

DRAMATIC ARTS

ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION



"The drama program gives students a foundation that allows them to be not only better theater people, but also better people in general. And we can work in any aspect of theater that interests us — we aren't boxed in to just performance or just design. This makes us much more marketable and well-rounded."

RACHEL KENT
Centre Class of 2018
Dramatic Arts Major

CENTRE COLLEGE'S DRAMA PROGRAM IS STRONGLY ROOTED IN THE LIBERAL ARTS TRADITION. DRAMA IS UNIQUE AMONG THE LIBERAL ARTS IN THAT WE USE ART AND TECHNOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY AND LITERATURE, TO COMMUNICATE IN A FORM THAT IS AS OLD AS HISTORY ITSELF. AS LONG AS PEOPLE HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO EACH OTHER ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION, THEY HAVE USED DRAMA.

WHO ARE WE?

The dramatic arts faculty and staff are a community of artists and scholars dedicated to using drama as our primary tool. A student can major or minor in drama or can add drama as a second major. Students can gain skills that will equip them for a life in the theatre or a life in the modern world of work. *The Fiske Guide to Colleges 2012* singles out the Drama Program as one of the "exceptional academic programs" of the college.

Communication skills, team-building skills, adaptive technology, and media skills are all vital to success in today's work force. So whether you want to be an actor or a banker, a playwright or a lawyer, a designer or a manager, a drama major might be right for you.

WHAT FACILITIES DOES CENTRE OFFER?

The drama program is housed in the College's Norton Center for the Arts, which is one of the premier performance spaces in North America. The Norton Center hosts some of the finest theatre, opera, dance, and music to be seen anywhere.

World-class companies as diverse as the Bolshoi Ballet and the Irish National Theatre regularly call the Norton Center home. Students can have the opportunity to work with such Broadway touring productions as *Mamma Mia* or *Fiddler on the Roof*. Whenever possible, workshops are arranged with visiting performers, allowing students to work backstage with these world class productions. The drama program uses both of the main stages of the Norton Center. Our productions are presented in the 362-seat, thrust stage, Weisiger Theatre. 2017-18 productions are ***The Odd Couple - Female Version*** (October 4-7), ***Cloud 9*** (November 9-12), and ***Twelfth Night*** (April 18-21).

The Norton Center also houses the program's design studio, an acting studio, rehearsal rooms, and an 80-seat "Black Box" theatre. This experimental stage is used by students to mount their own productions through the student theatre group, Centre Players.

DOES CENTRE OFFER A RANGE OF PRODUCTIONS?

The Centre drama program produces three shows annually of exciting theatre that is highly regarded by both community and college audiences. We try to vary our offerings so that during any four-year period a student will have the opportunity to work in a wide range of theatrical forms; from Broadway musicals to Shakespeare to the work of the best contemporary playwrights. All shows are cast from the student body at large, and roles are open to all students — with the exception of an occasional guest artist. Students work on all aspects of the production and it is not unusual to find 10 percent of the student body involved in some way or another in a major production. In addition to DramaCentre's regular season, we have staged two plays and

are scheduled to stage a third as part of The Farm Theatre's College Collaboration Project. Working with emerging playwrights, our students become part of the writing process, which has had a profound and positive impact on them. They visit New York City to become part of the creative process. This exposes them to the practices and processes of new play development, provides them with insights into themselves as creators and collaborators in that work and most importantly, allows them to envision themselves as meaningful members of an artistic community. The College Collaboration Project and Centre's role in it were featured in the October 2017 edition of *American Theatre* magazine.

WHAT IS THE ACADEMIC SIDE LIKE?

At Centre College students get a great all-around education. First-rate teachers, first-rate facilities, and small classes that emphasize personal attention are the reasons Centre is consistently ranked among the nation's best institutions. A Centre education gives you skills in analysis, critical thinking, and oral and written communication — abilities that are central to any future professional endeavor.

The academic sequence of the drama program stresses this well-rounded approach. Majors begin with classes that look at acting, theatre design and technology, theatre history, and dramatic literature. They then take an advanced course in each area and two other advanced courses of their choice.

Students can gain academic credit for being in productions. The program also encourages students to take up internship opportunities and works closely with the South Eastern Theatre Conference in making contact between students and potential employers.

INTERNSHIPS

Gaining experience within the industry is very valuable for a drama student, and Centre excels at arranging internships with leading theatres across the country and abroad; The Hangar Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, The Santa Fe Opera, Theatre West Virginia, The Berkshire Theatre Festival, and Lexington Children's Theatre to name a few. In addition, Centre boasts a vibrant exchange-partnership with Rose Bruford Theatre school in London, recently voted #1 theatre training school in the U.K.

WHAT DO CENTRE DRAMA GRADUATES DO?

- Matt Arnold '96 — creator and show runner for NBC's *Siberia* and *Emerald City*
- Kristi Hughes '98 — graduate of the leCoque Physical Acting School in Paris, performer with Cirque de Soleil, original cast member of the Berlin premiere of *War Horse*, currently appearing in the Cirque adaptation of James Cameron's *Avatar*
- West Hyler '99 — director of *The Big Apple Circus*; national and international tours of *The Jersey Boys*

- Kristen Robinson '08 — scenic designer; graduate of the Yale School of Drama; regional theatre and opera designer, winner of the Barrymore Award in theatre design
- Jessica Wortham '99 — Best Actress award (Humana Festival of New Plays)

ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Yes, we offer scholarships to promising young theatre students. Visit www.centre.edu/special-scholarships and scroll down the page to view additional information and applications for The Performing Arts Scholarship. Please contact Sallie Bright, Performing Arts Coordinator, at ArtsAdmin@centre.edu with any audition or scholarship questions.

WHO ARE THE DRAMA FACULTY AND STAFF?

SALLIE BRIGHT: Performing Arts Coordinator.

MARK deARAUJO: Technical Director of the Norton Center for the Arts, Associate Professor of Technology & Design.

MEGAN deARAUJO: Assistant Technical Director of the Norton Center for the Arts.

SEAN FETHERSTON: Dramatic Arts Program Technical Director, Scene Shop Supervisor & Lighting Designer.

JENNIFER GOFF: Assistant Professor of Dramatic Arts, Actor, Director. Teaches acting, theatre history, improvisation, and dramatic literature.

MATTHEW HALLOCK: Professor of Dramatic Arts, Designer. Teaches design and technology.

KAYLA HIGBEE: Graduate Assistant Costume Shop Manager.

PATRICK KAGAN-MOORE: Hazelrigg Professor of Dramatic Arts, Director. Teaches acting, directing, and dramatic literature.

SHAYNA SKONIECZKI: Instructor of Dance.

REBECCA STEPHENSON: Instructor of Dance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRAMATIC ARTS PROGRAM AT CENTRE, CONTACT:

Matthew Hallock, Program Chair
600 West Walnut Street
Danville, Kentucky 40422
859.238.5432
matthew.hallock@centre.edu

TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH A CENTRE STUDENT MAJORING IN DRAMATIC ARTS, CONTACT:

Rachel Kent
rachel.kent@centre.edu

DRAMATIC ARTS WEB PAGE

www.centre.edu/dramatic-arts