

THEATRE

“I increasingly find that the breadth of mind associated with the liberal arts is essential for working seriously in the theatre. Lawrence offered an atmosphere of ‘disciplined indulgence’ in which I could try on lots of theatrical hats, and end up with one that fit.”

Rick Davis, '80, artistic director of Theatre of the First Amendment and professor of drama at George Mason University.

As a member of the department of theatre and drama, you will join a talented group of people. The department's full-time permanent faculty members include specialists in theatre history/literature and criticism, playwriting, acting, directing, and design and one specialist in technical theatre.

Richmond Frielund teaches set design, lighting design, and stagecraft courses; his lighting and design work have appeared on television and at the 1987 Prague Quadrennial Scenographic Exposition. He has been recognized regionally and nationally for his powerful and creative sets.

Timothy Troy teaches directing, script analysis, voice and diction, and advanced acting. He has been a regular guest stage director for the University of Wisconsin Opera and the DuPage Opera Theatre in Chicago. His musical theatre productions have included *Evita*, *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Big River*. His directing credits also include the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, the Iowa Playwrights Workshop, and the Boulevard Ensemble.

Katherine Privatt teaches acting, theatre literature and history, and dramatic theory. She has appeared in roles such as Hannah in *Arcadia* at the University of Nebraska, and Grace in *Pterodactyls* with the Nebraska Repertory Young Company. Her conference presentations include “Lawrence University's 2.5%: Establishing Community and Preserving Identity” at the Mid-America Theatre Conference. Privatt is also a member of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

CURRICULUM – *The Theatre Major*

The study of dramatic art requires a grounding in the study of production methods, past and present, and must be intimately connected to and supported by the study of theatre history and dramatic literature of various periods.

All theatre majors, therefore, are required to take five core courses – *Introduction to Design, Theatre Traditions I and II, Introduction to Acting*, and *Playscript Analysis*. Additionally, you will assist in the production of at least six plays.

Beyond the core courses, you will be able to choose your classes from three areas of concentration – performance, design and technical theatre, and dramatic theory history and literature, and you will complete five courses in the area of your choosing.

As a senior, you will have the opportunity to work closely with the faculty as you pursue an independent project. In the past, students have written original plays, directed productions, designed lighting and costumes, and presented new interpretations of traditional roles. Senior projects add 5-7 productions to the season at Lawrence each year.

In addition to the senior projects, you will have the opportunity to participate, either on stage or behind the scenes, in one of the main stage productions. In these productions you will work closely with a faculty director, designer, or technician. In the 2004-2006 academic years productions included Naomi Iizuka's *Language of Angels*, Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country is Good*, *Finding the Laughter (Again)* an improve comedy piece, and a new play festival of student written dramas. Musical and Opera productions include *The Secret Garden*, *The Magic Flute* by Mozart, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *The Last Five Years*.

Student productions include a festival of plays by Samuel Beckett, Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart*, and Christopher Durang's *Laughing Wild*.

The Theatre Minor

If you wish to minor in theatre, you must complete the courses in the core curriculum plus at least one additional course from one of the areas of concentration.

FACILITIES

Lawrence's Stansbury Theatre is a 500-seat proscenium, complete with an orchestra pit and a control booth.

The F. Theodore Cloak Experimental Theatre features modular seating and a full-wired grid, permitting conversion to in-the-round, three-quarter thrust, arena, or proscenium style.

Both theatres are fully equipped using 2K technology: state of the art conventional and intelligent lighting systems, ETC digital control systems, and SOTA digital sound systems. A fully equipped scene shop completes a facility that allows students to practice the dramatic arts in a flexible and professional environment.

AFTER LAWRENCE

Lawrence alumni are working in nearly every area of the entertainment industry: head electricians (Rowan Atalla, the Goodman Theatre Company), stand-up comics (Rob Brackenridge, The Comedy Store and Rachel Decker, Peninsula Players), master carpenters (Kevan Oliver, Ogunkquit Players), artistic directors (Mark Jennison-Perrier, Don Quixote Theatre, Paris), dramaturgs (Charles Grode, Lyric Opera Company), playwrights (Gregg Mierow, Lifeline Theatre Company of Chicago), stage managers (Doug Thompson, Steppenwolf Theatre Company), technical directors (Craig McKenzie, Eugene Opera Company; Aaron Sherkow, Ripon College, and Ben Roney, Fort Wayne Civic Center), television producers (Liz Chobanian, Wisconsin Public Television), general managers (Janis Post, Remains Theatre, Chicago), teachers (Diane Odeen, UW-River Falls), freelance directors (Tim Troy), corporate owners (Patrick Short, owner-director, Comedy Sportz, Portland, OR), and actors.

In Dominic Fumusa's first Broadway role, he played Marisa Tomei's husband in Quentin Tarantino's production of *Wait Until Dark*. He was one of only two Americans in the company at the prestigious Stratford Festival in Canada and has appeared in numerous theatre productions in Chicago and Boston.

Campbell Scott has appeared in fifteen films, including one in which he appeared with his mother, the late Colleen Dewhurst (also an alumna). His most recent movie is *The Spanish Prisoner*; other films include *Big Night*, which he co-directed and co-produced, *Singles*, *Dying Young*, and *Dead Again*. He received the Critics Prize at the 1996 Deauville Film Festival for his work as co-director of *Big Night*.

Eric Simonson enjoys a notable career as a director, having been nominated for a Tony Award for *The Song of Jacob Zulu*. He recently directed fellow alumni Dominic Fumusa and Campbell Scott in the Huntington Theatre (Boston) production of *Hamlet*, in which Scott played the title role. Most recently Eric won an Academy Award for Best Short Documentary.

Danna Doyle is an active writer of television scripts. She served as lead writer for the series *Murder, She Wrote* for several years, and has written episodes of *Touched by an Angel*. She recently presented the world premiere of *Work Song*, a Milwaukee Repertory-Steppenwolf Theatre commissioned work.

Stuart Spencer's play, *Resident Alien*, was presented as part of the 22nd Annual Humana Festival of New American Plays by the Actors Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky. Future productions of the play are scheduled in Chicago, Michigan, Florida, and Los Angeles. He is now writing a screenplay based on *Resident Alien* for Langley productions, which has optioned the screen rights.

RESIDENCIES

Actors from the London Stage perform works from Shakespeare's canon, present individual performances by the actors, and conduct workshops/lectures. Wild Space Dance Company provides dance faculty and brings their annual production to Lawrence.

FACULTY

Richmond Claude Frielund, associate professor

University of Minnesota, B.A.;
University of Wisconsin, M.A.;
University of Michigan, M.F.A.

Interests: design/computing in technical theatre, world theatre

Frederick Gaines, professor emeritus

University of Nebraska, B.A., M.A.;

University of Manchester, M.F.A.;

University of Minnesota, Ph.D.

Interests: playwriting, directing
Debra Loewen, artist-in-residence
Artistic Director, Wild Space Dance Company

David Owens, technical director
New England College, B.A.

Interests: sound design, special effects, lighting

Katherine L. Privatt, assistant professor

Central Missouri State University,

B.S.E.; Southwest Missouri State

University, M.A.; University of

Nebraska, Ph.D.

Interests: 20th century American theatre, acting

Timothy X. Troy, assistant professor

Lawrence University, B.A.;

University of Iowa, M.F.A.

Interests: acting, directing, music drama