

Nebraska Wesleyan University



**ELEVATE**  
your art.

# Act I: OPPORTUNITY



A Long Line of McKinney Women

At Nebraska Wesleyan University, "once-in-a-lifetime" theatre opportunities come early and often.

NWU attracts talent from all over the country by providing MORE OPPORTUNITIES to act, direct, design, sing, manage and build.

- > At NWU, you'll learn theatre by doing theatre. Begin building a breadth of experience right away in your first year. Then take an incredibly full resume with you into the professional world.
- > *OnStage Blog* named NWU to its list of Top 30 BFA Acting and BFA Musical Theatre programs, and Top 20 BFA Theatre Design/Tech programs in the U.S.



# Theatre degree options at NWU

NWU offers theatre degrees in seven areas.

## Bachelor of Fine Arts

### ACTING

Develop your acting skills in the classroom and in productions. Gain stage experience with an annual performance schedule that includes 8-10 faculty-directed and more than 20 student-directed productions.

Few programs in the country can match the number of acting opportunities NWU provides each year.

### MUSICAL THEATRE

Our well-rounded musical theatre performers sing, act and dance. Most universities produce a musical once every two or three semesters. We produce three to five each year.

With our rich musical production schedule, the experience you'll build here in two years can match what others may only reach at the graduate level.

### DIRECTING

We're one of the few schools to offer a BFA in Directing. NWU positions you to direct as soon as your sophomore year. Work closely with faculty directors as members of the production team and in stage management. Then take the director's chair with the skills to bring your vision to the stage.

NWU offers four levels of directing coursework as well as supporting courses in everything from script analysis to stage combat.

### THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

NWU develops your technical and design skills. Work with an exciting mix of faculty and guest designers. Learn to design and assemble the sets, lighting, props, sound, makeup and costumes that bring the story to life.



### THEATRE ARTS

Explore multiple interests with this build-your-own degree option. It gives you flexibility few other BFA programs can match. Combine theatre design with art history, acting with psychology, or stage management with business administration. Give yourself the skills and experiences you need to reach your career goals in professional theatre.

With a BFA in Theatre Arts, it really is your show.

## Bachelor of Arts

### THEATRE

The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre is a traditional theatre degree designed to provide you with a broad knowledge of theatre. You can use that base to pursue graduate study or a career in professional theatre. Students also use their cultural understanding, aesthetic sense and creative skill to pursue work in a variety of fields, including law, ministry and education.

Your interests stretch beyond the stage. The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre is a popular choice for students who wish to double major.

### THEATRE ARTS EDUCATION

If you want to gain a broad foundation of knowledge and skills to teach theatre arts in a secondary school, then this BA program is for you. This program leads to a supplemental endorsement in secondary theatre education and must be coupled with a primary endorsement in another subject. Work closely with professors and build experience in all the areas you'll supervise as a theatre educator: acting, directing, costuming, scenography, playwriting, theatre history and management.

# A deep lineup

Our production volume is the main reason so many talented artists choose NWU Theatre. Compare our performance lineup with any other program. Few schools can match what we do, year in and year out.

## Recent NWU productions

### MUSICAL THEATRE FROM THE GOLDEN AGE TO CONTEMPORARY

- > American Idiot
- > Fun Home
- > Head Over Heels
- > Hello Dolly!
- > Into the Woods
- > Seussical
- > Little Women

### SHAKESPEARE

- > As You Like It
- > Julius Caesar
- > Macbeth
- > Twelfth Night

### CLASSIC TO MODERN DRAMA

- > Antigone
- > The Adding Machine
- > The Bald Soprano
- > The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
- > Sophocles' Electra
- > She Kills Monsters
- > The Squirrels
- > The Wolves

Find a complete list at [theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu).



The Squirrels

Each year, NWU Theatre produces on average:

- > 3 TO 5 MUSICALS
- > At least one **SHAKESPEARE** production
- > An eclectic mix of **COMEDY, DRAMA** and **WORLD PREMIERES** by respected names and new playwrights.

Hammered!

### THE STAGE IS YOURS

NWU gives you more opportunities to do the work you love on a variety of stages. Perform outdoors, direct in the lab, or design for the mainstage.



