



# THEATRE ARTS

College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

**Program Description** Our program is holistic: students learn different aspects of Theatre and their relationship to each other, and select courses to satisfy individual goals and interests. Students graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts with an integrated understanding that enables critical thinking and creativity. UIW has the only theatre program in San Antonio accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

**Career Opportunities** An undergraduate degree in Theatre Arts is a valuable credential for students wishing to pursue graduate studies in Theatre or Drama or careers in many professional disciplines that recognize the importance of effective communication skills and creative problem-solving. Some students go on to pursue graduate studies, others to pursue a career in teaching; still others pursue work as performers, designers, and theatre technicians.

**Faculty** The Theatre Arts faculty commits itself to working closely and collaboratively with students. This faculty holds numerous professional theatre credits, participates in international theatre design exhibitions, and publishes well-respected scholarship. But unlike some larger institutions... our faculty puts teaching first.

Dr. Robert Ball, Professor and Chair (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin):  
Performance, Directing, and General Studies

George Burnette, Emeritus Technical Director and Theatre Technology (M.A.,  
University of the Incarnate Word)

Justin Bennett, Assistant Professor and Technical Director of the Theatre (M.F.A.,  
Yale University School of Drama): Design and Technical Theatre

Melissa Gaspar, Instructor (M.A., Brooklyn College): Design, Theatre Technology,  
and General Studies

Vanessa Lopez, Costume Shop Supervisor (B.A. University of the Incarnate Word)

Margaret Mitchell, Professor, (M.F.A., University of Texas at Austin): Design,  
Theatre Technology, and General Studies

Steven Starr, Assistant Technical Director

Mark Stringham, Associate Professor, (M.F.A., Ohio University): Performance,  
Directing, and General Studies

**Scholarships** UIW offers talent-based Theatre Arts Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$4,000, renewable annually provided that recipients make satisfactory progress towards their degree and participate satisfactorily in department activities and assessment procedures.

**Highlights** We provide students with a strong foundation in the performing arts. We foster a lifelong appreciation for creativity, and a deep sense of human compassion—a vital part of the University's commitment to a student's development as a "whole person." We enrich the cultural, intellectual, and spiritual lives of our community.

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Our annual production season of 4-5 plays offers students lots of opportunity to participate in and experience diverse drama—the very best in world drama of the past and present. Our students play an active role in our theatre season from play selection to performance and everything in between. Recent productions include classic plays by Shakespeare, Molière, and Lope de Vega, contemporary plays like *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, as well as Children's Theatre plays like *The Nightingale* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Students have the opportunity to participate and have intergenerational experiences with the Extended Run Players (a group of senior citizens who give readers theatre performances on our campus and in the community).

Our facilities include a surprisingly intimate 270-seat proscenium arch theatre and a flexible, studio theatre which seats up to 100 patrons. Safe, well-equipped scenery and costume shops support both theatres.

Special training opportunities are offered through workshops, coursework, and production collaboration with international, regional, and local guest artists. Theatre majors who demonstrate talent and skills in design (costumes, scenery or lights) can apply to serve as an assistant designer or a designer on fully mounted productions.

We encourage Theatre Arts majors to study abroad, taking advantage of various short term trips through the University or spending an entire semester abroad. The Theatre Arts Department also has an exchange agreement with Toi Whakaari O Aotearoa, The New Zealand School of Drama.

**Contact** Dr. Robert Ball, Chair  
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**Website** [www.uiw.edu/theatre](http://www.uiw.edu/theatre)