Northeastern University’s Department of Theatre offers an exciting alternative to the traditional choice for an undergraduate theatre education: most programs are either a conservatory (non-academic/talent based) or a liberal arts program (without career preparation). We are different.

As a hub for Creative Practice Research, we blend a vibrant spirit of innovation with vigorous academic inquiry across disciplines. We make theatre in order to generate new knowledge and new understanding; we develop and hone the basic human literacies of creativity, collaboration and communication through critical creative practice. We also have significant interactions across disciplines that contribute to a fuller education for our students. By teaching them the foundation of art as ethical responsibility we offer them a more promising future, with vital and employable skills such as creative problem solving, active collaboration, and deep empathy.

What’s the purpose of studying Theatre? Our unique department answers with decisive vigor: Theatre is where we rehearse for the unexpected. It is where we learn to live with uncertainty and to engage in difficult conversations. Theatre teaches us to listen actively; it allows us to slow down and find depth. Theatre is where we are able to make sense of what we witness around us.

Conservatory? Liberal Arts? DON’T MAKE A CHOICE JOIN US INSTEAD!
how are we distinctive?

We make theatre in order to generate new knowledge and new understanding across disciplines.

Our flexible curriculum encourages interdisciplinary studies; we have a variety of combined majors and minors.

Undergraduate students have access to college and university funding for creative practice research projects.

Our urban campus is located right in the city with more arts and culture per capita than any other U.S. city. The Greater Boston area has over 100 theatres: our students see 15-20 professional productions a year.

We have a strong network of national and international co-op and study abroad opportunities.

NU Theatre momentum

Northeastern University has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report among the nation’s top 50 universities for six consecutive years.

Our theatre program was ranked #7 in “Top BA Programs in the U.S.” Onstage wrote: “If you’re looking for a BA in Theatre in Boston, there is no better choice than Northeastern. Through Northeastern’s famed co-op program, students can discover a variety of creative fields within the theatre – and ways in which theatre training positions them for success in many other creative fields.”

The Department of Theatre currently has:
- 86 majors
- over 200 minors.
- 11 Full-time Faculty
- 4 Staff
- 20 Part-time Faculty & Guest Artists
our mission

The Department of Theatre is a vibrant community of students, staff, and faculty, guided by values of generosity, integrity, respect, and rigor. As a hub for Creative Practice Research, we are dedicated to theatre and performance both as a living art and as an interdisciplinary system of inquiry.

A Northeastern Theatre education aligns collaborative theatre-making (production, design, and performance) with academic study and practice-based research. Our students develop a rich foundation for meaningful and prosperous careers through experiential learning.

We are committed to the ongoing pursuit of intersectional social and racial justice.

We incorporate diverse methodologies, approaches, and measures of success.

While we engage with the moment in which we live, we are constantly evolving, learning, and adapting.
our productions

Each academic year, we mount between 4 and 6 fully realized productions. These are deep collaborations between students, staff, faculty and guest artists that are shared with the greater NU audience. We produce all sorts of plays, genres and styles. Our only goal is the creation of fascinating and compelling theatre.

All students receive academic credit for their participation in our production program, and are exposed to every single aspect of theatre production.

21 - 22 Productions:

Love & Information
Written by Caryl Churchill
Performances October 14 - 24

The Bacchae
Written by Euripides
Performances November 11 - 21

Radio Plays
Airing on WRBB 104.9 and streaming in January 2022

The Antipodes
Written by Annie Baker
Performances March 2 - 6

This is Treatment
Written by Elizabeth Addison
Performances March 31 - April 10
Northeastern students explore many theatre disciplines: acting, designing, producing, directing, playwriting, social engagement, stage management, and arts administration. We celebrate multi-dimensionality and encourage our students to pursue combined majors, double-majors and minors in other disciplines. We look for students to be:

- Intellectually curious, self-motivated, ambitious, fearless, and generous
- Multi-dimensional—passionate about performance, and also interested in discovering design, directing, playwriting, or arts administration
- Interested in studying and making an array of theatrical productions
- Eager to see great theatre and engage with professional actors, directors, and designers while studying in Boston
- Ready to work with our faculty and staff and develop their own professional identity and outlook.
student perspectives

"How would you describe the department of theatre?"

The top three answers:

- Welcoming
- Community
- Innovative

"What is your favorite part of your Northeastern experience?"