# A perfect setting

newly renovated McDonald Theatre

## Finest facilities

- > We've renovated McDonald Theatre with a completely updated interior, wider seats and state-of-the-art technology for light and sound.
- > Our Studio Theatre features a dance space with a Marley floor.
- > Miller Lab Theatre maximizes flexibility for a wider range of performances.
- > NWU also boasts the Great Plains' largest costume and prop libraries.

That means every NWU production is outfitted and supported by the best facilities and the deepest theatre collections in the region.

## Right city

Lincoln, Neb., is both a theatre destination and a springboard for creative careers. NWU Theatre's reputation puts you at the heart of this city's supportive arts community.

Lincoln's thriving downtown is just 10 minutes from campus. NWU and Lincoln connect you to exciting internships, a friendly atmosphere and excellent parks and trails.

## Greater reach

Nebraska Wesleyan's emphasis on internships and study abroad expands your opportunities beyond campus. Students have recently interned at Disney, Second City and the Goodman in Chicago. And they've studied theatre in Argentina, Greece, France and at Shakespeare's Globe in London.



Blanke Costume Library



Lincoln's Haymarket District

# Act II: PREPARATION

NWU Theatre does more than offer you opportunities. We prepare you to make the most of them.

Our pre-professional BFA programs give you the tools you need to enter professional theatre immediately. More than a stepping stone to an MFA program, NWU Theatre is your LAUNCH PAD to the theatre industry.



voice lessons with Prof. Anne McAlexander



stage combat with Prof. Ryan Kathman



costume construction and the Midwest's largest costume library

# Top professors

NWU Theatre professors treat the stage as your laboratory—a space where you put your learning into action. They're practicing artists and great teachers who know how to mentor, coach, challenge and motivate you.



*"Nebraska Wesleyan provides more quality opportunities to train preprofessional artists than you will see elsewhere."*

*Tafea Bloch*

assistant professor of musical theatre



*"We give students the tools to succeed while encouraging curiosity in all areas of theatre. Our approach creates well-rounded, thoughtful theatre artists."*

*Anne McAlexander*

assistant professor of musical theatre and directing



*"We want to place theatre students in a production their first semester, so they can apply what they're learning in the classroom right away."*

*Ryan Kathman*

assistant professor of acting and directing



*"Our theatre students emerge with a portfolio of work that will help launch their careers in the professional world."*

*Elizabeth Ennis*

assistant professor of theatre-costume design



## Broad foundation

NWU connects you to every side of professional theatre, from writing scripts and designing sets to running lights and operating the box office. Your experience in the classroom, onstage, in the shops and in the audience will expose you to some 150 performance pieces in your four years.

Your Nebraska Wesleyan experience reaches beyond the stage. At NWU, you succeed by weaving an outstanding theatre education together with valuable lessons in the humanities, the social and natural sciences, and more.

Explore your interests beyond the theatre. And use all you learn to deepen your art. Everything you do here plays a part. Your knowledge of history, culture and psychology will give you a richer understanding of the characters you play. Use your knowledge of business to sustain an arts organization. Apply those networking skills to your auditions. Your entire education comes together to make you a stronger artist.

# Guest artists

NWU Theatre gives you rare access to successful theatre professionals. We host multiple guest artists to work directly with you.

They give you fresh insights—and valuable practical know-how.

You can use their expertise to prepare your plan for entering the industry. Practice your auditions, seek advice and strengthen your network for future opportunities. You will immediately apply their expertise to your work.

## RECENT GUEST ARTISTS INCLUDE:

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**Kally Duling** ('06), Broadway actor

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**Rachel Hoffman**, casting director, The Telsey Company

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**Emily Kinney** ('06), Broadway actor, singer, songwriter, performer

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**Michael Kushner**, actor, photographer, marketing pro, author

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**Kailey Marshall**, writer, composer

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**Isabelle McCalla**, Broadway actor (*The Lion King*, *Hercules*, *The Prom*)

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**Jason O'Connell**, actor, regional theatre director

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**Kila Packett** ('99), commercial and stage actor

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**Kathy Perkins**, lighting designer

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**Aaron Phillips**, actor, voice-over actor

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**Lawrence Stallings**, Broadway performer (*Book of Mormon*)

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**Jenna Winnett**, agent, Bowles, Winnett, and Assoc.



