

The performing arts at Oberlin College represent collaboration at its best. Students engage in all aspects of performance, both artistic and technical. The Theater and Dance Program offers students an interrelated series of courses and performance activities designed to provide a sound liberal arts grounding in the theory and practice of theater and dance arts. The theater program is designed to foster a sense of community among faculty, staff, and students. Because the performing arts are collaborative by nature, students participate in all aspects of production, both artistic and technical.

Major objectives of the program are:

- To provide a critical understanding and enhanced appreciation for theater and dance, as well as their relationships to other areas of liberal arts learning.
- To encourage interdisciplinary artistic collaboration and studies with such related disciplines as film, English, art, and creative writing.
- To provide concentrated preparation in dance and theater for students wishing to pursue advanced studies or professional careers.
- To provide practical experiences in all aspects of production, both on stage and backstage.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: THEATER

Introductory level courses are open to all students interested in broadening the scope of their education or who are majoring in a related field and wish to use theater or dance as a resource.

Students wishing to pursue more intensive involvement in the arts should enroll in intermediate and advanced courses in technique along with courses in production, history, and the aesthetics of theater and dance.

Students also have the opportunity to work closely with a number of artists-in-residence each year. Choreographers, guest directors, playwrights, and specialists offer workshops lasting from a few days to one month.

COURSE SAMPLING

- THEA-174 - Lighting Technology and Design
- THEA-254 - Classical Asian Theater/Dance Forms
- THEA-218 - Stage Combat
- THEA-300 - Poetic Realism
- THEA-324 - The Concept of the Avant-Garde

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: DANCE

We organize our dance curriculum around four areas of study, allowing students to pursue dance from different perspectives: creation and performance, critical inquiry, physical techniques, and somatic studies. Majors take courses in each category to challenge and expand their perceptions of what it is to engage in the study of dance. Students develop a personalized course of study through the process of articulating their own goals and identifying courses that allow them to achieve the highest degree of proficiency in their chosen area.

Our curriculum is for both beginners and seasoned young performers. Students who want to use theater and dance as a way to enrich their education and their lives may begin their studies at an introductory level, choosing from a wide

array of courses. Committed students who wish to focus on the performing arts as a professional career may enroll in upper-level classes after placing into those courses.

Performance activities abound. Faculty-directed and student-run theater and dance productions occur every semester. Students work closely with artists-in-residence, choreographers, guest directors, and specialists who offer workshops and classes lasting from a few days to a month. Students also have ample opportunities to study away or study abroad for a semester or a year.

Graduates of the Theater and Dance Program have continued their studies at such institutions as the Yale School of Drama, Cal Arts, Columbia University, L'Ecole Lecoq, Mills College, and the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Many have professional careers as dancers, directors, choreographers, set designers, playwrights, art administrators, educators, and academics.

COURSE SAMPLING

- DANC 100 - Modern Dance I
- DANC 190 - West African Dance Forms in the Diaspora I
- DANC 221 - Body Re-education
- DANC 305 - Collaborative Investigations in Choreography and Composition
- DANC 350 - Dance History: Contemporary Global Dance

ABOUT THE FACULTY

Paul Moser

Chair, Associate Professor of Theater
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Interests: Acting, directing, producing, Shakespeare

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Interests: Choreography, cultural theory, Girls in Motion

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Interests: Concepts of the avant-garde, history of Western theater

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Interests: Acting, writing, directing, Capoeira

Holly Handman-Lopez

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Interests: Scene design, related technical and design areas

Carter McAdams

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Interests: Modern dance, collaborations, improvisation, computer and video work with dance forms

Elesa Rosasco

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Interests: Ballet, modern dance, Oberlin Dance
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Interests: African American drama and arts, directing

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