Extraordinary Opportunities to Collaborate and Innovate.
OUR MISSION

The University of Maryland School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies advances and transforms the research and practice of theatre, dance and performance studies through its commitment to excellence and innovative education in the performing arts.

OUR VISION

We envision a School that serves as a national model for collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship in the performing arts.

FACILITIES

Located on a 17-acre site, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center is one of the largest and best-equipped performing arts venues on any university campus. It provides a vibrant, collaborative environment, integrating art and craft with scholarship and training. A full season of professional dance, music and theatre performances complements our School performances and productions, bringing to campus internationally renowned artists who conduct masterclasses and participate in residencies.

The Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library is the go-to source for music, theatre and dance materials that support the teaching, learning and research mission of the university. Distinguished by the depth of its collections related to the performing arts, the library offers students and faculty access to the information they need to succeed in the classroom or on the stage. Reference librarians and curators provide assistance and expertise to ensure students and faculty use these resources to their greatest potential.
BA THEATRE
MFA PERFORMANCE
BA DANCE
MFA DANCE


MFA DESIGN
MA THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES
PhD THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

TO APPLY VISIT TDPS.UMD.EDU INFO: 301.405.6676

LOCATION

Located in the city of College Park, the University of Maryland is home of the Terrapins — Inspiring, involved and fearless Terps from across the state, country and around the globe. We’re one of the nation’s top-ranked public research institutions, with 90 undergraduate majors across 10 colleges. And we have an unbeatable location on the border of Washington DC.

Just a Metro ride away, you can catch all the sights, culture and nightlife of Washington DC. You’re also only a half-hour from Baltimore and Annapolis, where you can stroll along the harbor and find places to try our famous Maryland blue crabs. Take the MARC train to Oriole Park at Camden Yards, to the Baltimore Ravens football stadium. Check out mega-concerts at the Verizon Center, home to the Capitals and Wizards, jazz music at the intimate Blues Alley in Georgetown or stand-up comedians at the DC Improv. Attend fabulous performances at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Shakespeare Theatre Company, National Theatre, Wooley Mammoth Theatre and more!

College Park offers a great variety of shops and restaurants, featuring dishes that span the globe. A popular hiker-biker trail runs right through campus and past Lake Artemesia, a great picnicking spot. Neighboring communities offer shopping malls, movie theaters and every amenity you can imagine.
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEATRE

With approximately 170 students, the BA IN THEATRE program has the tight-knit feel of a small college program with the rich resources of a large university. The intimate size of the program generates collaborative skills and group support among the individual members and fosters workshops with alumni and theatre professionals in a state-of-the-art performing arts facility.

“Nowhere else would I have experienced such a well-rounded education in Theatre.”
— EVELYN ZILBERMAN, BA THEATRE, 2004, VICE PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA ARTISTS THEATREALS

PRODUCT:  

- A balanced, liberal arts approach integrates production, design and scholarship.
- Students learn about the history, literature and theory of theatre while focusing on the cultural diversity that has shaped the creation of theatrical and performative forms around the world.
- Students gain practical training in all areas of theatre, from critical analysis, to design, to directing, to performance techniques.
- Students are taught analytical skills and allowed the space to develop their own aesthetic sensibilities and their own perspectives as artists and audience members.

Facing pages: In the Red and Brown Water photo by Stan Barouh; Inseh You choreography and photo by Graham Brown. Above, left to right: RENT photo by Stan Barouh; A Midsummer Night’s Dream photo by Stan Barouh

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MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN PERFORMANCE

The MFA IN PERFORMANCE is designed for the innovative performing artist with professional theatre experience and artistic vision who wishes to build on her or his strengths and insights in a rigorous, creative and scholarly context. This program is for the entrepreneurial artist who wishes to write, direct, perform and produce his or her own work; additionally, it enhances teaching artistry through strong mentorship, guidance and practice. This program is small and individualized; only six students are accepted every three years. Auditions are required; the next applications will be accepted in Fall 2019. Opportunities to create and perform in cross-disciplinary collaborations and formal and informal settings are abundant.

- The program distinguishes itself by offering a small, diverse group of gifted mid-career and/or emerging professionals the opportunity to develop as “Actor-Scholars.”