The top three answers:

- Boston Professional Theatre (83%)
- Department Productions (74%)
- Theatre Faculty (71%)
rules of play

Kate Franklin ‘20

RULES OF PLAY is a comedic, Brechtian theatre piece (filmed due to COVID) written and directed by Kate Franklin. This play dramatizes Greek life and hookup culture on college campuses to illuminate the harms associated with these patriarchal systems and the part they play in the pervasiveness of sexual assault on college campuses. Since filming, Kate has worked with multiple fraternities on campus to transform hookup culture to be more safe and healthy for everyone. Using the play as a jumping off point, Kate engages in empathetic and open dialogue with Greek men about sexual violence prevention and consent education.

scenes from metamorphoses

Des Bennet (‘21) & Matthew Hosking (‘21)

Love, identity, and divine intervention: Mary Zimmerman’s adaptation explores Ovid’s myths through a contemporary, feminist lens. This production, directed by graduating theatre major Des Bennett highlights the unique creative problem solving of digital performance, and celebrates the identities of LGBTQIA+ artists.

how to survive a pandemic

Kaitlyn Fiery ‘22 & Shira Weiss ‘22

Amidst the global pandemic and political turmoil that defined the year 2020, Northeastern University students Kaitlyn Fiery and Shira Weiss set out to listen, learn, and connect with their peers through interviews and story circles; those transcripts became the play. Utilizing platforms such as Zoom and Open Broadcaster Software, this digital performance experience centers audience members as essential players whose participation is vital to the show. Through the aesthetic of gaming, HOW TO SURVIVE A PANDEMIC celebrates human resilience, asking who and what keeps us afloat in times of crisis.
Theatre & American Sign Language
Theatre & Communication Studies
Theatre & Computer Science
Theatre & Cultural Anthropology
Theatre & English
Theatre & Experience Design
Theatre & Game Design
Theatre & Media/Screen Studies

Creativity in Theory & Practice
Global Fashion Studies
Improvisation & Storytelling
Playwrighting
Performance & Social Change
Performing Arts Administration
Theatre
Theatrical Design

Each year, several high talent theatre majors are specially selected to spend their first fall semester studying internationally in London, Rome, or Dublin. In January, they join the other first-year students for a full roster of theatre courses.

Elise Piliponis ’22:
“My experience abroad with N.U.in greatly changed my perspective and strengthened my confidence, especially in social and personal relationships. I made some of my most lasting relationships with those in the N.U.in program as we navigated the transition to Northeastern’s main campus together, which, although difficult, challenged me to grow in ways I might not have had I come in first semester. I am grateful for the lessons N.U.in taught me in building strong relationships and making my voice heard.”

Consider starting one of CAMD’s interdisciplinary masters programs as you complete your BA/BS
recent co-ops:

- AMC Networks (NYC)
- American Repertory Theatre
- Boston Ballet
- Boston Casting
- Central Square Theatre
- Huntington Theatre Company
- Lincoln Center (NYC)
- Lyric Stage Company
- Pentación Espectáculos (Madrid)
- SpeakEasy Stage Company
- Universal Music Group (NYC)

theatre co-op employment areas:

- Artist Leadership
- Casting
- Costume Design/Costume Shop
- Education and Community Outreach
- Lighting Design/Electrics
- Literary Management/New Play Development
- Scenic Design/Scene Shop
- Stage Management
- Theatre Marketing
- Theatre Administration/Business
our spaces
ask about a tour in person or on video

Studio Theatre
1st Floor of Curry Student Center

Ryder Theatre Lab
3rd Floor of Ryder Hall

Acting Studio
3rd Floor of Ryder Hall

Scene Shop
attached to the Studio Theatre

Costume Shop
near the Studio Theatre

Department Office & Faculty Offices
4th Floor of Ryder Hall
portfolios and auditions

portfolios:
If you are interested in Design and Stage and Production Management, Dramaturgy and Theatre Studies, you are invited to submit examples of your work online using Slideroom or visit campus to show us examples of your work. Your work offstage and in the classroom is important. You can share a range of academic and creative accomplishments. For example:
- design sketches, ground plans and light plots,
- photos of design work, scenic painting/construction, costumes or props you designed or built
- prompt books and/or stage management paperwork
- one-act or full-length plays you’ve written
- research papers and dramaturgical packets
- theatre reviews or essays analyzing dramatic literature
- visual design collages or Pinterest mood boards
- related projects in video/film, music, art and design

If you are a director, designer, stage manager, or choreographer, then we would love to use the audition time to have a conversation about your work.

auditions:
If you are interested in Performance, please note that auditions for the theatre major are not required – they are encouraged. You may audition in person on campus or submit a video audition as part of your application. Because we are not a conservatory, your admission to Northeastern is not exclusively talent-based. However, auditioning can help to enhance your admissions profile and increase your merit-based financial aid if you are accepted.

In-Person Auditions:
Saturday, October 23rd
10am - 1pm
In 372 Ryder Hall
Q&A session for students and families following the final audition.
Folks who attend these can also visit The Bacchae rehearsals and attend a Love and Information performance in the evening.

Virtual Auditions:
Saturday, October 30
2pm - 5pm on Zoom
Q&A at the end of the session

Audition Materials:
One 3-minute monologue from a contemporary play or two contrasting monologues totaling no more than 3 minutes in length.

Audition spaces are 12 minutes in length and you can sign up for them on our website.

If you are unable to attend in-person or virtual auditions, you may submit an audition video using Slideroom as part of your application. The audition requirements are the same and they are treated the same as on campus auditions.
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617-373-2467

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