

# THEATER AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

**Director of undergraduate studies:** Shilarna Stokes (shilarna.stokes@yale.edu), Rm. 102C, 220 York St., 432-1310; theaterstudies.yale.edu; theaterstudies.yale.edu/dance-studies-yale

As a branch of the humanities and as a complex cultural practice, theater claims a rich history and literature and an equally rich repertoire of embodied knowledge and theory. Theater and Performance Studies emphasizes the reciprocal relationship between practice and scholarly study. The major combines practical training with theory and history, while stressing creative critical thinking. Students are encouraged to engage intellectual and embodied approaches to explore diverse cultural forms, historical traditions, and contemporary life. As the study of theater is interdisciplinary in scope and global in perspective, students are expected to take courses in cognate disciplines such as history, philosophy, anthropology, political science, film, art, literature, and foreign languages. Faculty members are affiliated with a range of departments; their diverse expertise lends breadth and depth to course offerings and enables students to devise a course of study reflective of their developing interests.

Special features of the program are its production seminars, guided independent study projects, and senior projects. Each production seminar concentrates on study, through practice, of one aspect of performance; examples are approaches to acting, directing, writing, dance, design, or digital media in performance. Independent study projects give the student freedom to pursue individual and group-generated projects under the guidance of a Theater and Performance Studies faculty member. All production seminars require permission of the instructor (by application or audition). Independent study project courses are open only to majors.

## PREREQUISITES

The prerequisites for the major are THST 110 and THST 111.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

The major consists of ten term courses beyond the introductory prerequisites (THST 110, 111), one of which must be THST 210, Introduction to Performance Concepts. Students are encouraged to enroll in a balanced combination of courses involving studio work and courses in literature, history, and theory. Of the ten required term courses, four must focus on dramatic literature, performance history, or performance theory. At least one of the four courses should include dramatic literature originating in a language other than English. Students are urged to read plays in the original languages whenever possible.

**Credit/D/Fail** Courses taken Credit/D/Fail may not be counted toward the requirements of the major in Theater and Performance Studies.

## SENIOR REQUIREMENTS

Majors satisfy the senior project requirement in one of two ways. They may, with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), take one of the dramatic literature, performance history, or performance theory courses, or a production seminar, as a senior seminar. In such cases, the expectations for the final term paper will be substantially higher for students using the course to fulfill their senior requirement. Or, a student may undertake a one-term senior project (THST 491). Senior projects may take the form of directing, designing, writing a play or musical, performing a role, choreographing a dance piece, or writing a critical essay, among other possibilities. Performance-oriented projects are in addition to a senior essay, which is an integral requirement of THST 491, the senior seminar. For students interested in mounting a production as part of their senior project, collaboration with fellow seniors is strongly encouraged, and collaborative projects will be given preference in the selection process. While collaboration is an important criterion considered by the faculty, it does not guarantee that a project will be selected for inclusion in the curricular season. Proposals for senior project productions will normally be approved only for students who have previously served as producers of other students' senior projects.

Students wishing to undertake a senior project must submit a proposal before the deadline announced by the DUS. This deadline typically falls before spring break of the junior year; students in the junior year will be provided with information and guidance towards the preparation of this proposal in the months leading up to the deadline. Each proposal is submitted to a faculty committee for approval.

## ADVISING

**Courses in the School of Drama** Majors in Theater and Performance Studies are encouraged to consider taking selected courses in design, theory, dramaturgy, and theater management, with permission of the instructor, the DUS, the registrar of the School of Drama, and blue form approval submitted by the academic dean to the Registrar's Office. Undergraduates may not, however, enroll in acting or directing courses offered by the School of Drama. Students enrolling in School of Drama courses should note that a maximum of four term courses from the professional schools may be offered toward the bachelor's degree. Students also should note that the academic calendars of the School of Drama and of Yale College differ. The School of Drama calendar should be consulted for scheduling.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

**Prerequisites** THST 110, 111

**Number of courses** 10 term courses beyond prerequisites (including senior req)

**Specific course required** THST 210

**Distribution of courses** 4 courses in dramatic literature, performance history, or performance theory, 1 with dramatic literature originating in a language other than English

**Senior requirement** Senior seminar or senior project (THST 491)

Theater and Performance Studies offers courses in performance history and theory as well as performance practice: acting, directing, playwriting, design, dramaturgy, dance, musical theater, and digital media performance. It involves the study of performance techniques, new work development, creative and critical approaches to analysis, and the study of performance as a medium of artistic, cultural, social, and political expression.

First-year students interested in the major in Theater and Performance Studies should make an appointment with the program's Director of Undergraduate Studies, Shilarna Stokes (%20shilarna.stokes@yale.edu), and should take THST 110 and THST 111, a two-semester sequence that introduces students to plays, performance cultures, aesthetic traditions, and theories that have shaped contemporary performance practice and theory. This course sequence is open to all students and is a requirement of the major.

#### FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF THEATER AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

**Professors** James Bundy (*School of Drama, Theater and Performance Studies*), David Chambers (*Adjunct*) (*Theater and Performance Studies*), \*Toni Dorfman (*Adjunct*) (*Theater and Performance Studies*), Joan MacIntosh (*Practice*) (*Theater and Performance Studies, School of Drama*), \*Lawrence Manley (*English*), \*Deb Margolin (*Practice*) (*Theater and Performance Studies*), Donald Margulies (*Adjunct*) (*English, Theater and Performance Studies*), \*Charles Musser (*Film & Media Studies, American Studies, Theater and Performance Studies*), Tavia Nyong'o (*Theater and Performance Studies, American Studies*), \*Marc Robinson (*School of Drama, Theater and Performance Studies, English*), Gregory Wallace (*Practice*) (*School of Drama, Theater and Performance Studies*)

**Associate Professor** Emily Coates (*Adjunct*) (*Theater and Performance Studies, School of Drama*)

**Assistant Professor** Elise Morrison (*Theater and Performance Studies*)

**Lecturers** Hal Brooks, Lacina Coulibaly, Alan Edwards, Daniel Egan, Grant Herreid, Irène Hultman, Annette Jolles, Michael Korie, Bronwen MacArthur, Marsha Norman, Nathan Roberts, Renee Robinson, Michael Rossmly, Brian Seibert, Shilarna Stokes, Daniel Ulbricht

\*Member of the Executive Committee for the program.

View Courses