

**University of Massachusetts
Amherst**

**Department of Theater
Handbook**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

UMass Theater: 7

THE DEPARTMENT 7
THEATERS: 7
MISSION: 7
FACULTY AND STAFF: 7

Bachelor of Arts Program: 8

AREAS OF STUDY: 8
AREAS OF CONCENTRATION: 8
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE: 8
ACADEMIC CHECKLISTS: 9
ACADEMIC ADVISORS: 11
REGISTERING FOR CLASSES: 11
PERMISSION TO REGISTER FORMS: 11
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS REPORT: 12
GRADUATION CLEARANCE: 12
WAITING LISTS FOR REQUIRED CLASSES: 12 SUBSTITUTION: 12
COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE AND THE HONORS PROGRAM: 12 DEPARTMENTAL
HONORS IN THEATER: 12
STUDYING ABROAD: 14
ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR NON-DEPARTMENTAL WORK: 15
UNDERGRADUATE ADVISORY COUNCIL: 15
THE FIVE COLLEGES: 15

Expectations and Policies: 16

ABSENCES AND LATENESS: 17
SUBSTANCE ABUSE: 17
REQUIRED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT: 17
CLASS AND CREW CANCELLATION: 18
OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT: 18
PHYSICAL CONTACT: 18
ACADEMIC GRIEVANCES 18
TITLE IX ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY: 19
MEDIA RECORDING AND BROADCAST GUIDELINES: 20

Safety First Policy: 21

BASIC SAFETY RULES: 21
STAGE COMBAT OR SPECIALIZED MOVEMENT: 22
SCENE SHOP POLICY: 22
COSTUME SHOP POLICY: 22
GENERAL ACCESS AND SECURITY POLICIES: 22
AFTER HOURS/WEEKEND USE: 24

Departmental Productions: 25

SEASON PRODUCTIONS: 25
SEASON SELECTION: 25
PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS: 25 AUDITIONS: 25
CALL BACKS: 26
CASTING: 26
CAST LISTS: 27
GUEST ARTISTS: 27
PRODUCTION CREW: 27
SCHEDULES: 27
REHEARSALS: 27
REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS: 28 PERFORMANCES: 28
BREAKS: 29
CURFEW: 29
COSTUMES: 29
MAKE-UP AND HAIR: 29
CALLBOARDS/BULLETIN BOARDS: 30
PHOTO CALLS AND ARCHIVAL VIDEOS: 30
PRODUCTION ATTENDANCE: 30
COMPLIMENTARY TICKET POLICY: 30

Use & Production Policies: Student-Initiated Projects: 32

STUDENT INITIATED PROJECTS: 32
PUBLICITY/TICKETS: 32
PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTIES: 32
REHEARSAL SPACE: 32
RESERVING A REHEARSAL ROOM: 32
CLASSROOM AND REHEARSAL ROOM CARE: 33
REHEARSAL FURNITURE: 33
FAC 204 SPACE AND RESOURCES: 33
FAC 204 TECHNICAL SUPPORT: 34
FAC 204 LIGHTING: 34
FAC 204 SOUND SYSTEM: 35
CURTAIN THEATER USE: 35
CURTAIN THEATER: SPACE AND RESOURCES: 35

CURTAIN THEATER FRONT OF HOUSE: 36
CURTAIN THEATER TECHNICAL SUPPORT: 36
CURTAIN THEATER LIGHTING AND SOUND SYSTEMS: 36

Departmental & University Services: 38

FINANCIAL AID: 38
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS: 38
WORK-STUDY AND NON-WORK-STUDY JOBS: 39
HEALTH CARE SERVICES: 39
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION: 40
WEBSITE, EMAIL, AND SOCIAL MEDIA: 41
BUILDING AND OFFICE USE: 41

Welcome.

The Theater Department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is a place where excellence is pursued, where mentorship matters, where quality counts. It's a place where lives are changed.

Theater offers a chance for building community, for coming together in our often impersonal world. The skills and values we teach— discipline, teamwork, communication, creative expression, collective problem-solving — are long-lasting and invaluable, whether you choose to work on stage, film, or TV, or to pursue a career in law, broadcasting, management, advertising, arts administration, teaching or social work .

The information in this handbook affects your day-to-day life as a Theater Major. Please read it. Being familiar with its contents and knowing that you can refer to it will make it easier to focus your attention on your reason for being here: your training in theater.

The quality of your experience here will depend largely on your willingness to participate in the work at hand and to engage with your peers and the faculty and staff. If the department is new to you, step out and introduce yourself. Start by contacting your advisor during the first few days of the semester. He or she will be glad to meet with you to answer questions or just to say hi and get acquainted. Take advantage of opportunities to meet people throughout the semester and to involve yourself in the life of the department.

Theater as a Space of Connection and Dialogue

During times of uncertainty and change, when people may be grieving and in turmoil, we, the members of the Department of Theater, believe theater is a place for finding inspiration and new ways to come together with others. Theater is a place where diverse and divergent ideas and perspectives can be shared and exchanged. In a climate of oppression and silence, we are committed, as artists, scholars, intellectuals, and activists to amplifying and affirming those perspectives.

In the aftermath of the election and the upheaval it has left in its wake, we make a commitment to be a welcoming space, on our stages and in our classrooms, to hold the vital conversations about what it means to live in this country and be a member of this society.

We promote an artistic and academic engagement that:

- Affirms and validates our shared humanity
- Respects all racial, ethnic, religious, gender, class, ability, and sexual identities
- Encourages empathy and compassion for all
- Practices human connection and engagement

Our doors are open to all members of the community who want to be a part of the conversation.

UMASS Theater

THE DEPARTMENT

Since 1972, the Theater Department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst has been a center for vibrant teaching and exceptional theater training. On the undergraduate level, the department offers a Bachelor of Arts, or B.A., in Theater. The department requires undergraduate majors to gain knowledge and experience in all facets of theater, with the opportunity to study and practice at advanced levels in specific areas of interest. The department offers courses in Acting, Directing, Play Analysis, Dramaturgy, Design, Theater Technology, Playwriting, and Stage Management. It also produces a full season of productions on our two stages, as well as many smaller productions in other venues both in the department and in the community.

Currently, the department counts about 150 majors. No audition is required for the major. Small classes allow maximum interaction between students and a world-class faculty. Professors are dedicated to teaching and committed to the highest professional standards. At the heart of it all is a creative, energetic student body.

On the graduate level, the Department offers the M.F.A. in Directing, Dramaturgy, Costume Design, Lighting Design, and Scenic Design. The program values personal mentorship and the production season serves as a teaching laboratory. In addition to the rigorous core curriculum, students can tailor their programs of study to individual interests. Most graduate students receive full tuition-waivers and assistantships during their three years at UMass.

THEATERS

The department has two major performance venues: the Rand, a 450-seat proscenium space, and the Curtain, a 100-seat black box. These theaters, along with our classrooms and studios, bustle throughout the year. We normally produce 4-6 fully mounted main stage shows annually, plus a number of special presentations and co-productions. Additionally, we host dozens of more informal lab offerings, along with many other classroom- or student-generated projects.

MISSION

Within the context of a broad-based liberal arts education, the Bachelor of Arts in theater at the University of Massachusetts Amherst offers an integrative, balanced program of studies that prepares students either to undertake specialized training for careers in theater or to draw upon their arts education in allied fields and pursuits. The master of fine arts program in theater prepares students to compete effectively for careers as directors, designers, and dramaturgs.

In both programs, a production season is central to the department's mission — providing not only a laboratory for arts instruction but a dynamic and multifaceted outreach component that enables the department both to draw upon and serve the larger community. The Theater Department is committed to the goal of cultural diversity and to the belief that a systematic study of theater in its many aspects can impart lifelong learning skills in creative problem-solving, effective teamwork, and interpersonal communications.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Browse profiles for faculty and staff on the [UMass Theater Website](#).

Curriculum

AREAS OF STUDY

The department requires students to gain knowledge and experience in all facets of theater, with the opportunity to study and practice at advanced levels in one or two specific areas of interest. The department offers courses in acting, directing, play analysis, dramaturgy, design, theater technology, stage management and playwriting. The department also has a full season of productions on our two stages as well as many smaller productions in other venues. Undergraduates are cast in most of these productions, often direct in the smaller venues, serve as construction and run crews, and have the opportunity to design departmental productions.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

While we offer a broad, liberal arts approach to our major, each Theater major selects an Area of Concentration based on their individual interests. These include Dramaturgy, Performance, and Design & Production.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR AND MINOR

For the B.A. degree in Theater, students must fulfill all University General Education requirements as well as appropriate requirements in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. In addition, Theater majors must complete at least 36 credits in theater. Theater minors must complete at least 16 credits in Theater. Requirements for both the Theater major and Theater minor follow.

