

# THEATRE AND DANCE



Excellence in Action

## COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

The School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University offers comprehensive programs in its two divisions of Theatre and Dance leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts, Master of Fine Arts and Master of Arts.

The breadth of the program is suggested by its course offerings, which cover the areas in theatre of acting, directing, musical theatre, theatre history, criticism, script analysis, playwriting, technical production, scenery, lighting, costume design, make-up and theatre management. In dance, studies include modern dance, ballet, jazz, dance composition, dance education, dance history, dance notation and dance science. The school is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the National Association of Schools of Dance.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

The Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre studies offers a traditional liberal arts program with a major emphasis in theatre. Students pursuing the B.A. might pursue careers in secondary education; go on to graduate study in performance, design, management or scholarship; or use their skills in a wide variety of allied fields. No audition is required to enter the B.A. program.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is designed for students planning careers in professional theatre and dance venues or preparing for advanced study in performance or design. A significant commitment to intensive specialization is demanded of all students pursuing the B.F.A. In theatre, students choose a concentration in one of two areas: design/technology or musical theatre.

Students planning to pursue the design/technology program apply to the university as B.A. theatre majors, but indicate their interest in the B.F.A. degree at the time of enrollment. They are asked to enter a specific program of study beginning in the fall of the freshman year. During spring semester of the academic year, interviews are conducted and qualified students are formally admitted to the B.F.A. program. Progress toward the degree is closely monitored by the faculty through end-of-year reviews, and continuation in each successive year is based both on artistic and academic criteria.

Admission to the musical theatre program requires a successful audition in each of three performing areas: dance, music and theatre. Students audition prior to their freshman year and must display talent and training potential in at least two of the three areas. Students in the program are expected to pass specially prepared proficiency examinations in all three discipline areas at the end of their freshman, sophomore and junior years. Contact the Theatre Division for additional audition information.

Each of the B.F.A. programs asks students to participate regularly in performance and production activities in the school.

The B.F.A. in dance performance is designed for students aspiring to be dance professionals. The B.F.A. in dance education concentrates on dance teacher preparation leading to K-12 teacher licensure. Technique

classes in modern dance, jazz and ballet are strongly supported by courses in composition, dance theory, dance history and movement sciences. Additional coursework in theatre augments the performance aspects of this major. Auditions for acceptance to the major and minor are held during the fall and spring semesters. Contact the Dance Division for specific audition requirements.

The school proudly offers one of the country's only certificate programs in entertainment arts and technologies. Students may earn any of the following certificates within the B.A. in theatre or by themselves as a specially admitted nondegree student. Certificates are offered in sound, stage lighting, automated lighting and stage scenery. These unique certificates offer motivated students a distinct advantage in starting careers in the entertainment industry.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Theatre and dance majors are eligible for scholarships and other forms of financial assistance from a variety of sources. Creative Artists Awards are offered by the Honors College to recognize high school seniors possessing academic excellence and who demonstrate exceptional ability in the creative and performing arts. Theatre and dance awards are awarded to outstanding continuing students in the areas of academic excellence, performance and technical theatre.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**Theatre majors prepare to become directors, playwrights, technicians, designers, performers, producers or business managers in community theatres, educational theatres, professional theatres and community recreational programs. Employment opportunities include work in stage plays, motion pictures, television productions and commercials, industrial promotion shows, repertory and summer stock companies and dinner theatres. Theatre majors may also look toward teaching careers by pursuing certification through an appropriate graduate program.**

**Dance majors prepare to become professional dancers in modern dance, jazz and contemporary dance companies. Dance education majors are licensed to teach in the Ohio public schools K-12 and the private dance sector. In addition, all dance majors can further their academic education in the areas of performance, dance scholarships, dance therapy and arts administration by pursuing graduate study.**

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## FACULTY

Eighteen full-time faculty members and five to eight part-time instructors teach within the School of Theatre and Dance. The faculty includes teachers, performers, choreographers, designers, researchers, technologists and authors of national renown. Many faculty members have been awarded national recognition for their contributions to the performing arts. Accomplishments include: acting and design work in professional venues such as the Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Playhouse Square and Skylight Opera Theatre; choreography and performance with nationally acclaimed dance companies including the Jose Limon Dance Company, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre and The David Gordon/Pick Up Company; the publication of video materials, articles and books, including *Theatre Culture in America, 1825-1860* by Cambridge University Press and projects centered on entertainment arts and technology.

