Not your average liberal art

SFA’s Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre sharpens the critical intelligence, creativity, historical perspective, global understanding, discipline and professionalism required to succeed in a huge range of careers. Students in the BA program choose a minor or double major in another discipline, often contrasting with theatre. Qualified BA students are welcome in every theatre course offered on the SFA campus. All are urged to participate in our extensive production programs as performers, crew members and leaders, stage managers, designers and even directors. Some of our alumni continue their education and training in graduate or professional programs in theatre or other fields; some pursue professional work in theatre, TV, film or other media; some become teachers; and some branch out into careers ranging from event planning or corporate communications to hospitality or human resources. No SFA student ever competes with a graduate student in theatre for a production opportunity, and new students (including freshmen) are encouraged to audition from day one.

Audition for or work on up to 30 shows a year:

12 to 16 student-directed studio-scale 10-minute plays each year
Six to eight student-directed, black-box one-act and full-length plays each year
Eight or nine faculty- or professionally directed shows each year

Dozens of minors available, including:
- Voice for Theatre Majors (Music)
- Cinematography (Art)
- Radio/Television (Mass Communication)
- Film Studies (Interdisciplinary)
- Dance (Kinesiology)
- Creative Writing (English)
- Fashion Merchandising (Human Sciences)
- Interior Design (Human Sciences)
- Anthropology (Social & Cultural Analysis)
- Children’s Literature (English)
- Psychology
- General Business
- History
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Art

Second majors also available in many of these and other disciplines
Theatre majors are encouraged to develop many transferable competencies. They learn to solve a wide variety of problems, work with people in many configurations and thrive in a rapidly changing world. Every BA student takes courses in play analysis, theatre history, and a specialized topic within theatre and drama, as well as basic skills courses in every major area of production: performance, sets, costumes, lights and directing. BA students work with guest artists and international students, and are routinely welcomed in workshops, masterclasses and other special events, as well as in all of our on-campus classes, including those geared primarily for BFA or teacher-certification students. In the course of four years at SFA, a highly motivated BA student could act, sing and dance in musicals, work as a dramaturg and assistant director, direct and design in our “black box,” get a job in our box office or costume shop and much, much more.

Production opportunities of all kinds are practically boundless at SFA, and BA students are welcome to participate in all roles at all levels. Beyond the Mainstage Series that includes major musicals, Shakespeare, modern comedy and drama, there is Summer Rep with its children’s theatre and light fare, The Fredonia Players (our musical comedy troupe), and the Festival of New American Plays in which SFA students work directly with world-famous playwrights on their newest creations. In recent years, we’ve added a broadcast (and podcast) radio drama to our repertoire. Most of our smaller-cast plays are student-directed. All theatre majors work behind the scenes in a variety of ways and are encouraged to audition for everything. Other departments of the university offer chances to work on student films, dance or opera productions, or in radio and television. SFA’s comedy-improvisation club, Improv Strikes Back, performs on campus and in local venues.

Biennial study abroad in Ireland, undergraduate research and SFA’s School of Honors have particular affinities with our BA program in theatre. Incoming freshmen with high-ranking academic backgrounds are encouraged to take honors sections of courses in the university’s general education core curriculum and to “contract” for honors credit in theatre courses. All theatre majors are encouraged to present research resulting in scholarship or production in a university-wide forum. BA students may fulfill their academic requirement in theatre topics by studying Irish culture, drama and theatre in Dublin and other Irish cities. Specific major-minor combinations make natural connections for students interested in careers in musical theatre (minor in music or dance), arts administration (business), entertainment design (art), screen- and playwriting (creative writing), performance studies (anthropology), and many other fields.

SFA’S THEATRE FACULTY includes deeply experienced scholars, professional actors, directors, designers and writers, as well as award-winning teachers. Every SFA theatre graduate has an excellent broad education in all aspects of theatre and a strong liberal arts core. Our alumni include successful professionals in a wide variety of fields including business, law, medicine, and higher education, as well as theatre. And our current students are the friendliest, hardest working, most talented and most mutually supportive bunch you’ll encounter anywhere. Find us at www.facebook.com/SFATheatre and they will tell you themselves what it’s like to go to school here.