UMass Theater Major Checklist

Advanced

1. DRAMATURGY

(12 Credits)

Prerequisite:

TH 120: Play Analysis for Theatrical Production
(every semester)

Three courses from four categories*

- Classical Repertory
- Renaissance & Neoclassical Repertory
- Modern Repertory
- Contemporary Repertory

2. PERFORMANCE

(9 credits)

Prerequisite:

TH 140: Fundamentals of Acting
(every semester)

Two of the following:

- TH 240: Beginning Voice (every semester)
- TH 341: Stage Movement (every semester)
- TH 342: Acting (every semester)
- TH 345: Directing (fall semester)
- TH 393N: Devised Theater (yearly)
- TH 440: Acting Shakespeare (yearly)
- TH 444: Performance in Detonated Language (yearly)
- TH 445: Directing II (spring semester)
- TH 493J: Musical Theater (every other year)
- TH 493W: Clown for the Actor (every other year)
- TH 494AI: Actor/Director Collaboration (yearly)

3. PRODUCTION

(9 credits)

Prerequisite:

TH 160: Beginning Techniques in Design
(every semester)

Two of the following:

- TH 360: Scenic Design (yearly)
- TH 361: Lighting Design (yearly)
- TH 362: Costume Design (yearly)
- TH 363: Sound Design I (yearly)
- TH 364: Stage Management (spring semester)
- TH 365: Technical Direction (yearly)

*One of the required courses must be a **design** course.

4. TAKE ONE ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OR PRODUCTION COURSE

(3 credits)

5. All **three** of the following (1 credit each):
(3 credits total)
(every semester)

- TH 110: Performance Management
- TH 110: Performance Management
- TH 110: Performance Management

TOTAL: 36 CREDITS

6. INTEGRATIVE EXPERIENCE (IE)

(3 credits: to fulfill UMass requirement, for all majors)

Any **one** of the following:

- TH 444: Performance in Detonated Language (yearly)
- TH 445: Directing II (spring semester)
- TH 460: Scene Design Studio (yearly)
- TH 461: Lighting Design Studio (yearly)
- TH 462: Costume Design Studio (yearly)
- TH 494AI: Actor/Director Collaboration (yearly)
- TH 494B: Performing Arts in South Africa – Grahamstown Arts Festival Course
- TH 494BI: The Art of Adaptation (every other year)

*See Dramaturgy Chart for breakdown of courses.

* Most 300-level Dramaturgy courses fulfill the Junior Year Writing Requirement.

* At least two upper-level Dramaturgy courses will be offered each semester.

UMass Theater Minor Checklist

1. TWO CLASSES FROM TWO OUT OF THE FOLLOWING THREE CATEGORIES (four courses total):

Dramaturgy

- TH 120: Play Analysis for Theatrical Production – 3 credits - **Prerequisite for all other dramaturgy courses** (every semester)
 - Classical Repertory – 3 credits
 - Renaissance & Neoclassical Repertory – 3 credits
 - Modern Repertory – 3 credits
 - Contemporary Repertory – 3 credits

*See Dramaturgy Chart on back of sheet for breakdown of courses. At least two upper-level Dramaturgy courses will be offered each semester.

Performance

- TH 140: Fundamentals of Acting (or 190EH) — 3 credits - **Prerequisite for all other performance courses** (every semester)
 - TH 240: Beginning Voice – 3 credits (every semester)
 - TH 293B: Brown Paper Studio – 3 credits (yearly)
 - TH 341: Stage Movement – 3 credits (every semester)
 - TH 342: Acting – 3 credits (every semester)
 - TH 393N: Devised Theater – 3 credits (yearly)
 - TH 493J: Musical Theater – 3 credits (every other year) – by instructor permission

Production

- TH 160: Beginning Techniques in Design – 3 credits (every semester)
 - TH 360: Scenic Design – 3 credits (yearly)
 - TH 361: Lighting Design – 3 credits (yearly)
 - TH 362: Costume Design – 3 credits (yearly)
 - TH 363: Sound Design I – 3 credits (yearly)
 - TH 364: Stage Management – 3 credits (spring)
 - TH 365: Technical Direction – 3 credits (yearly)

2. ONE SEMESTER OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT:

- TH 110: Performance Management: one credit (every semester)

3. ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE

Any other 3- or 4-credit course within the Theater Department (including Theater's general education courses, Theater 100, Theater 105 and Theater 130 that do not count towards the major)

- Additional Elective (Any course in the Theater Department) – 3 or 4 credits

TOTAL: 16 CREDITS

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

On joining the Theater major, all undergraduates are assigned an academic advisor. Your advisor is listed on your SPIRE student center page on the lower right-hand side. If it is not listed, email Professor Gilbert McCauley, Undergraduate Program Director, at gilmac@theater.umass.edu and he will assign you an advisor. You can also switch advisors by obtaining the permission of your new advisor, and speaking to the department's Administrative Assistant, Bethany Sherwood.

During Registration, your academic advisor in the Theater Department will post an advising sign-up sheet on their office door. Incoming students are given a SPIRE ID and informed of the date and time for advising in July or January.

Get to know your advisor. Faculty advisors post office hours on their office doors and can make special appointments if necessary. Take advantage of your advisor's experience and knowledge of the University. Your advisor wants to help, and your visits will not be perceived as intrusions. Stop in during their office hours or email them to make an appointment. Faculty advisors monitor academic progress and review your remaining degree requirements each semester. However, you are responsible for maintaining your progress and fulfilling degree requirements.

REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

Incoming First Year, Sophomore, and Transfer students MUST meet with their advisor each semester before registering for courses, and will not be able to register without their advisor releasing the hold on SPIRE. Incoming Junior and Senior students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisors prior to registering for courses.

Enrollment in some upper-level theater courses is by consent of instructor. It is not possible to register for those courses on SPIRE. Contact the instructor and arrange to meet with him or her. If you are permitted to take the course, fill out a Permission to Register form and ask the professor to sign it. Submit the signed form to the department Administrative Assistant, Bethany Sherwood. If space is not available in a course due to enrollment limits, instructors can create a waiting list for students who wish to be enrolled.

PERMISSION TO REGISTER FORMS

Permission to Register forms are found on the academic bulletin board and in the main office. Any course that lists "instructor consent required" on SPIRE will require you to complete a Permission to Register form and obtain the instructor's consent in order to enroll. You must meet with the course's instructor in person to obtain their consent, and to have them sign the form.

Additionally, if a course has reached its enrollment capacity, an instructor may allow you into the class, and can indicate so on your Permission to Register form. Please return all completed and signed Permission to Register forms to the main office for processing.

NOTE: As a full-time undergraduate student, you may not exceed a credit load of **nineteen credits per semester** without getting approval for a credit overload. If you exceed your credit limit, you can request a unit overload at the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Advising Center, E202 South College.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS REPORT

Additional information on fulfilling degree requirements can be found by checking your Academic Requirements Report on SPIRE. This report specifies all of your University, College, and Major requirements, indicates whether or not you have met them and, if not, what you need to do to meet them. Any further questions about degree requirements should be directed to the Humanities and Fine Arts Advising Center located in E202 South College.

GRADUATION CLEARANCE

The Registrar's Office certifies completion of University requirements and clears students for graduation; undergraduate deans and chief undergraduate advisors authorize this clearance for College, major, and minor requirements. During your second junior year semester, check with the Registrar's Office to make sure that all your requirements for graduation have been or are being met.

WAITING LISTS FOR REQUIRED CLASSES

Department and University courses tend to fill up quickly. Courses on SPIRE list the number of possible spaces in each course, as well as the number of available spaces left. If there is a course you want to take that is already full, and listed as "closed" on SPIRE, it may still be possible to put your name on a waiting list. When searching for courses on SPIRE, uncheck the "show only open courses" search option in order to view waitlisted courses, and then click "add to waitlist" on the course you hope to take.

SUBSTITUTION

On rare occasions, another UMass or Five College course may be substituted for a course required of majors. Such substitutions must have the approval of a faculty member in the area being substituted; once this approval is obtained, that faculty member will alert the department administrative assistant to process a Degree Audit Exception form.

Courses taken while studying abroad should also be cleared in advance with your advisor and a faculty member in that area if such courses are to fulfill major requirements.

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE AND THE HONORS PROGRAM

The Theater Department has an Honors track, and all Theater majors in Commonwealth College (UMass Honors College) are encouraged to pursue departmental honors. With a high enough GPA and sufficient advance planning, students may join Commonwealth Honors College and graduate with Honors even if they were not admitted to Commonwealth Honors College at the time they entered UMass. To graduate with Honors in Theater, a student must complete all of the requirements for Commonwealth Honors College, along with two honors courses in theater and one six-credit Capstone Experience. These Capstone experiences may involve writing and producing an original play, undertaking an advanced production assignment, or engaging in an intensive research project. Ambitious and innovative senior Capstone projects are a highlight of the department's "laboratory" season. It is essential that you meet with the department's Honors Advisor, Judyie Al-Bilali early in your academic career to keep the option for this track open to you.

