

theatre@nu



N Northeastern University
College of Arts, Media and Design
Theatre

A HUB FOR CREATIVE PRACTICE RESEARCH

Vibrant spirit of innovation

Vigorous academic inquiry

The Department of Theatre at Northeastern University is decidedly different than most university theatre programs: we offer a unique alternative to the traditional choices of either a conservatory (non-academic/talent based) or a liberal arts program (without career preparation).

As a hub for Creative Practice Research, housed within the Radically Relevant College of Arts, Media, & Design (CAMD), we make theatre to generate new knowledge and new understanding. We develop and hone the basic human literacies of creativity, collaboration, and communication through critical creative practice. By blending a vibrant spirit of innovation with vigorous academic inquiry across disciplines, we foster significant interactions that deliver a fuller educational experience. We intentionally lay the foundation of art as ethical responsibility in order to prepare students for a promising future, with vital, employable and adaptable skills.

Theatre is where we rehearse for the unexpected, 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 make sense of what we witness around us. At Northeastern, we will help you build a successful future that fully integrates your love of Theatre.



Conservatory?

Liberal Arts?

DON'T MAKE A CHOICE

JOIN US INSTEAD!



how are we distinctive?

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

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

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

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.

NU Theatre momentum

Northeastern University is ranked by U.S. News & World Report among the nation's top 50 universities.

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:

- 80+ majors
- over 200 minors
- 12 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 commitments to social & racial justice

We commit to building and sustaining a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable community: an antiracist and anti-oppressive space where all individuals can participate freely and honestly.

We commit to working towards decolonizing theatre. We strive to recognize our own privilege, to use our platform to reflect the times and to advocate for historically marginalized voices at NU and beyond.

We commit to holding every member of our community accountable in moving towards a better future.

our productions

23 - 24 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.

Sisterhood of the Survivors

Written by Bianca Vranceanu ('22)

Performances October 12 - 22

The Moors

Written by Jen Silverman

Performances November 9 - 19

Exception to the Rule

Written by Dave Harris

Performances February 21-25

Usual Girls

Written by Ming Peiffer

Performances March 28 - April 97



our students: 21st century creative practice leaders

Northeastern students explore many disciplines as well as many aspects of theatre making: performance, design, production, 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?"

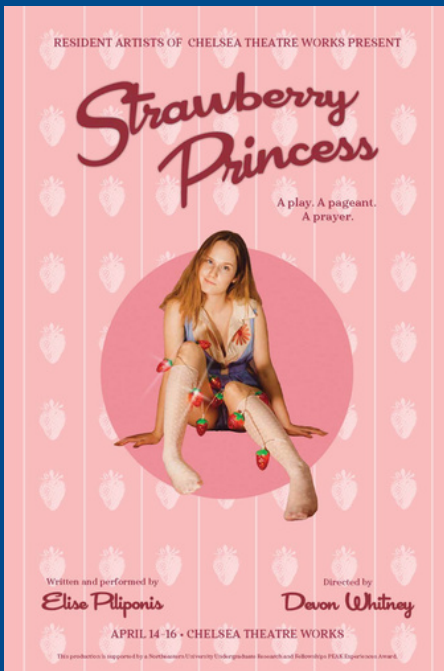
The top three answers: Welcoming
Community
Innovative

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

The top three answers:

Boston Professional Theatre (83%)
Department Productions (74%)
Theatre Faculty (71%)

recent student projects



strawberry princess

Elise Piliponis ('22) & Devon Whitney ('23)

Strawberry Princess: A Play, A Pageant, a Prayer is a solo show written & performed by Elise Piliponis, directed by Devon Whitney.

A very solemn, very silly affair, this is a queer coming-of-age story and a love letter to the eighth-grader within.