### THE ROE GREEN CENTER FOR THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE

New and renovated classrooms and laboratories include three dance studios, a lighting laboratory with intelligent lighting, dance rehabilitation studio, acting studios, props and crafts studio and welding laboratory.

### E. TURNER STUMP THEATRE

The 518-seat, continental-style theatre has housed major productions since 1960. The large trapped stage measures 100 feet by 45 feet with a gridiron height of 65 feet. Movable draperies accommodate both intimate and spectacular production. The Stump complex also includes costume construction and stage areas, production dressing rooms with makeup stations, light and sound control booth and a lobby with a box office.

### WRIGHT-CURTIS THEATRE

As the performance center of the experimental theatre/laboratory area, the 225-seat theatre utilizes movable seating, flexible traps and a catwalk system to provide variety in production from conventional thrust and arena configurations to those utilizing multiple vertical levels and acting areas. Performance can take place before, within, around, above and/or below the audience, thereby strengthening the emotional interaction between performer and spectator.

### BLACK BOX THEATRE

The flexible seating theatre seats up to 200 and serves as a multipurpose performance venue for student creative works. Throughout the academic year, theatre and dance students and faculty members gather in the Black Box Theatre for student-produced work including short presentations of outstanding classroom and experimental work by student dancers, choreographers, actors and directors.

## PORHOUSE THEATRE

Located at the gateway to the Blossom Music Center (near Akron), Porthouse Theatre serves as the home of the Porthouse Theatre Company, a professional Equity Company operated by the Kent/Blossom Theatre Program. The beautiful, covered pavilion arts center includes a 512-seat thrust theatre.

### THEATRE AND DANCE PRODUCTION

School of Theatre and Dance productions are coordinated with formal coursework in theatre and are directed and designed by students, faculty and guest artists. Students in any major can participate in school productions. Student directors, designers and choreographers are selected by the faculty on the basis of demonstrated ability. Weekly production meetings coordinate the efforts of directors, designers, technicians and management personnel and ensure adherence to the highest production standards.

### DANCE CONCERTS

Students majoring or minoring in dance are encouraged to audition for the annual faculty dance concert, as well as choreograph and perform in the student concerts. The school regularly hosts visiting professional choreographers. Additionally, the Kent Dance Ensemble offers students a pre-professional dance company experience. Dancers are selected through an audition process. The Kent Dance Ensemble tours Northeast Ohio through the year and performs in a full concert on the Kent Campus each year.

### KENT/BLOSSOM THEATRE

Kent/Blossom Theatre is a summer professional training program in all theatre areas that brings students from across the nation together as part of a professional company. At its center is Porthouse Theatre

Company, an Actors Equity theatre, in which professionals and talented students work side by side to create a festival of three productions, including musical theatre and American classics. Advanced Kent State students work in a variety of capacities within the Porthouse program as actors, managers, technicians and designers.

### ROE GREEN VISITING DIRECTOR SERIES

The school hosts a different visiting professional director each year to work with students on a theatre and dance production.

## Theatre and Dance

Music and Speech Building  
1325 Theatre Drive  
Theatre: 330-672-2082  
Dance: 330-672-2069  
www.theatre.kent.edu

## Admissions Office

Kent State University  
P.O. Box 5190  
Kent, OH 44242-0001  
330-672-2444  
1-800-988-KENT  
www.kent.edu/admissions

For information on all of Kent State's degrees and majors, go online to [www.kent.edu/gps](http://www.kent.edu/gps).