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS IN THEATER

COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS (HN-CCDEPT)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- To participate in Commonwealth College Departmental Honors, students must be members in good standing of Commonwealth Honors College with the ability to complete 45 graded (not pass/fail) credits in residence (registered at UMass Amherst, not transferred);
- Students must meet with the Departmental Honors Coordinator, Judyie Al-Bilali (jalbilali@theater.umass.edu) to discuss requirements and departmental opportunities. The Coordinator will sign a **Change of Major** form initiating a change to Theater Commonwealth College Departmental Honors (THEATR HN-CCDEPT) to indicate an intention to admit the students to the THEATR DH track;
- The **Change of Major** form must be co-signed at the Commonwealth Honors College Office to finalize admission to the track.

Completion of Commonwealth College honors course requirements as specified on the student's Commonwealth College contract. The following honors courses are required unless accommodations are contracted in the student's Commonwealth Honors College file:

- ENGLWP 112H or approved substitution with grade of B or better (or exemption)
- GenEd honors course with grade of B or better
- GenEd "I" honors course with grade of B or better
- Deans Book Series with grades of B or better
- 1 THEATER Honors course any level with grade of B or better
- 1 THEATER Honors course 300-level or higher with grade of B or better
- Capstone Experience: Option A , B or C below, with grades of B+ or higher earned in both parts and on the archive document for Magna; A- or higher in both parts and on the archive document for Summa*

CE Option A	CE Option B	CE Option C
<p>Independent Capstone sequence (6 credit minimum)*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ THEATER 499Y ▪ THEATER 499T (Thesis) or THEATER 499P (Project) 	<p>THEATR Course Capstone sequence (6 credit minimum)*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ THEATER 499_ ▪ THEATER 499_ <p>(Underscore represents an alpha assigned to each 499 sequence, e.g., 499C and 499D)</p>	<p>Other 6 credit Course Capstone 499 sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a substantial theater or performance component • Must be approved by the DH Coordinator and ComCol advisor via a Commonwealth College "Petition" form.

For more information, visit Commonwealth College's website at <http://honors.umass.edu>

STUDYING ABROAD

The International Programs Office can help you discover ways to expand your UMass Amherst education to include education in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. There are programs for full-year, semester, summer and short-term study in virtually all fields.

For more information on studying abroad, see the International Programs Office website at <https://www.ipu.umass.edu/>

ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR NON-DEPARTMENTAL WORK

Any requests to receive independent study or practicum credit for work done outside the department must be submitted in writing, **prior** to the experience, through your academic advisor. These requests must be approved by that advisor as well as a faculty or staff member in the area of study. Theater 110 and Theater 210 are used strictly for department work assignments/roles.

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Undergraduate Advisory Council is made up of Theater majors in their junior or senior year who act as liaisons between the undergraduate student body and the faculty. They serve as peer advisors to first-year and transfer students, facilitate meetings designed to allow students to voice their concerns, and play an important part in welcoming prospective students and their families to the Theater Department by leading tours and representing the department at theater major recruitment events.

THE FIVE COLLEGES

The University of Massachusetts is located only a few miles away from Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and Hampshire College, four highly regarded liberal arts schools. There is a rich tradition of cultural and academic exchange between the schools. Any UMass student can audition for any Five College production and, with consent of the instructor, register for any Five College class.

For more information see the Five College website at www.fivecolleges.edu/theater.

Expectations and Policies

EXPECTATIONS

The department has high expectations for its majors and minors, challenging them to meet rigorous standards in preparation for academic and professional success.

You will not have any unexcused absences, lateness, disorderly behavior, or poor attitude in classes, meetings, rehearsals, technical calls, performances or department events. Remember that in theater, your reputation precedes you.

You will be professional in attitude, approach, and dedication. Personal problems, prejudices, and personality differences are incompatible with the nature and spirit of theater as collaborative art and work.

You will work hard all the time—as opposed to whenever you feel like it or whenever it is convenient—at whatever you do. Do your share, do it well, and do it willingly. Know that you are engaged in an art and a craft that is special. Take as much pride in the process as you do in the product.

You will be prepared, organized and focused in order to achieve your goals. A plan, a set of objectives, and an idea of how to achieve those objectives will go a long way in advancing your study.

You will be open, honest and positive in your collaborations. Remember that everyone is striving toward the same goal.

You will have a sense of humor. Being able to laugh at yourself is an invaluable skill.

ABSENCES AND LATENESS

The Theater Department enforces a strict policy on attendance and punctuality. Chronic absence and/or lateness is not tolerated.

Discuss absences or lateness with the instructor in person, by phone or email, never through a second party. Unavoidable emergencies will be handled on an individual basis. The instructor will determine whether or not an absence meets the University's guidelines and is reasonable/acceptable. The instructor will decide whether or not to allow you to make up the missed work. Absences due to religious observance are always excused under these guidelines. Absences or lateness for crews, rehearsals and performances are considered serious breaches of

professional conduct and may result in class failure or dismissal from the project.

From the University's Academic Regulations handbook: "Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes at the University for which they are registered...faculty members are allowed to drop students who are absent from the first two class meetings and have failed to make special arrangements with the instructor. However, students should be aware that non-attendance is not a means of automatically dropping a course."

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES. Familiarize yourself with the University policies on class absences.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Anyone who is incapacitated for work or performance in a class, rehearsal, or production due to alcohol, drugs, or other non-medical reasons will be privately warned by the immediate supervisor, who will make a confidential report to the department chair and to your academic advisor. Substance abuse will result in serious consequences, including removal from class, a performance, and/or the program.

Substance abuse is a very serious infringement of **BOTH** department policy and the UMass Student Code of Conduct. This type of behavior also violates basic standards in the profession and puts classmates and company members at risk.

If the stage manager becomes aware of an impaired company member, the stage manager holds the authority to immediately dismiss said company member from production activities and to notify both the production manager and department chair for further action.

Make sure to read the University of Massachusetts' alcohol and drug policies.

REQUIRED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

All theater majors need to have a working flashlight and a full set of black clothing for running shows. Please include a black long sleeved shirt, long black pants, black socks and black, soft-soled, closed-toe shoes that cover the entire foot.

Women taking upper-level acting courses should have a long skirt (hem length one inch above the floor) and character shoes. Men should have a sport jacket and dress shoes (preferably with a rubber dance sole).

Other suggested equipment: an architect's scale rule, safety glasses, a twenty-five foot tape measure, and a crescent wrench. All students in performance should have a personal theatrical make-up kit. Students will be given information about other supplies and equipment needed for classroom and production work as they progress through the program.

Front of house crew members will be provided with a UMass Theater T-shirt. They are asked to wear black pants or skirts. These should not be athletic-wear (sweats, gym shorts, running tights) so as to present a more professional image. A cardigan or blazer can be worn over the T-shirt on cold days. For shoes, non-athletic shoes are preferred, if possible.

CLASS AND CREW CANCELLATION

You should always assume that a class, crew, or rehearsal is to be held as announced unless an advance notice has been posted on the callboard, on the door of the classroom, studio, theater or lab, or unless you have heard from your instructor or stage manager. If not posted, you should wait fifteen minutes beyond the announced starting time, after which you can assume that the activity is canceled. In the case of inclement weather, the Theater Department follows the University's closing policy. If UMass Amherst closes, Theater Department events including performances, rehearsals, and special events will be canceled.

If inclement weather is expected on a weekend or in the evening, check the department website at www.umass.edu/theater/season.php, our Facebook group, or call 413-545-3490 or 413-545-6808. Company members in rehearsal or performance should check with their stage manager for cancellation status.

If a ticketed event is canceled, please contact the box office at 413-545-2511 to exchange your ticket for a different performance date, as available.

University cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced on the main UMass Amherst website.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

If you are employed in part-time, work-study or any outside job, you are expected to fulfill the same academic and production requirements as all other theater students. It is your responsibility to manage your time so that you are able to meet all of your academic and production commitments while avoiding conflicts with outside commitments.

PHYSICAL CONTACT

Many classes in the theater program require physical contact and you should be aware that you may be physically touched by others in the class and/or by your instructor or director. If you have any apprehensions about physical contact you are encouraged to discuss them beforehand with the instructor or director.

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCES

If you have questions, comments, complaints, or concerns, you are encouraged to talk directly to your advisor. If he or she can't help you, they will help you find someone who can. If you cannot find a resolution at the department level, the University of Massachusetts has established an academic grievance procedure for providing undergraduate students with a fair, reasonable, and efficient method of addressing academic grievances. A copy of the procedure may be obtained from the Ombuds Office, the Provost's Office, or the office of the Student Government Association.

TITLE IX ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Title IX is a U.S. law that prohibits discrimination in education on the basis of gender. A particular focus of Title IX is the prevention of sexual misconduct on college campuses. "Sexual misconduct" includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, and stalking.

To create a caring and compassionate University culture, it is important for all of us to understand the resources that are available and our Title IX reporting responsibilities. Sexual misconduct harms its victims and the entire campus community; it is in the interest of all of us to prevent such offenses.

As a student, you or a peer may be a potential target of Title IX-related violations. If you are also a graduate student employee, you have Title IX reporting obligations as well. Under federal law, graduate student employees who are made aware of a possible incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or any other kind of sexual misconduct are required to report it.

