actors, audiences, and creative teams in both print and digital formats. Prerequisite: THA 110 or THA 201 or THA 210 or THA 250. Offered Spring - Even Numbered Years.

THA 360 Cr.1-3

Theatre Arts Practicum
Specialized, intensive study and participation in theatre. Projects are designed in consultation with a faculty adviser in the department. Repeatable for credit - no maximum. Consent of instructor. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

+THA/ECO 376 Cr.3

Economics of Art and Entertainment
The overall goal of this course is to enable participants to make or evaluate selected decisions and policy issues pertaining to the arts and to better understand the unique status the arts hold in the American economy. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. (Cross-listed with ECO/THA; may only earn credit in one department.) Offered Spring - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 390 Cr.2

Advanced Stage Management
This course provides advanced study of the specific skills required of a stage manager on a theatrical production through discussion and hands-on projects designed to improve the student's understanding and execution of the leadership, organizational, and creative components of stage management. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: THA 290. Offered Fall.

THA 420 Cr.3

Directing
Theory and practice of directing for the stage. Emphasis on analysis, preparation and presentation of dramatic scenes. Prerequisite: THA 210, THA 220; six credits from THA 250, THA 350, THA 351. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

THA 421 Cr.3

Performance Studio
This is an advanced performance studio that provides an opportunity for students to research, explore, and create performance within a specific style or genre. The course will provide directing and/or acting students with both theoretical and practical experiences in the art of theatre performance and will occasionally feature a guest artist. Examples of offerings include: improvisation, traditional (comedy of manners, commedia dell'arte) and non-traditional styles (absurdism, post-modernism, expressionism), auditioning and others. Repeatable for credit - no maximum. Prerequisite: THA 321 and/or THA 420. Offered Spring.

THA 422 Cr.3

Acting IV: Audition Techniques
This upper level acting course works specifically on the art and technique of auditioning. It will further develop and expand the range and skills of the performance student by exploring the audition process. Students will learn basic stage and camera audition techniques, develop an extensive repertoire of audition monologues and research career opportunities. It prepares the students for a variety of audition styles and situations. Prerequisite: THA 220, THA 320, THA 321. Offered Fall - Even Numbered Years.

THA 424 Cr.3

Composition of Dance
This course is an introduction to dance composition. Students use basic choreographic elements and principles to analyze and construct dance compositions. Through the use of improvisation, movement exploration, and the understanding and application of both traditional and experimental dance forms, students compose original solo and group studies. Through this exploration, students begin to discover the choreographic process as well as their choreographic voice. Offered Spring - Even Numbered Years.

THA 440 Cr.3

Costume Design/History
A course in the principles and practices of designing stage costumes. Emphasis on the creative capabilities of the designer with a working knowledge of historical periods used in stage costuming. Prerequisite: THA 210. Offered Spring - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 450 Cr.3-15

Internship in Theatre Arts
An academically relevant work experience focusing on career development through professional contexts. Students pursue practical applications of course work in community or professional theatre or related areas. A written project relating the internship experience to the academic preparation will be required. Credit depends on the demands and complexity and the duration of the work the student performs. Evaluation is a joint effort of the cooperating firm or group, the department supervisor, and the Cooperative Education Internship liaison. Note: three to six credit hours may count toward a theatre arts major in the College of Liberal Studies. Prerequisite: 15 credits in THA; junior standing. Consent of department. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

THA 471 Cr.3

Playwriting
A study of the fundamentals of playwriting, with emphasis on creating stageworthy plots, characters, dialogue and spectacle, and finding venues for having plays produced. Course will culminate in the writing of a one-act or full-length play. Offered Occasionally.
THA 472 Cr.3

**Theatre Management**
The principles and methods involved in the operation of the non-commercial theatre: organization, play selection, building an audience, publicity, advertising, graphic reproduction, ticket sales, box office routines, house management, touring, and business records.
Prerequisite: THA 110, with the exception of theatre arts majors and minors; junior standing. Offered Spring - Even Numbered Years.

THA 474 Cr.3

**Advanced Studies in Arts Administration**
This course will provide advanced study in specific competencies required of an arts administrator including legal issues, arts policy, and audience development through discussion and hands-on projects.
Prerequisite: THA 376 or THA 472. Offered Spring - Odd Numbered Years.

THA 481 Cr.1-3

**Independent Study**
Directed individual study under an assigned faculty member. Student is responsible for submitting study proposal for approval before registration. Repeatable for credit - no maximum. Prerequisite: junior standing. Consent of instructor. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

THA 482 Cr.1-3

**Special Topics Theatre Arts**
Workshops, directed individual readings, or projects involving significant content and/or activities not available through regular offerings within the Department of Theatre Arts. Repeatable for credit - no maximum. Consent of instructor. Offered Occasionally.

THA 490 Cr.3

**Capstone Project in Theatre Arts**
The Capstone project is an independent project that reflects the student’s knowledge and abilities in theatre arts. It should integrate knowledge from coursework with practical experience in theatre production, and may focus on research, design, technical theatre, performance, directing, management or other area within theatre arts. The project should involve significant research, preparation, and presentation. The project may involve work in production, or in more traditional research. The student is responsible for developing and submitting a proposal for approval one semester in advance, under advisement of a faculty member in theatre arts. Prerequisite: senior standing. Consent of instructor. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.