

Theatre

Whitworth Theatre is dedicated to cultivating artistic integrity in its students and its program as we explore the many aspects of theatre in an environment that challenges our students to integrate their faith with their art, both within and beyond the Whitworth University community.



Students in the theatre program address two primary questions:

- What does it mean to be a Christian in theatre (or to be a theatre artist)?
- What is Christian theatre (or the function of theatre)?

Departmental Goals and Objectives

By the end of the sophomore year, the student will be able to...

- analyze a dramatic script from the perspective of the actor.
- employ a variety of rehearsal techniques.
- prepare an audition.
- create both individual and group performances from a variety of texts.
- articulate basic theoretical and ethical performance issues.
- construct basic stock units for a set.
- employ proper vocal techniques for performance (acting track).
- employ proper movement techniques for performance (acting track).

By the time of her/his graduation, the student will be able to...

- define “Christian theatre” and explain what it means to be a Christian in theatre from a personal point of view (or, if a student is not a Christian, to define “theatre” and what it means to be in theatre given his or her worldview).
- execute the four fundamentals of play directing: play analysis, communication with actors, design and production, interpretation and style.
- identify important practices, playwrights, and plays in the history of theatre, and articulate the relationship between theatre and the culture within which it exists.
- construct a theoretical argument using historical information.
- create and present a project demonstrating expertise in a chosen area: performance, directing, theatre in education or community engagement, design or research.
- develop and demonstrate a standard audition packet as defined by URTA (acting track) or a portfolio (production track).

Requirements for a Theatre Major, B.A. (38-40)

Required Core Courses (25)

Take 2 credits from the following:

2

TA 145	Theatre Production
TA 245	Theatre Production
TA 345	Theatre Production

TA 445	Theatre Production	
TA 231	Performance Theory and Practice	3
TA 270	Stage Makeup & Costume Construction	2
TA 273	Acting I	3
TA 275	Stagecraft I	3
TA 361	Fundamentals of Directing	3
TA 476W	History of Theatre I	3
TA 477W	History of Theatre II	3
TA 498	Senior Project	3

All students enter the major in the general track and remain in the track unless they apply for admission into one of the other tracks. Only students who have specific post-graduate education and/or career goals in another track should apply into that track. Admission into track II, III, or IV carries with it the expectation of significant contributions to the department in those areas. Admission is limited to two tracks.

Track I: General (38-40)

Required core courses		25
TA 278	Design & Production: Scenic & Costume	3
Two courses from the following:		4-6
TA 100	Introduction to Theatre	
TA 215	Film Performance & Production	
TA 276	Improvitational Acting	
TA 301H	The Actor's Experience: New York City	
TA 314H	Church Drama	
TA 348	Performing the Self	
EL 247	Shakespeare	
EL 316	American Drama Since 1900	
Six additional credits in theatre		6

Track II: Acting (40)

Required core courses		25
TA 276	Improvitational Acting	3
TA 279	Voice for the Performer	2
TA 342	Principles of Movement	2
TA 473	Acting II	3
Five additional credits in theatre		5

Track III: Community-Based Theatre (40)

Required core courses		25
TA 116	Theatre in Community	3
TA 348	Performing the Self	3
TA 316	Community-Based Theatre	3
AR 435/TA 435	Arts Administration	3
Three additional advisor-approved credits in community engagement courses		3

Track IV: Production (40)

Required core courses		25
TA 278	Design & Production: Scenic & Costume	3
TA 277	Design & Production: Lighting & Sound	3
or TA 377	Design & Production: Lighting & Sound	
One of the following theatre courses:		3
TA 217	Mask-Making	

TA 220	Art At Large	
TA 250	Stage Management	
One of the following Art History courses:		3
AR 260, 360	History of Ancient Art	
AR 261, 361	History of Renaissance and Baroque Art	
AR 263, 363	History of Modern Art	
AR 264, 364	History of Medieval Art	
One of the following Art Studio courses		3
AR 101	Drawing I	
AR 120	2-D Design	
AR 124	Adobe Creative Suite And Indesign	
AR 210	Painting I	
AR 355	Sculpture I	

Requirements for a Theatre Minor (17)

(meets current endorsement requirements)

All endorsements subject to change; see School of Education for updated requirements.

