Theatre

Clyde Ruffin, Chair
College of Arts and Science
Rhynsburger Theatre
129 Fine Arts Center
(573) 882-2021
http://theatre.missouri.edu

The Department of Theatre offers students an appreciation of theatre as a fine art, sharpens the talents of those who seek careers in theatre and provides students with methods of stimulating and using their imagination and intensifying their communication skills.

The department offers BA, MA and PhD degrees with a major in Theatre. A minor is also available.

Faculty

Professor S. Burgoyne*, D. A. Crespy**, J. M. Miller*, C. Ruffin*
Associate Professor C. D. Black*, M. H. Carver*
Assistant Professor K. Brown**, B. Carlson
Assistant Teaching Professor J. A. Drtina, C. Gleason*

Associate Teaching Professor K. S. Packard*, R. D. Packard*
* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master’s thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.
** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

• BA in Theatre (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/theatre/ba-theatre)
• with emphasis in Design/Technical (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/theatre/ba-theatre-emphasis-designtechnical-theatre)
• with emphasis in Performance (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/theatre/ba-theatre-emphasis-performance)
• with emphasis in Writing for Performance (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/theatre/ba-theatre-emphasis-writing-performance)
• Minor in Theatre (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/theatre/minor-theatre)

Departmental Honors

To graduate with honors in theatre, a student must earn a minimum overall MU GPA of 3.3 and earn a minimum GPA of 3.5 in courses in theatre completed at the University of Missouri.

Double Majors

Many students in theatre choose either a double major or a minor in another area. In either case, the student must see a theatre advisor for approval.

Graduate

• MA in Theatre (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/theatre/ma-theatre)
• PhD in Theatre (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/theatre/phd-theatre)

Theatre Graduate Programs
College of Arts and Science
129 Fine Arts Center
573-882-2021
http://theatre.missouri.edu/

Director of Graduate Studies: Heather Carver

About the Department of Theatre

The MU Department of Theatre has a distinguished history that began shortly after 1900 when a small group of aspiring thespians resolved to enhance the cultural life of the campus by producing plays in an abandoned dining room in Lathrop Hall. In 1925, Professor Donovan Rhynsburger joined the MU faculty and established the Missouri Workshop Theatre. For over 85 years, the department has sustained a national and international reputation as a major center for theatre and performance scholarship and dramatic art production. In 2007 “Academic Analytics” ranked MU Department of Theatre #4 nationally for scholarly productivity in Theatre Literature, History, and Criticism (reported in Chronicle of Higher Education, November 11, 2007). MU Theatre offers graduate and undergraduate programs.

A professional faculty comprises internationally recognized scholars and artists who develop the talents, skills and knowledge of students by teaching them to combine scholarship with artistry. MU has consistently produced fine theatre and notable alumni, including Tennessee Williams, George C. Scott, Tom Berenger, Chris Cooper, Jon Hamm, Ethel Pitts Walker, and Barbara Molette. MU students have won the prestigious David Library Award seven times, several nationally coveted awards like the Mark Twain Comedy Prize, and departmental productions have been cited for national awards by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the National Communication Association, and the Association of Theatre in Higher Education. Graduate students in the department have won numerous campus, professional and national awards, fellowships and research grants for their scholarship and artistry. The department is proud of its legacy of artistic excellence and the enrichment it brings to the cultural life of the campus and community.

Facilities

Rhynsburger Theatre. Named after Donovan Rhynsburger, MU’s principal theatre for dramatic productions is in the Fine Arts Building, which also houses the music and art departments. The 278-seat proscenium theatre has a large stage and fly system with well-equipped costume and scenic shops located adjacent to the stage. The theatre houses faculty offices, classrooms, shops, dressing rooms and other production support spaces. Students interested in lighting and sound production will find a variety of equipment and modern control systems on which to learn their craft. We’re also thrilled to announce the addition of a new, state-of-the-art professional computer graphics lab in 2012.

Corner Playhouse. The Corner Playhouse provides an opportunity for students and faculty to present smaller, often more experimental productions in a flexible space. Seating up to 125, the theatre is designed to accommodate any stage configuration. Across the street from the
Rhynsburger Theatre, the Corner Playhouse also houses dressing rooms, graduate student offices and classrooms.

**Satisfactory Progress: General Guidelines for MA and PhD in Theatre**

**Probationary Status**

The following constitute grounds for placing a student on departmental probation:

- Earning a grade of C or below in any departmental course taken for graduate credit will result in probationary status. A grade of incomplete in any course will result in probationary status for the subsequent semester.
- Incomplete grades must be changed to a grade of A or B by the end of the probationary semester (dissertation research incompletes are evaluated as S/U until the dissertation is defended). Failure to comply in a satisfactory manner with all responsibilities related to graduate assistantships. Graduate students in our department are expected to conduct themselves in a manner reflecting the university’s commitment to professional integrity, collegiality, and good citizenship. Students who consistently fail to conduct themselves in this manner may be subject to probation or dismissal. In the case of each student on departmental probation, the director of graduate studies will confer with the advisor (in the case of an MA student), or the members of the program committee (in the case of a PhD student) to determine the grounds for removal of probation, and will communicate this decision to the student.

**Annual Review**

Each Fall semester the director of graduate studies convenes the Graduate Studies Committee to review the progress and performance of all graduate students.

Each graduate student in residence should meet with his or her advisor within the first two weeks of each semester to determine whether satisfactory progress has been maintained, and the advisor shall report the results of this meeting to the director of graduate studies.

**Losing & Regaining Financial Support**

Termination of departmental financial support will result if the student is considered to be making unsatisfactory progress and the student’s program may be terminated. Departmental financial support may be restored when the student has made satisfactory progress toward a graduate degree for one semester, has made an A or a B in all incomplete courses, and is judged to be off probation by the director of graduate studies.