



Rhodes College

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THEATRE

The Department of Theatre plays. We regard theatre as a means of evaluating and expressing our humanity by telling stories through which we realize our individual and common identities, and by which we better know how to play on a common stage. In our theatrical lives, we ask and answer questions, confront dilemmas and challenge preconceptions and assumptions. Through discipline, training, research and practice, we make ways to live effectively and honestly, anticipating graduates who will take their experience here into all imaginable professional disciplines and ways of life.

Curriculum

Major:

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre

Minor Available

Our productions and our curriculum open spaces for thought, creativity and skill, and our faculty join students in imaginative activity. We expect students to push their boundaries, and we make every effort to help them. The liberal arts environment in which our program exists means a great variety of opportunities for students with theatrical interests to re-imagine and expand their bounds.

We have constructed a course of study through which students learn history, theory, literature, aesthetics and the practical mechanisms of artistic work. Students here also work closely with award-winning faculty. Graduating between five and eight majors per year, our department offers multiple opportunities for one-on-one work between students and faculty. Driven by our faculty interests, our curriculum continually evolves. Recent developments include innovative courses in Theatre and American History and Asian Theatre. In 2006 we created a new study-abroad program in India. We are currently exploring a course in Theatre for Social Change.

The McCoy Theatre is the department's production arm. Each season, the McCoy offers a subscription season to Rhodes College and the general public. Students comprise the majority of the casts for these productions. Guest artists, faculty members and other theatre professionals join students as directors, performers and designers. McCoy productions are among the most outstanding theatrical presentations in Memphis. Past McCoy Theatre seasons have featured productions of *Assassins*, *Hamlet*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *The Laramie Project* and *Big Love*. In the 2004-05 academic

year, the McCoy Visiting Artist Series presented Roscoe Lee Brown and Anthony Zerbe in a special performance of *Behind the Broken Word*; in 2005, Rhodes and the University of Memphis co-produced Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*. Also in 2005, Rhodes hosted a company of India's leading *Kathakali* performers for a student workshop and an evening performance. Our 2006-07 season offered *Waiting for Godot*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and *Agnes of God*. Our 2007-08 season includes *The Rocky Horror Show*, *How I Learned to Drive*, and a retelling of *Lysistrata*.

Outside the Classroom

For practical application of our curriculum, the department offers opportunities through various applied courses, such as public relations, arts management, design and performance. We often arrange internships with various arts organizations in Memphis. We encourage students who are unable to schedule an internship experience during the school year to join in summer stock companies for additional theatre training.

Faculty

Julia Ewing, Professor of Theatre; Artistic Director, McCoy Theatre; M.A., University of Memphis. Specialties: *Acting, directing, stage movement, Shakespeare*.

David Jilg, (Chair) Associate Professor of Theatre; M.F.A., Tulane University, in Theatrical Design and Production. Specialties: *Production design, costume design, Spanish drama*.

Laura Canon, Assistant Professor of Theatre; B.A., Rhodes; MFA, University of Memphis. Specialties: *Technical director, production manager and lighting and scenic design*.



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David Mason, Assistant Professor of Theatre; B.A., Brigham Young University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison. Specialties: *Theatre history, dramatic theory and literature* (Professor Mason will be on a sabbatical Spring Term 2008.)

Kevin Collier, Managing Director of the McCoy Theatre; B.A., Rhodes.

Graduates

Our curriculum provides the basis for graduate work in artistic as well as academic fields of studies, including professional theatre training programs. Our focus on the essential work and purpose of theatre also means our curriculum offers a foundation for a wide range of other pursuits. Recent graduates include lawyers, teachers, ministers, musicians and graphic artists, as well as professional actors, theatre managers and designers.

For More Information

Please contact the Department of Theatre at (901) 843-3839 or Admissions at 1-800-844-5969. You can also explore the department's Web page, rhodes.edu/academics/1576.asp.