This production was presented at Chelsea Theatre Works where Elise and Devon were selected to be Resident Artists for the spring of 2022. Elise and Devon were also recipients of a Northeastern University PEAK Experience Summit Award, a research scholarship that funded this production.

stitching earthly scars

Meryl Prendergast ('22)

In the fall of 2020, Meryl drove across the country in an RV exploring the beauty of the United States landscape, but also all the ways in which mankind has destroyed it through climate change. Through this research, she designed a 24-look fashion collection about climate change. After completing that project, Meryl found she had more to say. In the summer of 2021 she constructed twelve of the garments she designed, including printing her own textiles sustainably. She set off in her RV again and filmed actor models wearing her fashion in the places that inspired them. In the spring of 2022 Meryl showed her art exhibition "Stitching Earthly Scars" at her artist studio at the Distillery Gallery. The Exhibition included photographs, her 12 completed looks, and a 60 minute film.



ocular: what it is to wait

Riley Cohen ('22) & Kaitlyn Fiery ('22)

ocular is a comedic, self-aware one-person show with improvisational aspects written and performed by Riley Cohen and directed by Kaitlyn Fiery. The piece explores what it means to wait for a medical diagnosis, both before and during the Covid-19 pandemic. ocular was presented in the Ryder Theatre Lab in March 2022.

recent student designs

costume design for EVERYBODY

Rachel Erwin ('23)



lighting design for THE ANTIPODES

Ciara McAloon ('22)



courses of study

major concentrations

- Design and Production
- Performance
- Theatre

combined majors

- Theatre & American Sign Language
- Theatre & Communication Studies
- Theatre & Computer Science
- Theatre & Cultural Anthropology
- Theatre & English
- Theatre & Journalism
- Theatre & Design
- Theatre & Media/Screen Studies
- Theatre & Psychology
- Student Initiated Combined Majors

minors

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

4+1

- Consider starting one of CAMD's interdisciplinary masters programs as you complete your BA/BS

going global: nu.in & nu.bound

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

Shira Lederman '23:

"I was able to explore London, study a different culture, and travel with my friends. I met so many different people and made some of my best friendships with people both in and outside of the theatre department. Some of my favorite things that I did included seeing West End Theatre (with tickets provided by the NUin program!), taking day trips to different parts of England, and going to so many different museums in London. I gained a strong sense of independence, but there was also a strong support system through my friends and in the program itself!"





theatre co-ops

recent co-ops:

- [AMC Networks \(NYC\)](#)
- [American Repertory Theatre \(Cambridge\)](#)
- [Boston Ballet \(Boston\)](#)
- [Boston Casting \(Boston\)](#)
- [Boston Playwrights Theatre \(Boston\)](#)
- [Central Square Theatre \(Cambridge\)](#)
- [Huntington Theatre Company \(Boston\)](#)
- [Lincoln Center \(NYC\)](#)
- [Lyric Stage Company \(Boston\)](#)
- [Manhattan Theatre Club \(NYC\)](#)
- [Pentación Espectáculos \(Madrid\)](#)
- [SpeakEasy Stage Company \(Boston\)](#)
- [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



*Reach out to us for an in-person or virtual tour.

portfolios and auditions

portfolios:

We encourage all prospective students to submit a portfolio via Slideroom no matter what area of theatre-making you are interested in!

If you are a performer, please consider uploading one 3-minute monologue from a contemporary play or two contrasting monologues totaling no more than 3 minutes in length along with your resumé and a personal statement.

If you are interested in Design, Stage and Production Management, Dramaturgy and Theatre Studies, or choreography, you are invited to submit 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

auditions:

Please note that auditions for the theatre major are not required – they are encouraged. You may audition in person on campus or sign up for a virtual audition over Zoom. 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.

Virtual Auditions:

Saturday, September 23rd

1pm - 4pm on Zoom

Q+A at the end of the session

In-Person Auditions:

Saturday, September 30th

10am - 1pm

In 372 Ryder Hall on Northeastern's Boston Campus

Q+A session for students and families following the final audition.

Folks who attend these can also visit a rehearsal for Sisterhood of the Survivors.

Audition Materials:

For performers: one 3-minute monologue from a contemporary play or two contrasting monologues totaling no more than 3 minutes in length.

For directors, designers, stage managers, or choreographers: we would love to use the audition time to have a conversation about your work.

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 a portfolio using Slideroom as part of your application. A portfolio submission counts the same as an in-person audition.



contact us

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WEBSITE:

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