If you or someone you know needs to report a possible Title IX offense, please follow these procedures: Make sure all these people/numbers are correct.

- If the accused is a student, the report should be made to Patricia Cardoso, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Dean of Students Office (DOSO): 227 Whitmore Administration Building, telephone (413)545-2684 or email at pcardoso@stuaf.umass.edu.
- If the accused is an employee, the report should be made to Kelly Burgess, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (EOD): 243 Lederle GRC Lowrise, telephone (413) 545-3464 or email at kellyb@admin.umass.edu.

Graduate student employees are not confidential reporters and cannot guarantee confidentiality to anyone reporting a Title IX issue. If a student or employee asks to discuss such a matter in confidence, graduate student employees must state that they may not be able to maintain confidentiality. If you are approached regarding a possible Title IX violation, you might respond in this manner: “While I’m not a confidential source, I respect your privacy rights and will work with the campus Title IX coordinator and other resource areas to provide support.”

If the individual reporting the incident to you chooses not to continue the conversation, you should encourage them to contact the Dean of Students Office, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the UMass Police Department (UMPD), the Center for Women and Community (CWC), or the Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (CCPH). UMPD, CWC, and CCPH are permitted to maintain confidentiality.

Failing to report a possible Title IX offense deprives the campus community of valuable information and will not help victims/survivors to get the resources they need.

You can find extensive additional information about Title IX and the University’s resources and policies by navigating to the UMass [Title IX webpage](http://www.umass.edu/titleix), <http://www.umass.edu/titleix>.

MEDIA RECORDING AND BROADCAST GUIDELINES

There are many reasons for capturing elements of our rehearsal and performances in various media: for our archives, as part of dramaturgical work, for outreach, and for publicity.

There are also legitimate concerns about said recording, including but not limited to privacy, rights, and technical logistics.

In order to balance both sides of the issue, the Department of Theater offers the following guidelines for media recording, including but not limited to videotape, photography and audio recordings.

Video and Audio Recording

The Department follows Actors Equity rules in regard to video and audio recording of any footage of the production, including rehearsals and performances.

Of particular note (items in italics taken from Actors Equity Association):

During a rehearsal:

(a) Starting with the first day of rehearsal through the official opening or one week following the first paid public performance, whichever is earlier, regularly scheduled rehearsals may be captured for up to four consecutive hours per day one day per week. Any capture or part thereof shall constitute a full four-hour block.

Upon contemplation of capture during a rehearsal, the Theatre shall make every reasonable effort to give the cast 24 hours' notice.

If the time of the capture is changed, the Theatre shall notify the cast of such change and of the rescheduled time.

There may be no capture of nudity.

The intent of these rules is to protect process as well as privacy. While in some cases the logistics of the various participants (i.e., a long-distance collaborator) may necessitate a bending of the guidelines below, a constant video/audio recording presence in the production process (including production meetings, rehearsals, builds, etc.) is discouraged as potentially inhibiting to the creative process.

Provisions applicable to both Performance and Rehearsal:

No more than 15 minutes of edited performance and/or rehearsal footage per production captured by the Theatre or a third party directly engaged by the Theatre shall be used. The edited footage/material MAY depict an entire scene or musical number EXCEPT WHERE PRODUCTION RIGHTS ARRANGEMENTS PROHIBIT DOING SO.

Production members responsible for filming, taping and/or publicizing footage should be aware that most rights agreements prohibit or severely restrict use of filmed dialogue or music.

Archival recordings

The Theater Department records every production for archival purposes. These recordings may be viewed for educational/research purposes by department members and members of the production but cannot be publicly broadcast in any medium in their entirety, nor are DVDs available for sale. The recording cannot leave the building and may not be duplicated except by special arrangement.

Production members may also capture their own archival footage at the dress rehearsal so long as it does not interfere with the rehearsal, performance, or professional archiving. The production

manager and public relations director must be informed of students' videography plans 24 hours in advance so that videographers' positions can be worked out to avoid conflict.

Videography by production members during performances is **strongly** discouraged. If it is deemed necessary, the production staff must be consulted in advance and will determine the best position for said photographer not to disturb the audience. House management may make adjustments to said position depending on the audience situation as it develops during a show, and has the authority to ask the videographer to move or leave if they are disruptive.

Videographers who are not cleared by the production manager in advance will not be permitted.

Media organizations

A news organization or media company may only capture up to 30 minutes of rehearsal and up to 30 minutes of performance per production. No more than three minutes of edited performance or rehearsal footage that is captured by news organizations or media companies may be broadcast. Such broadcast may not depict an entire scene or musical number.

Every attempt must be made to inform actors and crewmembers 24 hours in advance of any media organizations' presence in our department. Students, staff and faculty members may request not to be video or audio-recorded and should inform both the reporter and the stage manager/production manager on site of that request. Students who are under 18 years of age should not be filmed unless the university or department has obtained permission from parents to do so.

There may be no capture of nudity by any videographer.

BASIC SAFETY RULES

The faculty and staff are committed to working with you to ensure your safety as you develop your skills as a theater professional. We require that each student complete the Department Safety Workshop to introduce or reaffirm a solid foundation of safe work concepts, policies and practices as you engage in practical participation in laboratory classes and work assignments.

1. You must take primary responsibility for your own safety.
2. Refrain from any unsafe act that might endanger yourself or your fellow workers.
- 3. If you don't know what you are doing--don't do it.** Faculty and staff members are here to show you how. Never hesitate to ask a question. Stopping work to verify procedure is a much better option than stopping work to administer first aid, repair equipment and reorder supplies.
4. Report any unsafe circumstances to a supervisor or production manager. Report any unauthorized use of tools or work area to a supervisor.
5. Unsafe work practices can be the result of misinformation, no information, carelessness, negligence and worst of all, wanton disregard for rules and regulations.
6. NEVER WORK ALONE.

7. If in doubt, ask. If still in doubt, keep asking.

STAGE COMBAT OR SPECIALIZED MOVEMENT

If a production calls for stage combat or specialized movement, **do not attempt this type of staging without professional support.** If you do not feel safe, talk to the stage manager and director. If you are not able to resolve the matter in rehearsal, speak with Julie Fife, production manager, or Harley Erdman, department chair.

SCENE SHOP POLICY

Any use of the scene shop space or its tools must be supervised by scene shop staff. **No one is to work alone in the scene shop at any time.** Students intending to work in the scene shop must first complete a tool orientation with scene shop staff. Scene shop lab hours are from 1:00pm to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The scene shop door is to remain locked at all times.

COSTUME SHOP POLICY

Students may use the costume shop facilities with permission from the costume shop manager. Always get training before using any equipment in the costume shop and never work alone.

Costume Shop Vent Hood

In our Laundry room we have a Vent Hood. All theater students are welcome to use it. This safety equipment has a fan that sucks away contaminated air. Use this hood whenever using powdered dyes, leather dye, spray paint, spray glue or any other product you may be concerned with. Always get oriented with the vent hood before your first use. There are instructions mounted on the hood as well.

Costume Shop Emergency Eye Wash and Shower

Located in the Laundry room are an Emergency Eye Wash and an Emergency Shower. All students are welcome to use these safety devices.

GENERAL ACCESS AND SECURITY POLICIES

- DO NOT PROP OPEN DOORS. Please arrange attended access for members of your group.
- ENSURE THAT ALL DOORS CLOSE SECURELY BEHIND YOU.
- DO NOT WORK ALONE IN THE BUILDING.
- Report locking and closure problems to Julie Fife, production manager.

EXTERIOR BUILDING ACCESS AND SECURITY

- During the academic year, the building is open weekdays from 7:00 am to 12:00am, and on weekends from 9:00am am to 11:00pm. Please note that for weekend and holiday access the points of entry are the Pond Door and the SW door leading to the sound lab and the

art bridge. Please direct students and collaborators to appropriate entry doors and help us ensure that all other doors are secure and not propped open. **ALL OTHER EXTERIOR DOORS MUST BE SECURE AT ALL TIMES.**

- EXTERIOR DOORS MUST CLOSE SECURELY BEHIND YOU.
- RAND LOBBY DOORS SHOULD REMAIN CLOSED AND LOCKED.

SHOPS/THEATERS AND SUPPORT SPACES ACCESS AND SECURITY

- WORK SPACES MUST BE SECURED WHEN UNATTENDED.
- All work areas should be secured at the end of the workday. If access is needed to a shop or work area for rehearsal or performance call, stage managers and crew chiefs are responsible for providing access and securing the space after hours.

UPPER RAND LOBBY ACCESS AND SECURITY

- RAND LOBBY DOORS MUST REMAIN CLOSED AND LOCKED THROUGHOUT THE DAY.
- Students may access the Upper Rand Lobby via the marked path in the backstage area. Students are not to walk across the Rand Stage.

THEATER ACCESS DURING REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

- Stage Managers/House Managers will unlock theaters and select access doors prior to rehearsal and performance calls.
- Crew Chiefs are responsible for access and security for crew work areas.
- Stage Management Teams/House Managers will complete a security walk and check list at the conclusion of each rehearsal and performance.

