



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Studying theater is more than learning how to act, though the theater major is ripe with opportunities for becoming a skilled and educated performer. Learning about theater is about paying attention to the important issues in life. The theater program at Brandeis can help students make new discoveries and master new skills in dramatic literature, writing, craftsmanship, performing, and intellectual freedom and discourse. “The play is the thing,” as one professor often reminds us, quoting Shakespeare, and this sets the tone of the major because theater is about making a play come alive with intricate and bold messages. Our students are given an opportunity to participate in the art of theater in all its parts.

What makes the program distinctive?

Students can specialize in a particular area of theater performance or study a variety of methods. They can study acting, directing, dance and movement, theater literature, or stagecraft and design. Students can develop

their own material and perform their own work in campus theaters. Faculty members advise students regularly, and often students are offered internships and paid positions in theaters in Boston, the Berkshires and New York.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 67

Number of faculty: 10

Can you minor in this program? Yes

Emphasis within the major: close faculty interaction, experiential learning

Popular second majors: American studies, economics, education, English, Near Eastern and Judaic studies, psychology, women’s and gender studies

Website: brandeis.edu/departments/theater

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Faculty interaction

Many students have the opportunity to work professionally alongside faculty in the students' chosen fields. Students assistant-stage-manage, assist on designs, work in shops, and perform and dance alongside their teachers in a rich, pragmatic learning environment that is unlike any other.

Independent projects

We encourage our students to take on a senior thesis project, and many choose to write and create original work under faculty advisement. One student did an independent study on dance therapy and is now pursuing a degree in dance therapy from Tufts University.

Other opportunities

Almost all of the courses in theater arts are experiential by nature. Popular courses include "Suzuki" and "Collaborative Process." We offer guest artist workshops and classes with visiting directors, choreographers, actors and designers. Many of our students spent the summer working alongside professional theater artists at a variety of theater companies, most notably the Berkshire Theatre Festival.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Distinguished faculty

Brandeis theater faculty are recipients of awards, including the National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship; the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Sound Design; the "Best of Boston Theater 2007" award for "Macbeth"; and the Theodore and Jane Norman Fund for Faculty Research and Creative Arts Projects.

Brandeis Theater Arts Fellows

As one committed to exploring the connections between theater and social justice, **Zohar Fuller '10** spent her summer in India working on the creation and performance of a theater piece in partnership with poor communities in Mumbai. At the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge, Mass., **Hank Lin '10** trained in an ensemble, learned the intricacies of production and performed in one of the festival's three staged plays. **Aaron Arbiter '10** was selected to direct the Emerson Theater Collaborative's summer production "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" in an internship that combines hands-on directing responsibilities with supervision and instruction from experienced artists in

the environment of a professional theater company.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Study abroad

We encourage our students to take advantage of the study abroad program. England is an international leader in the drama education movement, so programs like the London theater study abroad program and the Globe Theater program in design and stage management are most popular. Students also have studied theater in South Africa, Russia, Ireland, Israel and Ethiopia.

Internship opportunities

Students have completed internships at New Repertory Theatre (theater education); Portland Stage Company, Maine (stage management); Barrington Stage Company (technical direction); Waltham Boys and Girls Club (youth theater education); Lost Nation, Vermont (stage management); Trinity Repertory Company, Providence (theater education); and SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston (general management and production).

AFTER BRANDEIS

Recent graduates

Gwen Tulin '06 is the artistic director of Brain Surgeon Theater, a Chicago theater company that creates original rock musicals, and she has directed and co-written several productions. **Samson Kohanski '08** is performing in the American Repertory Theater's long-running smash hit "The Donkey Show." **Sheldon Best '08** most recently was seen off-Broadway in "Freed." **Daniel Sack '02** is completing a doctorate in drama and has been published in TDR: The Drama Review, Theatre Journal and Theater magazine from Yale. **Gavi Young '09** interned with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and then worked as the special events assistant at Roundabout Theatre Company, one of New York's leading nonprofit theaters.

Notable alumni

Mary Faber '01 is currently starring on Broadway as Heather in Green Day's "American Idiot." **Rachel Reiner '97** was elected recently as co-president of the League of Professional Theatre Women, an international advocacy and networking organization for women in theater.

"When I think about being a theater major at Brandeis University, I think about passion. When you're there, you're surrounded by students passionate about the work they do, the classes they're taking and the global ensemble they hope to create. The faculty members care deeply about the students and fodder their enthusiasm with a true passion for passing along their love for the art. ... In the Brandeis theater department, there was never a day devoid of passionate creativity, discussion and learning."

A recent theater arts graduate



Photo by Ken Schles

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