TA 100	Introduction to Theatre	3
TA 231	Performance Theory and Practice	3
TA 270	Stage Makeup & Costume Construction	2
TA 273	Acting I	3
TA 275	Stagecraft I	3
TA 361	Fundamentals of Directing	3

Required for teaching endorsement only

TA 344 Theatre Across the Curriculum (1 cred)

Three additional advisor approved credits

Requirements for a Theatre-Dance Minor (21)

TA 137/PE 137	Modern Dance I	2
TA 143/PE 143	Ballet I	2
TA 183/PE 183	Jazz Dance I	2
TA 342	Principles of Movement	2
TA 384	Perspectives on Faith and Dance	2
TA 381	Choreography	2

Two of the following: 4

TA 337/PE 337 Modern Dance II

TA 343/PE 343 Ballet II

TA 383/PE 383 Jazz Dance II

One of the following: 3

TA 231 Performance Theory and Practice

TA 348 Performing the Self

TA 373 Character Study

Two additional approved dance credits 2

Fine Arts Courses

FA 101 Introduction to the Fine Arts 3

Integrates the disciplines of art, music, theatre and dance into an examination of the fine-arts experience. Examines elements, media, expressiveness. Periodic.

FA 300 British Culture through the Arts 3

Experience various aspects of English theatre and British culture through three weeks in London. Students are required to visit museums, art galleries, cathedrals, universities and other places of historical and cultural significance, as well as multiple chosen theatre and music events. Priority will be given to junior/senior students. Periodic.

FA 301 Power and Politics of Art: Italy/Germany 3

Exploration of the arts (primarily visual arts and music) in Rome, Florence, and Berlin, with emphasis on the arts in relation to history, culture, and political systems. Jan Term, odd years.

FA 304 The Arts in Christian Worship 3

Explore the ways that the arts have shaped and been shaped by Christian worship practice from the early church to the present, through study in Rome, Taize, and London. Students will visit cathedrals, museums, and other places of historical and cultural significance. Jan Term, even years.

FA 305 Christianity and the Arts in Italy 3

This course will lead students to the following Italian cities: Milan, Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi and Rome. The goals of this program are to study and analyze historical and religious developments of Christianity in Italy with an additional emphasis on Christian fine arts. Students will face important political, religious and artistic issues that have shaped Italian Christianity and culture in the past and present. Periodic.

FA 309 Power and Politics of Art Prep Course 1

A survey of European art, history, and culture for students enrolled in the Jan Term Power and Politics of Art study program. Fall semester, even years. Must be accepted for Jan Term Power and Politics of Art study program.

FA 365 Fine Arts Culture in Britain 4

Taught when a faculty member from the Whitworth Theatre, Music or Art Department is part of the study program to the British Isles. Periodic offering.

Theatre Courses

TA 100 Introduction to Theatre 3

An introduction to theatre history, literature, criticism, and the practicalities of creating theatre, with particular emphasis upon its cultural and social influences on society.

TA 110 Introduction to Dance 1

Basic concepts and principles of jazz, modern, and ballet. This course is designed for the non-dancer student seeking to explore dance in a safe learning environment.

TA 116 Theatre in Community 3

An introduction to theatre in a community context. Includes study of at-risk student populations, urban poverty, and playwriting as a tool for social change. Practical application of skills and knowledge in Spokane public school. Jan Term, even years.

TA 130 Private Lessons 1-2

Individual instruction arranged with members of the theatre faculty. All theatre majors must enroll for private lessons concurrently with TA 494, Senior Project. Arrangements by non-majors must be made with the department before registering for private lessons. Fall and spring semesters. Fee.

TA 137 Modern Dance I 2

Analysis and theory of modern dance with an emphasis on basic technique and movement exploration. Includes a study of the evolution of modern dance and its past and present pioneers. May be repeated. Fall semester. May count as ONE PE activity course.

TA 143 Ballet I 2

Beginning instruction in classical ballet focusing on vocabulary and technique. Includes barre and center exercises designed to develop coordination, balance, flexibility and strength. Fall semester. May count as ONE PE activity course.