AFTER HOURS/WEEKEND USE

Please ensure everyone's safety by strictly following these procedures.

- DO NOT PROP OPEN LOCKED DOORS.
- DO NOT WORK ALONE IN THE BUILDING.
- NEVER HANDLE A SUSPICIOUS SITUATION YOURSELF.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES, PERSONS OR SITUATIONS TO CAMPUS SECURITY (413-545-2121).

DEPARTMENTAL PRODUCTIONS

SEASON PRODUCTIONS

Every year the department produces a season of fully mounted Main Stage productions as well as a number of special presentations and co-productions. Our main stage productions are produced in the Rand and Curtain Theaters, and occasionally in non-tradition spaces.

Undergraduates perform as actors or work in production activities behind the scenes. They may assist the graduate students, faculty members and guest artists, or may serve as directors, designers and dramaturgs in their own right. Participation is open to all University students, as well as to students at other area colleges and members of the community. Theater majors are also free to audition for other productions in the area, on other campuses, or under any auspices other than the Department of Theater.

The department also has a very active season of laboratory projects. The Student Works Series is a curated season of student initiated and produced presentations.

SEASON SELECTION

This season is carefully planned to meet the needs of undergraduate and graduate students and to give faculty members a chance to exercise their creative talents. Guest artists are frequent collaborators. The season is planned to be diverse, offering students a chance to work on both classics and new plays. All styles and genres are represented on stage.

Students are welcome to submit proposals for Main Stage and independent presentations, as well as apply to be members of the department's Season Selection committee.

PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS

Faculty advisors in the area of concentration make production assignments for Department of Theater shows.

Students involved in advanced construction and management assignments may receive class credit or, in the case of some design and technical classes, credit toward required lab-work.

AUDITIONS

All Theater majors and minors are welcome and encouraged to audition.

Most casting is determined by open auditions. Notices detailing the time, place, and specific requirements of each audition will be posted, as far in advance as circumstances permit, on the department website, on the call board and via posted flyers. Audition information will be posted at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled audition.

The director will specify on the audition notice what preparation is appropriate for the audition. Usually, actors are asked either to prepare a monologue or to read from the script. In either case,

it is in your best interest to be as familiar as possible with the play. QR codes for script downloads are available in the front office (FAC 112) and on the callboard.

Often a director or a member of the performance faculty leads an audition workshop before the auditions. Take advantage of this opportunity to work on your audition!

Sign up online for an audition via the QR code for auditions on the callboard, and arrive at the audition site well ahead of the scheduled time. Students who arrive after their scheduled time may not be allowed to audition.

CALL BACKS

After open auditions are complete, the stage manager will post the call-back sheet on the production callboard. If you are called back, you are expected to initial next to your name to acknowledge the call back.

CASTING

The Department of Theater is committed to racial, cultural and individual diversity. Casting for all department-sponsored productions is open to any student, staff, or faculty member of the Five College Consortium, any member of the community, or any invited guest artist regardless of race, ethnic origin, ability, sexual orientation or gender identification. Equal-opportunity casting is encouraged.

Unless otherwise arranged **prior** to auditioning, individuals who audition **will accept any assignment as cast.**

Before auditioning, you are cautioned that over-extension may hinder your creative and academic growth. It is recommended that you seek advice from your academic advisor or other professors, or acting teachers, as appropriate, about auditioning for more than one assignment per semester.

Our experience has shown that having cast members in shows with overlapping rehearsal and/or performance schedules is complicated and disruptive to both shows.

Casting decisions will result in a production's exclusive service of the actor when rehearsal/performance periods overlap.

Cast members are still welcome to be in multiple shows whose rehearsal schedules do not overlap.

NOTE: This does NOT mean that actors cannot audition for all the shows -- just that they will have to consider their options and limitations wisely when deciding which show, if any, to list as a preference. In the case that a preference is not expressed, students will accept the role they are offered.

If the director, in concert with his or her advisors, determines that a suitable cast cannot be selected from those who have auditioned, auditions may be extended beyond the original schedule or the director may cast an actor from outside of the original pool of auditioning actors. Extending auditions or casting outside the original audition pool can occur only with the authorization of the department chair.

The department chooses plays each year with the intention of casting as many Theater majors as possible. However, no actor is guaranteed a role in any play.

CAST LISTS

Cast lists will be posted on the department bulletin board. Read and react to the cast list in a professional manner. Initial your name if cast. If you feel it is necessary to discuss your audition, ask the person responsible for casting to discuss it with you, not to defend it to you.

GUEST ARTISTS

As appropriate, a faculty member or guest artist may be cast in a role, giving students the opportunity to work and learn alongside professionals. This is done in consultation with the department chair and the performance faculty.

PRODUCTION CREW

Production and house staffing for season shows is managed through TH 110: Performance Management. This laboratory class is designed to provide practical production experience, including experience working on build crews, run crews, front of house staff and publicity crews. Specific crew assignments are determined by the production manager.

TH 110 is a one-credit course for which you are given a letter grade. Majors are required to successfully complete three credits of TH 110.

A mandatory organizational meeting for TH 110 is held at the beginning of each semester, in the Rand Theater. The precise date for this meeting will be posted on the course schedule for each semester, and is usually the first Monday after the start of classes.

TH 110 is open to all interested students.

SCHEDULES

The stage manager will post the daily call on the production callboard, and via email, by 9:00am on the day of the call. You are responsible for knowing your rehearsal and production calls.

REHEARSALS

Main stage productions typically rehearse for 6 to 9 weeks. A rehearsal week can include up to 20 hours of rehearsal scheduled over 5 days. Each production has two full technical rehearsal days, typically the Saturday and Sunday prior to opening. These days begin at 9:00am and end at midnight. Technical/Dress rehearsals continue on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings prior to opening. Weeknight rehearsal and performance calls typically begin at 5:30pm and end no later than midnight. Preview performances are offered on Thursday night. Productions open on Friday night.

Punctuality is crucial. As a theater professional, you should be present, properly dressed, and ready to carry out your responsibilities at your call time. Actors should complete personal warm-ups, and technicians should arrive with all appropriate tools, working flashlight included.

If you must be late or absent, it is imperative that you notify the stage manager as soon as possible. Neither lateness nor absence is taken lightly, and may affect your participation and grade.

Chronic lateness may be grounds for dismissal from the production. If your involvement in the production is part of a lab or a class, your grade will be lowered at the discretion of the production manager. If you accumulate a combined lateness of thirty minutes, you may fail the lab work and/or be ineligible for academic credit for the work experience.

Stage managers are required to include the names of actors and crew members who are absent or late in their daily rehearsal reports, which are emailed to theatre faculty and staff.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

BE PREPARED to do whatever is scheduled at that rehearsal. Actors should memorize lines promptly, analyze scenes in advance, and have your body and voice warmed up when it is time to begin work. Technical staff should anticipate and be prepared for the work of the rehearsal.

DO NOT DISTRACT from rehearsal activity—minimize noise and movement.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES: NO ONE is permitted to eat anything or drink anything other than bottled water in our theater spaces. If you must eat in a rehearsal room or classroom, do so during a break, and never during scene work. Place all refuse in trash or recycling receptacles.

HAVE PERMISSION BEFOREHAND to visit a rehearsal because a difficult scene may be scheduled and a new face might be distracting to the actors or director. As a visitor, be unobtrusive. A rehearsal is not a social gathering.

DO NOT LEAVE A REHEARSAL until you are dismissed by the stage manager.

LEAVE YOUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND PREJUDICES outside of rehearsals.

KEEP YOURSELF PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY FIT. Keep your priorities in order; learn to manage your time. Pay attention to your academic commitments and to your life, including sleeping, bathing and socializing. Physical and emotional health promote creativity.

TAKE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY. If a production calls for stage combat or specialized movement, do not attempt this type of staging without professional support. **NOTE:** If you do not feel safe, please voice your concern to the stage manager and director. If you are not able to resolve the matter in rehearsal, please speak with Julie Fife, production manager or Harley Erdman, department chair.

REHEARSAL REQUIRES ENERGY. Work hard in every rehearsal; you are a collaborator, too. Be prepared to bring your contributions to the work.

ALLOW FOR CREATIVE RISKS in the rehearsal room. As a member of the production, you should feel emotionally safe and comfortable expressing your ideas without fear of judgment.

PERFORMANCES

Department productions typically have a run of 6 to 10 performances including evening, community, and school matinee performances. For actors, stage managers, and technicians, the standard performance call is two hours prior to curtain. For specific shows requiring more or less preparation time, the stage manager may adjust the call accordingly.

Upon arrival at the theater, all company members sign in on the daily call sheet posted on the production callboard. Do not sign in for anyone else. After signing in, company members proceed to their first scheduled activity. Once a company member is signed in, he or she may not leave the theater area without permission from the stage manager. Those signing in late will be reported as late in the rehearsal/performance report.

