MFA in Theatre

Tracks in Playwriting, Directing, Dramaturgy, and Film

Southampton Graduate Arts

Director
Nick Mangano, Chancellors Hall (631) 632-5071

Administrative Coordinator
Adrienne Unger, Chancellors Hall 239 (631) 632-5030

Degree Awarded
M.F.A. in Theatre

Web Site
http://www.stonybrook.edu/mfa/

MFA in Theatre

Southampton Arts offers an MFA in Theatre with tracks in Playwriting, Directing, Dramaturgy and Film. Students study with internationally acclaimed artists in an interdisciplinary, collaborative environment. We offer crossover opportunities between theatre and film, which include ensemble creation and digital filmmaking, as well as all genres of creative writing and the visual arts. The program is for entrepreneurial students who wish to explore multiple approaches—from traditional to experimental—to create and produce new work.

The MFA in Theatre is a three year program that includes a core curriculum, a specialization (track), lab projects, a culminating MFA performance project, MFA written thesis, and a professional internship.

The curriculum requires 51-54 credits, including 39 required core and 12-15 track credits. All students take the required core courses and specialize in one of the four tracks.

Interested students should request information from the department and find application information at http://www.grad.sunysb.edu/admissions/app_info.shtml. Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible, especially if they plan to apply for financial aid.

Admission to the M.F.A. Program in Theatre

This M.F.A. program is intensive, and admission to it is highly selective. Upon review, finalists are invited for an on-campus interview. Interview requirements vary depending on track. For admission, the following, in addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, are normally required:

A. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university.

B. Undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0.

C. A minimum of three years of professional experience / training (preferred).

D. Three letters of recommendation.

E. A current resume

F. A written statement of artistic, educational and professional goals

G. The following are required for a chosen Track. Choose one:

Playwriting: 1) a completed play of any length that best represents your work; 2) a brief description of a play you are currently writing or wish to write while in our program

Directing: 1) a brief description of your approach (concept) to a chosen play, either one you have directed or one you wish to direct. You may provide select supporting materials, such as research (written or visual), and any other inspiration for your approach; 2) a list of plays and/or ideas for original devised pieces that you would like to direct / create while in our program

Dramaturgy: 1) three writing samples, including, critiques, production program notes, and/or literary criticism of a chosen play; 2) a play, screenplay or alternative performance piece if you have written one; 3) a brief statement describing your view of the role of the Dramaturg in today's theatre, and particularly in relation to creating new work

Film: 1) a film you have written, directed and/or produced if you have one; 2) a screenplay if you have written one; 3) a list of proficiencies in various production skills: camera, lighting, editing, directing, production and/or production design.

Crossover between tracks is possible, depending on each student’s interests and professional goals. For the application, choose one track and indicate in your statement of goals (F) your interest, if any, in crossover

F. Acceptance by both the MFA in Theatre program and the Graduate School.
I. If a student accepted into the M.F.A. program wishes to offer, either for credit toward the degree or for exemption from enrollment in courses required by Stony Brook, analogous courses taken at another university, transcripts and other supporting material must be presented for consideration by the graduate program director before the end of the student’s first semester in the program (see Transfer of Credit from Other Universities).

Facilities

The MFA in Theatre is located on the Stony Brook Southampton campus which includes the Avram Theater and Gallery, a 429-seat theater that was substantially renovated in 2007. Students also work in a flexible black box studio, and a digital film studio. The program recently purchased Panasonic AG 150s, Kino Flo and Arri light kits, Sennheiser lavaliers and booms, iMacs and Final Cut Studio. The University Library holds in excess of 27,000 volumes related to the study of theatre arts which is easily accessible through interlibrary document delivery. Special collections of play texts, including translations, and theatre archives are being developed continually. Students also take classes and work at our Manhattan Facility located at 387 Park Avenue South. The Faculty is an easy commute by train, bus, or car, and Manhattan’s many theatres, exhibitions, archives, and libraries (most notably the New York Public Library of the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center) are easily accessible.

Requirements for the M.F.A. Degree in Theatre

In addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, the following are required:

A. Courses

Courses required for the degree are:

CWL 500: Introduction to Graduate Studies (formerly Writing), 4 credits
TAF 510: Western Theatre and Literature I, 3 credits
TAF 520: Western Theatre and Literature II, 3 credits
TAF523: Theatre in New York, 3 credits
TAF 525: Topics in Theatre (Film Hist.), 3 credits
TAF 525: Topics in Theatre (Film Hist.), 3 credits
CWL 580: Practicum in Arts Administration, 4 credits
CWL 588: Independent Study, 1 credit
TAF 591: Independent Project, 3 credit
TAF 660: Acting Workshop, 3 credits
TAF 690: Professional Internship, 3 credits
TAF 691: MFA Project, 3 credits
TAF 692: Thesis, 3 credits

One of the following:

CWL 575 Summer Workshop (additional workshop either in area of specialization or related area. CWL 575 may be repeated for credit); or TAF 530 Directed Readings in Theatre; or EGL 501 Studies in Chaucer; or EGL 502 Studies in Shakespeare; or EGL 503 Studies in Milton; or EGL 503 Studies in Genre; or EGL 520 Studies in Renaissance; or EGL 525 17th-Century Literature; or EGL 530 Studies in Restoration Literature; or EGL 535 Studies in Neoclassicism; or EGL 540 Studies in Romanticism; or EGL 545 Studies in Victorian Literature; or EGL 547 Late 19th-Century British Literature; or EGL 550 20th-Century British Literature; or EGL 555 Studies in Irish Literature; or EGL 560 Studies in Early American Literature; or EGL 565 19th-Century American Literature; or EGL 570 20th-Century American Literature; or EGL 575 British and American Literature; or EGL 584 Topics in Genre Studies, 3 credits

B. TRACKS

Choose one of the following Tracks (12 – 15 credits)

DRAMATURGY (12 cr.)
TAF 505: Dramaturgy I, 3 credits
TAF 506: Dramaturgy II, 3 credits
CWL 575: Summer Conference 3
TAF 680: Dramaturgy Workshop  3 

DIRECTING (12 cr.)
CWL 575: Summer Conference  3
TAF 638: Directing I  3
TAF 639: Directing II  3
TAF 670: Directing Workshop  3 

PLAYWRITING (14 cr.)
CWL 530: Forms of Scriptwriting: Playwriting  4
Choose one of the following: CWL 510 Forms of Fiction, CWL 520 Forms of Poetry, or CWL 530 Forms of Scriptwriting (other than Playwriting; e.g., Screenwriting, Television, etc.)  4
CWL 575: Summer Conference  3
TAF 650: Playwriting Workshop  3

FILM TRACK (15 cr.)
CWL 530: Forms of Scriptwriting: Screenwriting  4
Choose one of the following: CWL 510 Forms of Fiction, CWL 520 Forms of Poetry, or CWL 530 Forms of Scriptwriting  4
CWL 565: Special Topics in Writing  4
CWL 575: Summer Conference  3
[ADD: FILM WORKSHOP] TAF 500 Introduction to Graduate Studies
TAF 505 Dramaturgy I
TAF 506 Dramaturgy II
TAF 510 and TAF 511 Western Theatre History and Far Eastern Theatre and Drama
TAF 520 and TAF 521 Western Dramatic Literature and South and Southeast Asian Theatre and Drama
TAF 535 Theories of Theatre
TAF 550 Teaching Practicum
TAF 590 Thesis
TAF 635 Theories of Performance
TAF 680 Dramaturgy Workshop
TAF 690 M.F.A. Internship
TAF 691 M.F.A. Project

Recommended courses are:
TAF 507 Performance Dramaturgy
TAF 523 Theatre in New York
TAF 560 Acting: Theory and Practice
TAF 570 Directing: Theory and Practice
TAF 640 Scenography and New Media
TAF 650 Playwriting Workshop
TAF 660 Acting Workshop

F. Residence Requirement
This program is normally completed in three years of full-time residency. One semester of the last year is typically spent in a professional internship program.

H. Master’s Thesis
A master’s thesis must be successfully completed under the direction of a faculty advisor.

University Requirements

The granting of master’s degree is based upon the completion of any special departmental requirements in addition to the items listed below:

A. Courses and Grade Point Average
A student must maintain a 3.0 overall grade point average

C. Registration
Degree candidates must be registered in the program granting their degree. Students must be registered for the semester in which they intend to graduate. Spring (May) and Fall (December) candidates must register for at least one graduate credit; Summer (August) candidates may register for zero credits in either summer session, but it still must be graduate level.

Faculty of MFA in Theatre Program

Professor
Mangano, Nick, Director. MFA, Columbia University, School of the Arts. Directing, Acting.

Visiting Assistant Professors
Alda, Alan, BS, Fordham: Writing.
Baitz, Jon Robin. Scriptwriting, Playwriting
Brandeis, Magdalene, MFA, Stony Brook University. Digital Film Production.
Handley Chandler, Annette. Screenwriting.
Kriegman, Mitchell, Scriptwriting, Digital Film Production.
Norman, Marsha, M.A.T., University of Louisville. Playwriting, Musical Book

Lecturers
Burford, William. MFA, University of Texas-Austin. Playwriting, Production

Guest Teaching Artists
Baker, Annie, MFA, Playwriting
Baldwin, Alec, Acting.
Bock, Adam, Playwriting.
Brancato, Paula, Screenwriting.
Carden, William, Acting
Hedges, Peter, Screenwriting.
Lazaridi, Christina, Screenwriting.
Mann, Emily, Playwriting, Directing.
Mantello, Joe, Directing
Marshall, Kathleen, Directing.
Pendleton, Austin, Directing.
Walton, Tony, Directing.
Wing-Davey, Mark, Directing.

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.