TA 145 Theatre Production	1
Instruction and performance on stage or backstage in a major theatre production. Repeatable for credit to a maximum of 6 semester credits. Registration for credit in Theatre Production is contingent upon a successful audition or permission granted for backstage work. Graded S/NS.	
TA 183 Jazz Dance I	2
This course is a first level study of jazz dance. Students will explore this art form through monthly lectures on the history of jazz, physical exploration of the unique aspects of jazz, and strengthen individual understanding of fundamental jazz dance vocabulary, technique and choreography. Fall semester. May count as ONE PE activity course.	
TA 184 Physicality and Spiritual Formation	1
The course seeks to offer students opportunities to explore the biblical, historical and experiential connection of prayer, posturing and movement. An overview of embodied prayers and movement meditations will be presented. Periodic Jan Term.	
TA 215 Film Performance & Production	3
The purpose of this course is to give students an in depth understanding of how to translate their stage acting experience into skills that can be used on both sides of the camera. Students will develop a vocabulary for communication within the craft of screen acting and will gain an understanding of how the camera affects and guides their performance. Working on both sides of the camera as film directors and screen actors, camera/shot design basics, on-set terminology and protocol, and reading a screenplay will all be covered. Practicum in auditioning, rehearsing, on-set performance and directing techniques will be emphasized. Also listed as FVNS 215. Periodic.	
TA 217 Mask-Making	3
An overview of the design concepts and production concepts of mask making. Experimentation with a variety of artistic mediums. Jan Term, periodic. Fee.	
TA 220 Art At Large	3
Production Techniques of Large Scale Painting for Community Enrichment. A lab based course teaching the skills to produce large scale two dimensional artwork and providing a means of combining creative expression with community enrichment. Course will culminate in the creation of a collaborative artwork for public display. Jan Term. Fee.	
TA 230 Private Lessons	1-2
See TA 130.	
TA 231 Performance Theory and Practice	3
Students create solo and group performances in non-traditional styles. Emphasis on both practical skill-building and theoretical understanding of performance. Limited enrollment. Should not be taken concurrently with TA 273. Periodic.	
TA 236 Hip Hop	2
An intermediate level course focused on challenging students to explore multiple styles and levels of hip hop dance. Students will learn the following styles of dance including: hip hop, breaking, popping, locking, and contemporary hip hop through classroom warm-ups, choreography and instructional videos. As this course is performance based, students are required to perform in Broadway Unbound and the majority of class-time will be spent on learning and polishing choreography. Spring semester, even years. Prerequisite: TA-183. Fee.	
TA 243 Accelerated Ballet	1
Continuing instruction in classical ballet focusing on vocabulary and techniques. Includes intermediate barre and center combinations designed to develop coordination, balance, flexibility and strength. Prerequisite: PE/TA 143. Fall and Spring semesters, periodic offering.	
TA 245 Theatre Production	1
See TA 145.	
TA 250 Stage Management	3

Introduction to the principles and practices of stage and production management for theatre and the related performing arts. Emphasis on management style, facilitating communication and conflict management. Fall semester, even years.

TA 270 Stage Makeup & Costume Construction 2

An introduction to the art of stage makeup. Lab experience includes brief explanations and demonstrations followed by student applications. Enrollment is limited. Spring semester. Fee.

TA 273 Acting I 3

Learn to live truthfully under the imaginary circumstances of a play. The objective is for the student to become an intelligent actor, able to analyze and critique a script, develop a character, and respond to a directors coaching. Enrollment is limited. Not to be taken concurrently with TA 231. Also listed as FNVS 273. Fall and spring semesters.

TA 275 Stagecraft I 3

This course will provide an introduction to terms, tools and equipment utilized in technical theatre including, but not limited to, scenic construction, basic lighting, and sound. Lectures will focus on terminology, identification and basic principles. Labs will offer hands-on experience building the spring Main Stage production constructing flats and platforms, hanging and focusing lighting instruments and setting up basic sound reinforcement. Spring semester. Fee.

TA 276 Improvisational Acting 3

Learn exercises and techniques leading to self-discovery in the releasing of creative potential. Experience problem-solving games and activities and perform before various audiences. Spring semester. Fee.

TA 277 Design & Production: Lighting & Sound 3

A project based course introducing the principles, methods, historical development, and evolution of lighting and sound design. Includes exploration of the design process, script analysis, visual research skills, and the application of design principles. The format of the course includes demonstrations of design tools & techniques, project lab sessions, discussion of design theory and practices, and peer critiques of the process and projects. Fall semester, odd years.