BREAKS

The Department follows Actors' Equity Guidelines for rehearsal breaks. During regular and technical rehearsals there will be a break of five minutes after no more than 55 minutes of rehearsal or 10 minutes after no more than 80 minutes of rehearsal for each member of the company. During non-stop run-throughs, dress rehearsals, and previews there will be a break of not less than 10 minutes at the intermission point(s). Meal breaks will be scheduled to coincide with meal plan hours. Rehearsals may reach a maximum of 5 consecutive hours without a meal break.

CURFEW

Theater Department activities end promptly at 12:00, midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and at 1:00am on Friday and Saturday. Under extenuating circumstances a call may extend beyond the curfew. In that case, the supervising faculty or staff member must approve the exception in advance.

Occasionally, it may be necessary to make an exception without advanced warning. If, for example, a major problem arises in a technical/dress rehearsal, the production manager and/or department chair may decide to extend the rehearsal. The overtime is then kept to a minimum and will not exceed one hour.

COSTUMES

Costume fittings are scheduled through your stage manager. The costume shop will identify a range of possible fitting times and ask you to commit to a scheduled time according to your availability. Once a fitting is scheduled it is critical that you keep the appointment. In the case of an emergency that will cause lateness or a missed fitting, please call the costume shop at 413-545-3525. Please wear appropriate undergarments to your fittings. Good personal hygiene is expected in the academic and professional theater.

Actors must ensure that all garments worn by them in rehearsals and performances are treated with care and respect. Actors may not eat, drink or smoke while in costume. Water is allowed if you are wearing a protective kimono over the costume. Costumes and accessories should be picked up and returned to the correct storage area.

Actors should not appear in public areas dressed in costume. At the completion of a performance, make-up and costumes should be removed immediately before greeting guests.

MAKE-UP AND HAIR

Theater majors are required to supply their own basic make-up supplies. Theatrical make-up kits may be ordered through the department. Ordering information will be available at the first rehearsal. The approximate cost for a basic kit is \$25.00. Information about larger kits will also be provided.

The cut and color of your hair must remain as seen at your audition. The costume designer must approve changes in cut and color if you are cast in a production.

CALLBOARDS/BULLETIN BOARDS

All students are responsible for checking the academic bulletin boards and production callboards, located in the Department, on a daily basis. Academic information, rehearsal calls, crew notices, and general departmental business will be posted. You are responsible for getting daily calls pertaining to your work, rehearsals and performances.

PHOTO CALLS AND ARCHIVAL VIDEOS

Please see the Photo and Video section on page 19 for guidelines and regulations regarding photo and video capture of any rehearsal or performance.

PRODUCTION ATTENDANCE

All Theater students are strongly urged to attend all departmental productions, including main stage performances, studio presentations, class presentations and independent work. The department makes theater major passes available to all theater majors for the express purpose of allowing everyone to attend all shows and support fellow department members. The pass provides one complimentary ticket, as available, for all main stage productions. Students must make a ticket reservation through the FAC Box Office to ensure access to a complimentary ticket.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

We rely on our box office as part of our budget. The lower our box office revenue, the lower our budget. Every ticket we give away is money we cannot pour into future productions. Comping a quarter of our Curtain Theater audience, for example, is like giving away a fight choreographer for an upcoming show. Therefore, we ask people to be mindful about their complimentary ticket requests.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS FOR THEATER MAJORS

In order to encourage students to support each other and to learn from our work here, all undergraduate majors, minor, and students in BDIC programs that are closely related to our program (theater education, musical theater, theater management, etc.), regardless of whether they are in a production, receive a theater pass that entitles the bearer to ONE free ticket for each mainstage production for the school year. These passes are handed out at the welcome reception at the start of the school year, and can be picked up in the main office throughout the year. To claim your free ticket, visit the FAC box office in advance or the show box office with your pass and ID.

NOTES:

You will not receive extra tickets for being on more than one crew. That is, even if you work in the scene shop and are in the cast, for example, you will still receive your 1 ticket through your theater pass. The way to get one extra ticket is to share about the production on social media and send a screencap to PR.

The only exception: If you are a major who is a member of the production team, you will also be entitled to reserve one ticket a night so that you can view each performance for educational purposes. It should be used by you and is NOT intended for friends.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS FOR NON-MAJORS

Complimentary tickets FOR NON-MAJORS are available as follows for each production:

1. All members of the show's creative team (director, dramaturg, designers and their assistants, special guests including fight choreography, video artists, etc.): one ticket per night, which is to be used to observe your own work, as well as two extra tickets for Rand shows, and one extra for Curtain shows.
2. People or businesses who donate goods, services, or expertise: two tickets for Rand shows, one for Curtain shows.
3. Reporters and reviewers: two tickets
4. VIPs such as UMass and Five-College officials, job candidates, and business contacts — amount at the discretion of the chair and comp list manager
5. FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS: If you are inviting a potential employer or professional collaborator to the show, you do **not** have to use your allotted comps. Please contact the Public Relations Director to add that person's name to the comp list.

The list for each show is compiled in consultation with members of each production's creative team and the heads of the shops. If you are the head of a department, please submit crew members' names as soon as possible, so that those crew members can pick up their complimentary tickets.

The Public Relations Director does her best to keep the Box Office current on changes to the list, but because of the changing nature of crews, especially around tech time, people do slip through the cracks. If you are not on the comp list, please inform Anna-Maria Goossens (preferably in an email with your full, correctly-spelled name and your title for the production) as soon as possible.

RESERVING TICKETS

You should plan to make your own reservations and pick up your own tickets at the Fine Arts Center Box Office in person or by calling 413-545-2511. Tell the box office staff member that you are on the comp list or have a theater pass for the production and specify the performance you would like to see.

Everyone is strongly urged to reserve tickets at least 7-10 days in advance, especially for Curtain shows, which often sell out in advance of their runs. We hold a small number of house seats in case of sell-outs, but we prioritize business and UMass officials; please do not rely upon this as a way to get your family into shows.

For sell-out shows, we run a waitlist that usually caps at 20 people. To be on the waitlist, sign up one hour before showtime in the lobby. You must be in the lobby and ready to be seated if you are called off the waitlist.

Production

STUDENT-INITIATED PROJECTS

The Theater Department encourages students to make use of department spaces for independent projects. FAC 204 is an ideal presentation space outfitted with theatrical curtains, a basic theatrical lighting system and a sound system. In special cases, the Curtain Theater may be used for independent projects, subject to availability and departmental approval.

All applications must identify and maintain a production coordinator. The production coordinator oversees adherence to all departmental policies and will bring irresolvable issues to the production manager. They will be the person responsible for communicating with the production manager and the person responsible for the security of the space and equipment. The production coordinator may be a grad student, a stage manager or an electricians shop assistant and must be approved by the department production manager. The production coordinator must be present for all rehearsals and performances. If a person qualified to serve in this capacity cannot be identified, then the project cannot be approved.

PUBLICITY/TICKETS

Presentations should be announced internally, via flyer and list-serves, to the campus community only. Students are welcome to post projects and related items such as calls for auditions in the Facebook group; no prior approval from the department is necessary. Students may also include details in the department's weekly electronic newsletter, *The Purple Lobbyist*. Admission to presentations is free. If capacity audience attendance is anticipated, proposers should establish a plan to prioritize seating. FAC 204 occupancy is limited to 50 people, and Curtain seating is limited to 95 patrons, or by the current seating configuration. Standing room is not permitted in FAC 204. Unusual seating arrangements for open presentations must be approved by the production manager in advance.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTIES

Proposers must secure required performance rights and secure funding for the payment of royalties, as necessary. Please see the department's general manager if performance rights are required for student initiated projects.

REHEARSAL SPACE

Classrooms are available to students in department classes/productions for evening rehearsal use. The Fine Arts Building access is limited on holidays and school breaks. Use of space requires advance booking with the production manager.

RESERVING A REHEARSAL ROOM

1. Fill out a Department Room Request Form. Forms are available in a wall file next to the production manager's office door, FAC 104.
2. Put the completed request form in the "Completed Rehearsal Room Requests" wall file.
3. You may request up to three rehearsal dates at one time (separate forms, one request per form).

Your request must be received at least five days in advance of your first rehearsal time. Please include any special requests or needs on the form. The Curtain and Rand Theaters are generally not available due to production demands.

4. Rehearsal room assignments will be left for you in the “Rehearsal Room Assignments” wall file.
5. If university rooms or classrooms are requested, the production manager will work with the general manager.

CLASSROOM AND REHEARSAL ROOM CARE

Most department spaces serve multiple functions as classrooms and rehearsal spaces. Please leave all rooms clean and orderly. Respect the space and those who will use it after you. Furniture should be returned to classroom configuration or placed against the walls in performance classrooms. Any items brought into the space for rehearsals must be removed at the conclusion of the rehearsal. Classroom lighting should not be altered. Rehearsal tape must either be removed from classroom floors and kept to a minimum. All trash must be placed in waste receptacles. Please move full waste receptacles to the hall for custodial maintenance. Failure to respect our spaces will result in a loss of booking privileges.