PROGRAM:

- Students are trained artists who wish to write, direct, compose, perform, produce and teach their own work.

- The program is designed specifically for artists with vision who wish to build on their own strengths and creative voices in a rigorous scholarly context.

Above, from left to right: The Sound of Smoke photo by Zachary Z. Handler; Let It Flo photo by Stan Barouh; Coffee & Biscuit photo by Stan Barouh. Facing page: Meena’s Dream photo by Stan Barouh.

TO APPLY VISIT TDPS.UMD.EDU
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DANCE

The BA IN DANCE offers students a solid foundation in the core areas of the discipline as well as insights into cross-disciplinary fields of study. Coursework is designed to help students become skilful, articulate, expressive movers; find their own voice as creative artists; develop the ability to work effectively in a collaborative environment; and grow in their conceptual understanding of dance as an art form in relation to the other arts.

Foundational sequences in technique and in the creative process prepare students for interdisciplinary and/or cross-cultural project-based learning experiences that engage students in an in-depth exploration of a theme from a performance, choreographic and theory perspective. Students also select an area of emphasis in performance and choreography, dance education or production. Students in the education area of emphasis may apply for acceptance into an intensive fifth year, 12-month program that leads to an M.Ed plus K-12 certification in dance in Maryland.

The dance faculty is composed of distinguished teachers, choreographers and performers, each one a specialist in his or her own field. Visiting artists throughout the year make additional contributions to the program through masterclasses, workshops, seminars and guest choreography. Students have the opportunity to engage in choreography and performance in informal workshops and in fully mounted concerts both on and off campus.

PROGRAM:

- Students may focus their studies on a particular aspect of dance, such as performance, choreography, production or education. Students may also opt to merge their interest in dance with an interest in another field of study.

- The dance faculty is composed of distinguished teachers, choreographers and performers, each one a specialist in his or her own field.

- All students have the opportunity to engage in choreography and performance, ranging from informal workshops to fully mounted concerts.
MASTERS OF FINE ARTS IN DANCE

The **MFA in Dance** is a 60-credit, three-year program in Performance and Choreography for the Teaching Artist. The program is small and individualized; only four applicants are accepted each year. Auditions are required and admission is for Fall semester acceptance only. Opportunities abound to perform in guest artist and faculty works, to create cross-disciplinary projects, to participate in community-based events and to share graduate works in formal and informal settings. The degree culminates in an original choreographed and performed thesis project and includes an off-campus internship with an arts organization, dance company or research venue.

From left to right: A World Apart, A Heartbeat Away photo by Zachary Z. Handler; Like a Unicorn in Captivity photo by Zachary Z. Handler; 2012 Shared Thesis Concert photo by Zachary Z. Handler; Facing page (Inset) Like a Unicorn in Captivity photo by Zachary Z. Handler; (Large Image) Triumph of Disruption: A Movement to Subvert photo by Zachary Z. Handler.

**PROGRAM:**

- Graduate students can enroll in the University of Maryland Certification Program in Laban Movement Studies. (additional tuition costs apply)

- We train the teaching artist — the practicing professional artist — with the skills and sensibilities of an educator. Coursework and practice in pedagogy are as critical to our graduate students as are the study and practice of professional dance performance and dance-making. Every graduate student in Dance teaches at the undergraduate level during his or her three years in the program.

- Opportunities abound to perform in guest artist and faculty works, and in the creation of cross-disciplinary projects, to participate in community-based events and in shared graduate works, in formal and informal settings throughout the three years.
A pre-professional, terminal degree, the MFA IN DESIGN emphasizes the development of specific production-related skills and prepares students to enter the professional theatre and entertainment fields. The highly competitive three-year program offers superior students advanced training and opportunities in costume, lighting or scenic design. Students can earn credit as assistant designers and designers at many of Washington DC’s professional theatres, On- and Off-Broadway, and in leading regional theatres.
PROGRAM:

- Students design three to four main season productions during their studies. The school produces nine main season shows for Dance, Theatre and Opera, and approximately five student-produced productions per academic year.

- Students can earn credit as assistant designers and designers at many of Washington, DC’s professional theatres, On- and Off-Broadway, and in leading regional theatres.

