Explore more majors
Theatre Arts

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College of Liberal Arts
Degree Type(s)
B.A.
Link to major's website
Degree requirements
Minor available

Our degree program offers study of the art form in both theoretical historical context and the practice of live dramatic performance. Course offerings include theatre history and dramatic literature; acting, movement, and voice; directing; design and technology for scenery, costume, lighting, makeup, and sound; and stage and arts management.

Coursework also embraces theatre as a group art, an art in which individual excellence is often fully realized only in collaboration with other artists. The practical application of the art encourages students to test classroom experiences under the pressure of public performance in the laboratory of the University Theatre.

For students interested in a BFA program, see Acting BFA for requirements.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Theatre Arts at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.
Meet Our Students

Senior Claudia Errickson, who specializes in lighting design and technology, has sought out countless volunteer and freelance opportunities in and around the Twin Cities, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the process.

Learn more about Claudia's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Learning Abroad: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad for Theatre Arts majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

• Student Dance Coalition
• Open Stage
Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

Research opportunities include internships in all areas of production at such nationally renowned theaters as the Guthrie, Open Eye Figure Theater, Children's Theater Company, Penumbra, and Mu Performance Company. Undergraduates have also received UROP (Undergraduate Research) grants for projects that include researching, updating, and performing 20th century vaudeville scripts, developing and producing a translation of a contemporary avant-garde Japanese play, and researching and crafting an auto-ethnographic performance piece about Hmong female shamans.

Meet Our Faculty

“We feel bigger and more human. It’s something that gives me back my life.” Professor Sonja Kuftinec discusses “A Contested Home,” a collaborative project with Adjunct Professor Avigail Manneberg, which aims to engage with Palestinian displacement and diaspora through Theatre of the Oppressed and other art techniques.

Read more about Professor Kuftinec's work.
Professor Lisa Channer and BA alum playwright Savannah Reich’s collaborative performance, DENIM, investigates American identity through the history of denim jeans in the West.

Read more about Professor Channer's work.

Meet Our Alumni

“Theatre makes me a more engaging teacher, and teaching makes me a more thoughtful actor.” Theatre arts & dance alumna Allison Witham combines her two passions to connect to the world around her.

Read more about Allison's story.
“Every detail of a costume tells the audience something specific about the person wearing the costume,” says 2018 MFA costume design graduate Brandi Mans. She reflects on her thesis for Sarah Ruhl’s In the Next Room, in which she navigates the visual language of clothing to tell historical narratives of medical practice and female sexuality.

Read more about Brandi's story.

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman
You might also explore

Dance
Journalism and Mass Communication
Studies in Cinema and Media Culture
Art
Music
Acting

Associated Careers

Actors; Arts Administrators; Directors; Set Designers; Theater, Film, and TV Technicians; Writers

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts
Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below:

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments