

THEATRE AND DRAMA, BS

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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UW–Madison’s vision for the total student experience, the Wisconsin Experience (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/about/>), combines learning in and out of the classroom. Tied to the Wisconsin Idea (<https://www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/>) and steeped in long-standing institutional values – the commitment to the truth, shared participation in decision-making, and service to local and global communities – the Wisconsin Experience describes how students develop and integrate these core values across their educational experience.

UW–Madison encourages students to mindfully engage in four core concepts throughout their time on campus: Empathy & Humility, Relentless Curiosity, Intellectual Confidence, and Purposeful Action (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/intellectual-confidence/>).

Since its inception, the School of Education has embraced the concepts of the Wisconsin Experience, providing opportunities for students to learn in venues beyond the traditional classroom. Our students also independently seek out related activities and experiences, thus creating their own unique Wisconsin Experience.

THEATRE & DRAMA AND THE WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

The spirit of the Wisconsin Experience and its core values sit at the center of the field of theatre and of all our activities in UW’s Department of Theatre and Drama. Theatre is inherently communal and collaborative, engaging audiences from diverse communities to witness live performances reflecting the most important questions of our time. In the Department of Theatre and Drama we seek to embrace these qualities, to train creative, hardworking, ethical, collaborative, interdisciplinary artists, technicians, and scholars—local and global citizens equipped to take on the challenges of the present and future.

We do this through a wide range of opportunities for students on campus and beyond. Available resources include production opportunities in the University Theatre program with a focus on community engagement, social justice, and ties to the professional theatre community, opportunities for student led work in our season and through support of student organizations, curricular support for production and professional opportunities, access to guest artists, and work with Theatre and Drama faculty and staff research tied to the community.

University Theatre

The University Theatre (UT) program engages students on every facet of production, tied to the curriculum across all degree programs. The season is selected with an emphasis on providing student opportunities to apply their training in design, management, tech and performance, with an emphasis on community engagement and outreach to campus and local communities as well as to the professional theatre community through work with guest artists.

UT productions regularly engage with the Odyssey Program and PLACE, for student matinees and other programming, with Interdisciplinary

Theatre Studies Program and African American Studies, supporting guest artists with the Lorraine Hansberry Fund, as well as Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives (OMAI) and the UW Division of the Arts, to name a few.

Second Stage

The Department of Theatre and Drama also regularly supports work generated by students and other arts organizations across campus and from local communities. These projects are supported with the department’s resources through an application process each semester.

Student Organizations

Theatre students also have an opportunity participate in student-run theatre groups. InterMission Theatre (IMT) (<https://win.wisc.edu/organization/intermissiontheatre/>) empowers students to create performance art through interdisciplinary collaboration. Saying Theatre (<https://win.wisc.edu/organization/sayingtheatre/>) presents and promotes Chinese culture through theatre arts.

Community Engaged Coursework

Several required and elective course offerings in Theatre and Drama are tied to the community and theatre professions. These include TD 100 Experiencing Theatre, which exposes students to world class theatre in Madison and globally as well as guest artists, as well as Theatre for Cultural and Social Awareness (TCSA). (<https://theatre.wisc.edu/academics/theatre-for-cultural-and-social-awareness/>)

Ties to the Profession

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Theatre and Drama ensures its students are up-to-date with current practices in professional theatre through diverse initiatives. These include inviting industry professionals for class visits, organizing educational trips to companies such as Electronic Theatre Controls, INC. (ETC) to explore advanced technologies and American Players Theatre (APT), and facilitating residencies for professional artists through UT and special initiatives. These opportunities not only enhance students’ academic journey but also equip them for prosperous careers in several fields of the theatre and entertainment industry.

Through coursework and practice, UT and Second Stage programming, as well as engagement in creative as well as through special research projects, students in Theatre and Drama have multiple opportunities to work with faculty and staff who are actively working in their fields on campus, locally and around the world. A few selected recent examples include work with faculty the Odyssey Program and the First-Wave Hip-Hop Theatre Program, internships, assisting, and paid opportunities for research in immersive Theatre, design for video games, as well as with professional local theatres and scholarly conferences.

Study Abroad

The UW Theatre in London (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/program/?programId=330283>) program offers students an opportunity to be immersed in Britain’s rich tradition of theatre-making. Students engage in class discussions and readings about British theatre, and experience the culture, practice, methods, and results firsthand by attending a variety of productions abroad.

Career Advising and Internships

The School of Education Career Center (<https://careercenter.education.wisc.edu/>) has a designated advisor for art students who can provide connections with hourly campus employment, internships, and career options after graduation.