Live flame (e.g.: candles, matches, lighters, cigarettes) is strictly prohibited. Please consult the production manager with questions.

Please report maintenance issues to the production manager or general manager.

REHEARSAL FURNITURE

The Department of Theater maintains a large selection of assorted rehearsal cubes, tables and benches. These units are constructed out of box steel and wood and are painted black. Each classroom/rehearsal location has a mix of sizes and shapes to be used in that space. You may look through open spaces for particular shapes and sizes. Rehearsal furniture may move as needed. Classes and rehearsals needing specific pieces to remain in a space should clearly label those pieces. Please respect notes to this effect on rehearsal furniture.

Please do not move classroom or theater furniture (including conference tables, Curtain Theater chairs, pianos, music stands, lecterns, pallet chairs, etc.) for use in a rehearsal or in scene work. Please use these items only in the manner intended by the manufacturer.

Any furniture moved out of a classroom, or in the case of the Upper Rand Lobby to different lobby levels, must be returned to its original location at the end of the work session. Please consult the production manager if exceptions to this policy are needed.

SPACE AND RESOURCES

To secure the space for a presentation please schedule an appointment with Julie Fife, production manager to discuss availability. Space for presentations will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. The person who requests the room is the person responsible for the room. Failure to respect the space will result in a loss of scheduling privileges. The production manager will

resolve all conflicts or priorities of scheduling.

To use lighting, sound and studio chairs please request these resources in writing. Lighting and sound equipment must be secured when the room is empty, chairs must be stored neatly in the 204 closet at the conclusion of each session. Keys to the lighting and sound systems will be made available as needed. You may sign out keys and coordinate lighting and sound use and instruction with the production manager.

DO NOT alter the position or focus of the classroom lights. The classroom lights are the white fixtures on tracks and mounted to the ceiling between the two entry doors.

<p>OUR SPACES ARE , FIRST AND FOREMOST, STUDIOS USED FOR ACTING CLASSES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.</p>

Please remove all presentation items at the end of each rehearsal/presentation. Restore spaces to classroom configuration at the conclusion of all sessions.

You may not secure anything to the floor, walls, acoustical panels or curtains in such a way that permanently marks or places holes in these areas. Spike marks must be removed if classes or other users are sharing the space. (For use spanning a weekend, it may be possible to leave spike marks for multiple sessions.)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Projects should keep the emphasis on the acting and directing aspects of the presentation. Technical and design considerations should be kept to a minimum. The rehearsal furniture in the space should provide all necessary support for those projects.

LIGHTING SYSTEM

Please expect multiple users of this system. Plan time at the beginning of each work session to set the lights to your configuration.

System training is available through the lighting department. Basic system questions can be answered by production management). A console manual is available in PDF format on line.

Should the lighting system fail, **DO NOT ATTEMPT REPAIR**. Report problems to production management and the department master electrician, Michael Dubin. Should the system fail prior to a presentation, please understand that you will need to proceed with classroom lights until the system can be repaired.

After obtaining permission to use the lighting system you may:

Focus (aim) the theatrical lighting instruments to suit the needs of your production project.

Gel (color) the theatrical lighting instruments using the provided gels in the Room 204 accordion file.

Write light cues and run your show using the NSI Two Scene Light Board.

Prohibited Activities:

- You may not move, remove, unplug, re-patch or in any way change the location and/or circuiting of the lighting instruments, dimmer packs or cables.
- You may not add lights or in any case plug anything into any part of the system.
- You may not hang ANYTHING (fabric, scenic elements, etc.) from the lighting tracks, lighting instruments, cables or track lights.
- You may not alter in any way the classroom track lighting system.

SOUND SYSTEMS

A basic sound playback system is available in some rooms for rehearsals, presentations, and classroom use. You must request the key to the sound rack in advance in order to have access to the sound system. There is a CD deck that plays most music formats as well as input jacks that allow external audio sources (mp3 players, computers etc.) to be played through the system. No modifications of the sound system may be made other than the connection of audio sources through the input jacks in the patch panel. Please do not remove patch cables, or the CD player remote from the room and remember to power off and lock the system when you are finished or leave the room unattended.

CURTAIN THEATER

The Curtain Theater is occasionally made available as an independent project presentation space. The Curtain Theater is a main stage space, and is generally booked for main stage rehearsals and performances. Its availability is limited and subject to department approval.

APPLYING FOR CURTAIN THEATER USE

To request use of the Curtain Theater for a presentation please submit a proposal to the production manager. Proposals must be received at least 60 days prior to requested use. Permission for presentations and workshops will be approved by the production manager, in consultation with the department chair based on theater availability, technical information and the qualifications of the proposers.

All projects must have a production coordinator approved by the department production manager.

CURTAIN THEATER: SPACE AND RESOURCES

The space is offered as a black box theater, with a black floor, black walls and black surround curtain. These elements may not be altered. Lighting is limited to the use of either “elegant worklight”, a single, static, stage lighting look or basic repertory lighting plot, which is hung and focused to accommodate workshop projects. Use of elegant worklight or a basic plot is subject to availability. The master electrician and the production manager must approve any alteration of the rep plot. Alterations to the lighting rep plot must be restored at the conclusion of the presentation.

The Curtain Theater may be reserved for technical rehearsal(s) prior to the scheduled presentation. Theater availability is not guaranteed, so projects should be developed with

minimal technical needs. Applicants are required to submit a detailed rehearsal and performance schedule with the initial application.

CURTAIN THEATER FRONT OF HOUSE

A trained house manager and a minimum of two ushers must staff all presentations open to the campus community. House staff must be arranged by the proposers and approved by the department production manager. If appropriate house staff is not available, the public presentation will be cancelled.

CURTAIN THEATER TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical and design considerations should be simple and kept to a minimum. Costume stock may be available by special arrangement. Installation of any scenic elements must have prior approval by the department's technical director and production manager. Furniture may be pulled from existing black modular pieces. Access to existing department properties stock must have prior approval by the department's technical director for specific hand props and furniture. The person in charge of the project must bear the full responsibility for the safety of properties, costumes and equipment that they bring in for their production. Care must be taken to ensure that the department's spaces remain unencumbered by rehearsal and performance items. **NO PERMANENT ALTERATIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE CURTAIN THEATER.**

CURTAIN THEATER LIGHTING AND SOUND SYSTEMS

People may elect to use work light only, elegant work light when available (a single, static stage lighting look), or may request the use of the basic repertory lighting plot. Work light, elegant work light, and rehearsal sound systems may be operated by the production coordinator.

The basic repertory lighting plot and sound systems, intercom, A.V. equipment, etc. may only be used through specific arrangement with the department master electrician, Michael Dubin. Use of the basic repertory lighting plot and sound systems will require a qualified lighting and sound supervisor. If a person qualified to serve in this capacity will not be identified in your application, then the use of the systems cannot be approved. Do not assume that permission to use the theater, or the possession of keys implies permission to use lights and sound.

Lighting and sound supervisors must be approved by the department master electrician.

Supervisors will be approved on the basis of the proposed supervisor's proven reliability and technical knowledge. Acceptable candidates for supervisors are likely to be found among electric shop assistants and former Theater Department production electricians.

Supervisors must be current or former department students or employees.

Supervisors must be present at all times while lighting and/or sound is in use.

The basic repertory lighting plot may not be refocused. Any changes to the rep plot such as color, patch and the addition of specials must be approved by the department master electrician.

Electric shop assistants will not be paid to work on student produced productions.

Use of equipment for official department production will always take precedence over student-

produced productions.

ALL SPACES

All strike activities must be completed by 12 midnight on the evening of the last presentation unless otherwise arranged with the department production manager.

All rehearsals and performances hosted in University spaces and classrooms must be struck nightly after each rehearsal and performance. This is a must!

All department hallways must remain free of classroom, rehearsal and performance furniture and production items. Do not store items in the hallways. If assistance is needed, please consult with production management for rehearsals and performance and general management for classroom needs.

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

FINANCIAL AID

The Financial Aid office can be reached at 413-545-0801 or in person at 243 Whitmore Administration Building.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

CHANCELLOR'S TALENT AWARD

The Chancellor's Talent Award for the Arts Tuition Waiver is awarded to students showing outstanding ability and promise in studio art, dance, music or theater, regardless of residency.

THE FRANK PRENTICE RAND SCHOLARSHIP IN DRAMA

The Frank Prentice Rand Scholarship in Drama, funded by the generous bequest of the late Margarita H. Rand, honors Professor Frank Prentice Rand, who taught dramatic literature at UMass in the English Department. Nominees for the Frank Prentice Rand Scholarship in Drama should be undergraduate theater majors of exceptional scholarship and outstanding achievement in the areas of Directing, Producing, Playwriting, and Dramaturgy.

Awards are made primarily on the basis of scholarship and demonstrated merit in production work. Nominations can be made by any department student, faculty or staff member, and should address these criteria. Nominations should be made to the Theater Department chair via Julie Fife (FAC 104 or department mailbox), and will be submitted to the chair and faculty for consideration.