- The nation’s leading professional designers and directors offer structured responses to each student’s portfolio at the annual juried public portfolio exhibition.

- Students have numerous internship opportunities with more than 75 professional theatres in the Washington DC-Baltimore corridor.

Large photo of Sandwalk by Allison Horbaugh; Inset from left to right: The Illusion photo by Stan Barouh, Enchanted April photo by Stan Barouh, A Midsummer Night’s Dream photo by Stan Barouh

TO APPLY VISIT TDPS.UMD.EDU
MASTER OF ARTS AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

The MA and PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies are degrees that prepare scholars to use substantive research skills to analyze contemporary issues of theatre and performance. Students may specialize in the history and theory of theatre practice and dramatic literature or performance studies and ethnography to investigate a broad spectrum of performance traditions.

The program trains students to transcend disciplinary boundaries and pose challenging questions that are pertinent to the field today. Successful theses and dissertations combine in-depth and well-conducted research, analytical writing and original ideas. The program encourages students to investigate the connections between theatre and its social, political and historical context, and also offers exciting and diverse opportunities to participate in performance, directing and dramaturgy. Students emerge from the program with direct experience and a heightened understanding of the integral relationship between artistic practice and serious scholarship.

• An interdisciplinary degree that prepares scholars and teachers of theatre and performance studies.

• Studies in the doctoral program are distinguished by focus: History and Theory of Drama or Contemporary Theatre and Performance Studies.

• Coursework options include history, historiography, theatre architecture, archival research methods, critical theory, dramaturgy, performance studies, area studies, cultural anthropology and ethnographic research methods.

• Students and faculty conduct research around the world. In addition to various regions of the U.S., they have worked in Scotland, Ireland, England, Germany, Austria, Greece, Uganda, South Africa, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China, South Korea, Iran, Spain, Mexico, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and Cuba.

From left to right: PhD Candidate Adam Nixon, Walter Dallas, Artist-in-Residence, PhD candidates LaRonika Thomas and Khalid Long, MFA in Performance candidate Rob Jansen, and Professor Foedra Carpenter, Drs. Tracey Chessum and Natalie Tenen, 2012.

Facing page: Photo from scholar artist collaboration of TDPS faculty and students at the International Festival of Theatre in Havana, Cuba, 2009.
COLLABORATION

VISITING ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS The UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, in conjunction with the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the University of Maryland College of Arts and Humanities, endeavors to offer co-curricular opportunities, multi-disciplinary experiences and creative inspiration by bringing in extraordinary artists and scholars to enhance the learning experiences of our students. Past artists include director and writer Mary Zimmerman; choreographer and performer Tere O’Connor; filmmaker and photographer Shirin Neshat; multi-media artist and designer Douglas Fitch; dancer and choreographer John Jasperse; playwright David Henry Huang; and dancer and choreographer Liz Lerman.

Through the partnership with the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, visionary artists in each performance season offer workshops, seminars, masterclasses — and sometimes an opportunity to perform — to current theatre and dance students as part of their academic engagement and commitment to creative collaboration. Recent artists include Paul Taylor Dance Company, SITI Company, Lucky Plush Productions, Rinse Eckert and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company.

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS The University of Maryland is committed to playing a significant role in the global community and engaging our students in international opportunities. The UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies has embraced this international vision with an International Initiative Fund to spur partnership collaborations throughout the world. Our students are increasingly diverse, questioning, aware, engaged and globally oriented. The School’s International Initiative Fund supports two-way exchanges, providing research and performance opportunities abroad for our students, while also bringing international artists/scholars to College Park. Initiatives have included a collaboration with The National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts on a presentation of A Midsummer Night’s Dream; research and development for future exchanges in Accra, Ghana; performance and workshops in Havana and Cumaná, Cuba; development of internship opportunities with the Shakespeare Globe Theatre in London and festival performances in Scotland; Symposium for Directors/Theatre Makers at La MaMa Umbria International; Flamenco Puro/Flamenco Nuevo: Tracing Dance Lineage and Style, Seville and surrounding areas; performance and teaching residency at Open Look International Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia; Gaga dance technique workshop in Tel Aviv; and research with theatre development and educational projects in Kampala, Uganda.