



**vcuarts**

**THEATRE**

MFA Pedagogy, Design/Tech

visit the program online:

[arts.vcu.edu/theatregrad](https://arts.vcu.edu/theatregrad)

contact the department directly:

Dr. Noreen Barnes

Director of Graduate Studies, Theatre

804.828.1514

[theatre@vcu.edu](mailto:theatre@vcu.edu)



### PEDAGOGY CONCENTRATIONS

The MFA in Theatre, Pedagogy program is designed to prepare the student for employment as a teacher in higher education. Areas of concentration include performance, movement, voice, speech, and dramaturgy.

The program combines classes in pedagogy, scholarship, rehearsal and performance, and the practice of teaching. Candidates also receive training in the art of locating and applying for jobs in higher education (CV writing, crafting personal statements, interviewing, negotiating benefits etc.). In addition to classroom work, graduate students in pedagogy are required to assist in the teaching of classes and participate in the production of plays and musicals on the VCU main stage. Upper level graduate students may have the opportunity to teach classes in their area of specialization. Performance students often act and/or direct professionally for theatres around the city of Richmond.

Over 120 graduates of the program currently hold full-time faculty positions at universities and colleges or key positions in education departments of major LORT theatres.

### DESIGN CONCENTRATIONS

The concentrations in Stage Design and Costume Design prepare students to work as professional designers at the highest level. The programs are designed to instill a high degree of aesthetic sensibility and technical proficiency in the standards and practices of contemporary theatre design. Students from these tracks regularly produce award-winning designs recognized at both the regional and national level. Enrollment is kept intentionally low so that each student can have the highly intensive and individualized attention that is the hallmark of the three-year mentorship experience. A distinctive feature of the program is that students see their designs realized not only on the VCU main stage but at other Richmond theatres as well.

The Stage Design and Costume Design programs integrate extensive theoretical and practical training. Graduate design courses are structured to address the specific needs of developing the individual student's skills and talents. Professional training is grounded in traditional academic studies in theatre history, theory and criticism and literature. Rendering and portfolio building, as well as computer drafting, and professional internships at local theatres complete the professional skills program.

### OUR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Graduate students in all areas of pedagogy and design frequently have the opportunity to assist Theatre VCU faculty when working on Broadway, Off-Broadway or on regional theatre productions. Recent graduate projects included work on the Broadway productions of *Finian's Rainbow*, *The Scottsboro's Boys*, and the pre-Broadway workshop of *Amazing Grace the Musical*. Other projects include work at the Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage, City Center Encores, and with the Pioneer Theatre Company.

### FACULTY AND AWARDS

The Theatre VCU faculty is made up of experienced teachers who have distinguish themselves in the professional world as actors, directors, designers, choreographers, voice, speech and movement coaches, fight directors and dramaturgs. With close to 50 Broadway productions and hundreds of Off-Broadway credits, their work has been seen on the stages of almost every major regional theatre in the United States as well as in hundreds of television shows and feature films. Individually, or as members of the creative team, faculty members have received numerous awards including the Antoinette Perry (Tony) Award, the Obie Award, the Helen Hayes Award, the Los Angeles Drama Logue Award, the San Francisco Bay Area Critics Award, the American Theatre Wing Hewes Design Award and many more.

### FACILITIES

The Singleton Performing Arts Center houses the 257 seat thrust Raymond Hodges Theatre, scene and costume shops, computer lab, storage areas, a movement studio, lighting lab, and two classroom/rehearsal spaces. The renovated Shafer Street Playhouse includes the 150 seat Richard Newdick Theatre, a design studio and three rehearsal studios with wooden floors and natural light.

### GUEST ARTISTS

Each year, TheatreVCU welcomes four to six nationally or internationally renowned guest artists in the areas of stage or film performance, design/technology, stage management, or dramaturgy. Visiting master teachers are typically in residence for a full week and guest directors work within the department for as long as eight weeks. These extensive residencies afford our guest artists ample time to teach classes, coach students individually, and work closely with small groups. Through the Guest Artist Program many of our students have successfully jump-started their professional careers.

- List of recent guest artists include:
- Broadway Director BT McNichol
  - Sound Designer Michael Keck
  - Broadway Production Designer Santo Loquasto
  - Broadway Stage Manager Lorri Doyle
  - Broadway and film actor and VCU Alumnus Jason Butler Harner
  - Tony Award-winning Broadway Actor Andre D'Shields
  - Broadway Production Stage Manager Peter Von Meyerhauser
  - Academy Award-winning Actor Mary McDonnell
  - Broadway Dramaturg Lynn Thompson
  - Theatre Historian and Feminist Studies Scholar Tracy C. Davis

Complete information for individuals interested in applying to the program can be found on the VCUarts website.

[arts.vcu.edu/apply](https://arts.vcu.edu/apply)