THE BENEDICT SCHOLARSHIP

The Susan M. and Larry G. Benedict Scholarship Endowment was created to provide undergraduate scholarship support for students within the Theater Department who are studying theater design, production, and management. The chair of the Theater Department or designee, in consultation with key faculty and staff, will select each year's recipient(s). Special consideration will be given to sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated technical proficiency and a commitment of professionalism.

DRISCOLL SCHOLARSHIP

The Midsummer in Oxford program, run by the British American Drama Academy – or BADA - is designed for serious acting students at all levels over the age of eighteen and concentrates on classical acting with an emphasis on Shakespeare. The faculty consists of both British and American leading theatre practitioners and is run in association with Yale School of Drama. Theater Department alumnus Stephen Driscoll has created a new Driscoll Scholarship. Each year this generous award covers half the BADA fee plus airfare for a qualified UMass student.

ED GOLDEN ACTING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

The purpose of the Fund is to honor the exemplary teaching career of Professor Emeritus Edward J. Golden by recognizing and fostering students with exceptional acting talent through scholarship awards. Awards may be made to one or more Theater majors who are either sophomores or juniors who have demonstrated outstanding promise and commitment to the art. Decisions will be made by a Theater Department faculty committee, which will include the department chair, and need not be based on GPA or financial need, although either of these may be considered.

THE DENISE LESSARD WAGNER COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

Though not a scholarship, the Community Spirit Award is given in recognition of individuals who, through their beyond-the-call-of-duty dedication and commitment, have made an outstanding contribution to the community spirit of the department. Generally, the Community Spirit Award is given by the faculty to one or two graduating seniors who fit the criteria.

ARTS COUNCIL

The Arts Council is intended to support student projects through grant funds. Interested students should contact the department's general manager, Willow Cohen, for information and application details. The Arts Council's website is [here](#).

PROFESSIONAL AND FUNDING RESOURCES FOR DEPARTMENT STUDENTS

The Theater Department is dedicated to the professional advancement of both our undergraduate and graduate students and provides a number of resources, funding opportunities, and services to enhance student development in building successful careers both during their time at UMass and beyond: <http://www.umass.edu/theater/studentresources.php>

Other scholarship and award opportunities can be found on the Humanities and Fine Arts website at <http://www.umass.edu/hfa/scholarships.htm>.

Visit the Financial Aid Services Website at <http://www.umass.edu/umfa/>.

WORK-STUDY AND NON-WORK-STUDY JOBS

In order to get a work-study assignment, you need to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Awards are need-based and offered to on-time applicants. Applications are available at Student Employment Services, Financial Aid Services, and can be completed on-line at fafsa.ed.gov. A list of jobs offered through the University can be found at <http://www.umass.edu/umfa/job-board>

In the Theater Department, there are a variety of work-study and non-work-study jobs available, ranging from work in the scene, electric, and costume shops, to working in the main office. To apply, speak to the supervisor of the area in which you want to work.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

University Health Services provides comprehensive primary care for adults and children, urgent

care, mental health care and many other services and programs. UHS is located at 150 Infirmary Way, near Franklin Dining Commons in the Central Residential Area. Medical advice is available 24/7, 365 days a year, by calling the Triage Advice Nurse, 413-577-5229. Call before coming to UHS – they'll help you determine the best course of care for your illness or injury.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Services are confidential and include counseling for individuals, couples and families, support and therapy groups, behavioral medicine, medication management and an eating disorders clinic. For more information, please visit the UHS website: <http://www.umass.edu/uhs/mentalhealth/>

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

The production calendar includes information about the schedule for all department productions, production deadlines, and department events. It is posted on the callboard, and is accessible online at: <http://www.calendarwiz.com/umasstheater>

UNDERGRADUATE LISTSERVE

Undergraduate students are automatically added to the department's Undergraduate Listserv. This email news group shares department, production, and class announcements, as well as special events, workshops, and vital university information. If students are not receiving listserv emails, they are encouraged to contact the general manager (FAC 115).

WEBSITE, EMAIL, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Theater Department's online presence includes an [official website](#), [Youtube channel](#), [Flickr stream](#), and various social media such as [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

We maintain a department email list and send out *The Purple Lobbyist*, a department e-newsletter, every Tuesday during the school year. To receive the department emails and the Lobbyist, send your preferred email to Anna-Maria Goossens and Willow Cohen. If you would like to submit something for inclusion in the *Lobbyist*, email Anna-Maria by noon Monday so that it can be included in that week's issue.

The [official Theater Department website](#) includes information about our programs, links to important resources such as the major checklist and production calendar, and other information that may be helpful to students.

We are always looking for interesting people to write for our news page (professors, staff, students, alumni), and like to keep up to date on our listing of independent student projects. Please contact Anna-Maria Goossens with information for either of these pages.

The Theater Department maintains a **[Facebook group](#)** for members of the department. All majors, minors, and Theater-related BDIC students are strongly urged to join. Check the group regularly for information on in-department events including new classes, auditions, performances, and special events, as well as information about internships, job openings, and other outside opportunities. Students are welcome to post in the group to announce events, seek collaborators, etc., and of course to leave comments on other posts.

Abusive or otherwise inappropriate postings will be deleted and the poster may be asked to leave the group. This group is intended as an intra-departmental resource for current members.

The department also maintains a **Facebook page**, which features posts about upcoming shows, news about current and past members of the Department, and announcements about department events. Contrary to the group, the page is intended to reach out to those outside our community and serves as a public face of the department. Its purpose is publicity for events, alumni and community relations, recruitment, etc. Students can comment, but not create posts, on the Facebook Page, but if you have something that you think may be of interest, please suggest it to Anna-Maria Goossens, and please invite friends and family to join so they can get information about shows and more.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Nowadays, social media is part of any successful publicity effort. Students, guest artists, faculty, and staff are very much encouraged to create or share posts to spread the word about our events. In fact, doing so is a way for undergraduate majors to receive a second complimentary ticket to a show (see complimentary ticket policy for details).

Theater Department Social Media Posts:

The department may capture video or audio interviews, production or classroom images, production or classroom audio, or video for sharing on social media as part of a production publicity plan, recruitment effort, or community and donor relations plan. Permission to post will be requested of anyone whose face is visible in an image or video clip. No one is obligated to take part, and there is no penalty for declining.

The department also follows a variety of social media accounts of organizations and individuals including students, and may repost/share if a post is of publicity, community relations, or recruitment interest. We try our best not to follow private accounts for privacy reasons. If you find you have been followed but would prefer not to be, please let Anna-Maria Goossens know.

Students' Social Media Posts:

The Theater Department encourages all department members to repost or share Theater Department posts, or to create their own social media content for upcoming events.

However, students are also **STRONGLY** encouraged, when creating their own theater-related posts, to check with all people visible in an image or video clip before posting, particularly in the case of images taken backstage or offstage, where there would be a greater expectation of privacy. Students who post materials against the wishes of their class and castmates, especially of a sensitive nature (such as any including nudity), may be subject to disciplinary action.

ARTSEARCH

The Theater Department has an institutional subscription to ArtSearch, an essential source for job opportunities in the arts. Online access is available to current faculty, staff and students. Please ask Bethany Sherwood, Theater Department Administrative Assistant, if you would like to access this publication.

BUILDING AND OFFICE USE

THE MAIL ROOM

The department's mail room is located in the Curtain Theater Lobby by the main office. All personal mail should be directed to your home or on-campus address, never to the department. Faculty, staff, and graduate students each have a mailbox in the mail room where you may be asked to place paperwork, homework, assignments or projects.

THE COPIER

The copier in the mail room is for the use of department-related tasks only and is not normally available for use by Theater majors. A list of other copying services available on campus is hanging in the mail room.

COPIER ACCESS CODES

Students whose work for department productions requires frequent use of the copying machine (e.g. to copy scripts), may be given a copier access code. Copier access codes are only for department related copying, and should not be lent out to others. Each copier access code has a limited number of copies assigned to it, though increases may be requested if necessary. Save large copying jobs for times when the copier is less likely to be in use. Report any jams or problems to the main office.

Please see the department's general manager, Willow Cohen to request a copy code (FAC 115).

KEYS

Students who need access to the rehearsal spaces on a regular basis may be allowed to sign out a set of keys. If you have signed out a set of keys through the production manager, you are expected to use them responsibly, making sure to lock all spaces after use.

LOCKERS

There are 9 lockers in the second-floor hallway that may be signed out for student use. Please see production manager Julie Fife for permission and lock access.

PARKING

Parking is limited at the Fine Arts Center. After 8:00pm, parking is available at the meters for free. The Theater Department will not pay for parking tickets. **DO NOT PARK IN UNAUTHORIZED SPACES** (ie, loading dock, pond spaces). Cars will be towed. If your car is towed, contact Ernie's Towing at [\(413\) 586-1021](tel:4135861021). There are PVTA buses available to North Amherst, with Amherst towing en route.