The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Theater

St. Bonaventure University’s B.A. program in Theater offers small classes—the kind of classes you always hoped you’d find—with plenty of individual attention and mentoring. Whether it’s Acting for the Camera, Theatrical Design, Shakespeare in Performance, or the History of Musical Theater, you’ll be able to express yourself and grow your skills and knowledge in our theater labs and classes.

SBU’s Theater program offers a diverse production season of classic and contemporary plays as well as premieres. From *The Burial at Thebes* to the full-production premiere of *More Than Before*, to a Mardi Gras *Twelfth Night* and the contemporary intensity of *The Walls*, SBU Theater offers you the opportunity to get on-stage and technical production experience from your first semester in two performance spaces. Our award-winning devised theater productions have allowed students to develop new stage works based on current social and political themes, and resonate with the community. On-campus workshops, trips to the Shaw Festival and other regional theater, and annual participation in the regional conferences and festivals of USITT and KC/ACTF round out your SBU Theater experience.

Curriculum

The B.A. in Theater at SBU requires a total of 36 hours of theater classes, labs and production work. Some students choose to double major or add a second minor to their theater degree. Special topics classes are offered as well and have included Scene Painting, Theater for Social Change, Makeup and Wigs, Professional Practices and more. Your Theater curriculum wraps up with a senior capstone project specially designed just for you. The capstone can be a production you direct, write, act in, design or it could be a presentation or a research project. The choice is yours!

Auditions

You don’t have to audition to become a theater major or minor at SBU! We achieve our high production standards and in-class training by welcoming and developing students at many levels of theater experience. Theater majors and minors are required to attend production auditions/tech interviews which happen the first Wednesday and Thursday of every semester. And in the true spirit of a liberal arts program, our theater
productions and classes are open to everyone, so you’ll work with students from across the university, broadening your experiences and making more friends!

A Century-Plus Tradition of Performance and Mentoring

St. Bonaventure University has been producing student theater since the 1870’s; theater is part of the DNA of SBU! What started as a club many decades ago has grown to become a vibrant major program in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. We’re especially proud of our theater production seasons—offering you the opportunity to work on a wide selection of new and classic plays, and the occasional musical. Past productions have included works by Harry Kondoleon, Lynn Nottage, Lisa Dillman, Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, Mary Zimmerman, Christopher Durang, David Ives, Keith Huff, Howard Brenton, Kate Coughlin, Shakespeare, Shaw, Chekhov, Sophocles, and many others. And your acting and tech work in SBU Theater productions will receive responses from theater faculty at other colleges and universities as part of the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival.

SBU Theater faculty are working professionals in the field and are associated with AEA (Actors’ Equity Association), SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society), USITT (United States Institute for Theater Technology) and ATHE (Association for Theater in Higher Education), so you learn from faculty who act, direct, design and broadcast in the business and are up-to-date on the latest in theater and media trends and developments.

SBU Theater is a welcoming, nurturing program based in ensemble. Every major or minor contributes to the success of every class, and on or off-stage in every production. Our theater graduates have gone on to receive internships at nationally-recognized institutions like the Alley Theater and ACT; attend graduate and conservatory programs in acting, creative writing, stage management and theater education; write for theater and media blogs; and are making their marks in theater and all sorts of production and performance media.

At a 2016 three-day intensive workshop for SBU Theater students, international master acting teacher Jane Brody said “Actor training is about training to be more human; to be an articulate, feeling, empathetic, energetic human. It teaches you skills that can transfer to any line of work.” That’s exactly what we in SBU Theater believe. So whether you enter one of the many aspects of show business or decide to pursue a career in law, publishing, broadcasting, hospitality, psychology, education or any of the dozens of opportunities open to people trained in theater, you’ll be more than prepared. Are you ready to major in Theater at SBU? We’re ready to welcome you.

Visit us at www.sbu.edu/theater and on Facebook.