TA 278 Design & Production: Scenic & Costume 3

A project based course introducing the principles, methods, and development of scenic and costume design and production. Includes exploration of the design process, script analysis, research skills, and application of design principles. The format includes tool and technique demonstration, project lab sessions, theory and practice discussion, and peer critiques. Fall semester, even years. Also listed as FVNS 278. Fee.

TA 279 Voice for the Performer 2

Training in the effective use of the speaking voice for public performance. Limited to theatre majors; others by permission. Fall semester. Also listed as FVNS 279.

TA 283 Musical Theatre Dance 2

Examination of the unique history of musical theatre. Students study the techniques and choreographic styles required for performance in musicals. The culminating project is a public performance. Spring semester, odd years. Fee.

TA 301H The Actor's Experience: New York City 3

Explore culture, history and arts in New York City, from the artist's point of view. Students are exposed to a variety of art forms, including music, visual art, film, dance and theatre. It also includes a participatory, skill-building experience, in which students work with NYC arts professionals to learn performance skills. Jan Term study tour, periodic.

TA 311 Playwriting 3

Fundamentals of playwriting. Students will learn to write monologues, scenes and short plays, how to analyze a script, and the differences between play-writing and screen-writing. Prerequisite: Writing I. Periodic offering.

TA 314H Church Drama 3

This course involves study of classic and contemporary drama used in Christian worship. Students will engage in biblical text study, critical writing, playwriting, and performance of original theatre on campus and in area churches. Periodic.

TA 316 Community-Based Theatre 3

A practical study of Community-Based Theatre concepts and practices. As a group, students will devise and perform an original piece of theatre in collaboration with a community organization. The topic that students create a performance about changes each year; please check with the department to find out what the topic is this semester. Spring semester, even years. TA 348 is recommended but not required.

TA 317 Company Class 3

An ensemble-based performance project where students are responsible for all aspects of the production including research, publicity, performance and tech. The student company will also develop educational workshops, presentations, and discussions to accompany the production. Course will culminate in public performance and may include touring. Permission required. Audition only. Periodic offering.

TA 321 Gender, Performance, and Pop Culture 3

Exploration both of gender as performance and gender in performance. Engagement with a range of theories in the areas of gender and representation, including how ideas about gender are portrayed, reinforced, or challenged through a variety of plays, films, and other performance materials. Fall. Periodic. Also listed as WGS 321.

TA 330 Private Lessons 1-2

See TA 130.

TA 335 American College Dance Festival Intensive 2

Development of dance fundamentals and performance strategies. Exposure to a collection of diverse dance techniques, warm-up and cool-down exercise, locomotor development and innovative choreography. Required for ACDF participants. Open to other students with instructor permission only. Prerequisite: TA/PE-137, TA/PE-143 or TA/PE-183.

TA 337 Modern Dance II 2

This course will provide instruction and performance experiences in advanced principles and techniques of Modern Dance. This is a performance-based course. Spring semester, even years. Fee.

TA 342 Principles of Movement 2

Students will be given tools to understand then connect the anatomy and physiology of the body to dance. The performance of practical exercises will allow application of the knowledge earned.

TA 343 Ballet II 2

An intermediate course in classical ballet focusing on vocabulary, technique and choreography. Includes barre and center combinations designed to further develop coordination, balance, flexibility and strength. The course culminates in a public performance. Prerequisite: TA/PE-143 or TA 243. Spring semester.

TA 344 Theatre Across the Curriculum 1

Theatre techniques can be applied across the curriculum in any elementary classroom. Students will study creative drama, story theatre, reader's theatre and improvisation. Students will learn the techniques and perform them, as well as apply them to their own teaching situations. Priority to elementary-education majors. Prerequisite: TA/PE-143 or TA 243. Fall and spring semesters.

TA 345 Theatre Production 1

See TA 145.

TA 348 Performing the Self 3

Theatre games and performance techniques for effective communication, problem-solving, relationship building, self-exploration and self-expression. No previous performance experience necessary. Sophomore and above. Periodic.

TA 361 Fundamentals of Directing 3

The technical aspects of directing include play selection, casting, blocking, emphasis on characters, picturization, composition, rhythm. The student will study, then apply these techniques by staging a short production for a public audience. Prerequisite: TA 231 and TA 273. Also listed as LS 361. Fall semester.

