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B.A. in Theater

www.sbu.edu/theater • Dr. Leslie Sabina, Chair, Visual & Performing Arts (Music, Theater, Visual Arts) • Isabina@sbu.edu • (716) 375-2320

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 Character or Ensemble, Theater Design, History of Musical Theater or Directing, 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 a fast-paced, visceral *Hamlet* to contemporary university premieres like *More Than Before* and *A Decade of Wandering*, to Lisa Dillman's latest version of *The Walls* or the delights of *A Christmas Carol*, 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 that 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. And with the explosion of career opportunities in screen and online media, classes cover camera and broadcast work as well as live theater. Special topics classes are offered frequently 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 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!





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A Tradition of Performance & Mentoring

St. Bonaventure University has been producing student theater since the 1870s; theater is part of the DNA of SBU! What started as a club many decades ago has 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, David Ives, Keith Huff, Howard Brenton, Shakespeare, Shaw, Chekhov, Sophocles, and many others.

Your acting and tech work in SBU Theater 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 associated with AEA (Actors' Equity Association); SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society); VASTA (Voice and Speech Trainers Association); 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 including Interlochen, Alley Theater and ACT; attend graduate and conservatory programs in acting, stage management, creative writing and theater education; write for theater and media blogs; and make their marks in theater and all sorts of screen production and performance media.

While teaching a three-day intensive workshop for SBU Theater students, visiting 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 decide to enter show business, where job opportunities are expanding every year, or pursue a career in law, publishing, public relations, marketing, psychology, education, hospitality, or any of the dozens of other areas welcoming 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.