TA 373 Character Study 3

A practical exploration of theories and methods for creating character, including scene work, playing multiple characters, creating original work, and solo performance. Students must have completed TA 231 and TA 273 prior to registering for TA 373. Course is substitutable for TA 473 in the Acting track. Spring semester, periodic.

TA 375 Stagecraft II 3

Project based course providing training in professional Stagecraft skills including: computer aided drafting for scenic and lighting production, technical direction including materials handling, advanced scenic construction techniques, basic rigging, equipment maintenance, production supervision, scheduling, and budgeting. Prerequisite: TA 275. Spring semester, even years. Fee.

TA 377 Design & Production: Lighting & Sound 3

A project based course introducing the principles, methods, historical development, and evolution of lighting and sound design. Includes exploration of the design process, script analysis, visual research skills, and the application of design principles. The format of the course includes demonstrations of design tools & techniques, project lab sessions, discussion of design theory and practices, and peer critiques of the process and projects. Fall semester, odd years.

TA 378 Design & Production: Scenic & Costume 3

A project based course introducing the principles, methods, and development of scenic and costume design and production. Includes exploration of the design process, script analysis, research skills, and application of design principles. The format includes tool and technique demonstration, project lab sessions, theory and practice discussion, and peer critiques. Fall semester, even years. Also listed as FVNS 378. Fee.

TA 379 Advanced Voice for the Performer 3

Advanced training in diction and vocal production with emphasis on text work. Prerequisite: TA 279. Fall semester.

TA 381 Choreography 2

Learn basic principles and concepts for constructing dance choreography. Students will create, cast, and produce an original dance composition for an adjudicated public performance. Spring semester, odd years. Fee.

TA 382 Dance History 2

A comprehensive study of dance from early recorded history to the present. Explores and examines dance practices in a historical and cultural context. Periodic.

TA 383 Jazz Dance II 2

In this second level course, students continue to learn to express themselves creatively through the artistic medium of jazz dance. This course prepares students for performance in Broadway Unbound while developing further understanding of positions, anatomy, exercises and jazz dance principles. Students will practice technique, stretching and strengthening in the daily warm-up and across the floor combinations.

TA 384 Perspectives on Faith and Dance 2

This course fosters the appreciation and understanding of dance history within the context of faith, ministry, and the church. Students will be challenged spiritually through scripture and textbook readings and technically through movement exercises and choreography. Fee.

TA 430 Private Lessons	1-2
See TA 130.	
TA 435 Arts Administration	3
An in-depth study of the administration of community art projects. Topics covered will include grant-writing, business plans, safety/liability, marketing and public relations. An emphasis will be placed on laying the groundwork for successful community art projects within the disciplines of fine arts, music and theater. No prerequisites however, some background in art is recommended. Also listed as AR 435. Periodic.	
TA 445 Theatre Production	1
See TA 145.	
TA 473 Acting II	3
Advanced training in acting with special attention to contemporary theatre, Shakespeare, and monologue work. Priority will be given to junior and senior Acting track theatre majors. Signature required. Fee. Prerequisites: TA 231 and TA 273. Spring semester, odd years.	
TA 476W History of Theatre I	3
The history of theatre's relationship to society through the literature, design, acting, and production styles of ancient Greece to neo-classical France. Also listed as EMs 476W. Fall semester, odd years.	
TA 477W History of Theatre II	3
The history of theatre's relationship to society through the literature, design, acting, and production styles from Restoration England to the present day. Spring semester, even years.	
TA 481 Projects in Theatre	1-3
Projects in performance or research in some aspect of theatre that is not available in regularly scheduled courses but has particular significance in that students program. The project is proposed by the student and refined in consultation with the professor. Feasibility and appropriateness must be approved by the department faculty. Prerequisites: completion of a minimum of four courses in Theatre, two of which must be upper division. Fall and spring semesters.	
TA 482 Projects in Theatre	1-2
See TA 481.	
TA 498 Senior Project	3
The Senior Project is the capstone experience for the theatre major and allows the student to demonstrate expertise and artistry by completing one of the following: performance (solo or group, original or interpretive), project (directing, playwriting, arts administration, internship, etc.), or research paper. All majors must apply by submitting a proposal in their chosen area during the spring semester of their junior year. Proposals are subject to faculty approval. Prerequisites: faculty approval, senior status and concurrent registration for TA 430 (private lessons).	

Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.