*"It's an absolute must that students see the real business of show business. When NWU students work with guest artists, they learn the right way that dreams can come true, no matter where you're from. Take it from me—a Nebraska girl with big dreams!"*



*Q Smith*

guest artist,  
Broadway performer,  
"Come From Away"

## NWU IN NYC:

Faculty-led trips to New York City connect students directly with actors, directors, designers, talent managers and others in the industry.



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a shimmering, sequined dress, is captured in a moment of intense performance. She has her mouth wide open as if singing or shouting, and her eyes are looking upwards. The scene is lit with dramatic spotlights, creating a hazy, atmospheric effect. The background is dark, with two bright spotlights illuminating the stage from above. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and purples, with the white and gold of the dress and spotlights providing contrast.

# Act III: SUCCESS

We're proud of our alumni across the industry— succeeding on Broadway, in film and TV and comedy venues, at centerstage and behind the scenes, on cruise ships and in schools across the country.

They leave NWU Theatre with the tools they need to immediately begin work in the performing arts industry.

# Culture of success

NWU equips you with the knowledge, experience, versatility and grit you need to thrive in the performing arts industry.

*"Nebraska Wesleyan gifted me with the knowledge I needed in all aspects of theatre. My mentors pushed me to keep learning and never get too comfortable. (You never know what opportunity is out there waiting for you!) I learned to walk into any situation with confidence in myself and in my training."*

*Theresa  
Chambers ('22)*

Coterie Theatre  
Kansas City, Mo.



*"NWU helped me become versatile and efficient in our craft. Nebraska Wesleyan is where accessible opportunities will grow your confidence."*

*Dio Raquel ('23)*

lighting design  
intern, Florida  
Studio Theatre



*"I'm about to move to Memphis to start my career as an actor, and I couldn't be more thankful for the knowledge I gained here to prepare me for that."*

*Drew  
Sinnard  
( '23)*

Playhouse on  
the Square  
Memphis, Tenn.



*"NWU theatre changed my life in the best of ways. I met my best friends, collaborated with professionals and learned from amazing faculty. This program helps you grow into the best version of yourself while preparing you for professional theatre. I wouldn't trade my NWU experience for anything."*

*Elke  
Myers ('22)*

Missoula Children's  
Theatre  
Missoula, Mont.



# BFA audition and interview process

Your talent, academic ability and potential for success are the keys to your admission to Nebraska Wesleyan University's theatre program. We're selective so you can work alongside the best talent in small classes and have maximum opportunities to succeed.

Prospective students interested in these programs need to apply, prepare and share materials to be considered for admission. The audition process is free. NWU Theatre distributes scholarship offers by June 1.

## Act now: Pursue NWU Theatre in 3 steps.

### 1 APPLY TO NEBRASKA WESLEYAN FOR FREE AT [nebrwesleyan.edu/apply](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/apply).

We also accept the Common App.

### 2 PREPARE YOUR MATERIALS.

#### BFA in Acting

- > A resume
- > A photograph (We prefer headshots, but will accept any close-up)
- > Two contrasting one-minute monologues from modern plays
- > One classic one-minute monologue (prior to 1900) or 20-30 lines from Shakespeare or one of his contemporaries

#### BFA in Musical Theatre

- > A resume
- > A photograph (We prefer headshots, but will accept any close-up)
- > A 45-90 second dance video
- > A one-minute monologue from a published play
- > Two contrasting 16-32 bar cuts from Broadway musicals (one pre-1980s and one contemporary)

#### BFA in Design and Technology, Directing, or Theatre Arts

- > A resume
- > Examples of your work in photographs, prompt-scripts, slides or drawings of productions
- > Examples of related skills (e.g. painting, drawing, sewing, handwork, woodworking, etc.)
- > Directors should include a 1-2 page essay describing a directorial concept for a prospective or realized production

### 3 SUBMIT YOUR MATERIALS.

Contact Ryan Kathman, assistant professor of theatre, at [rkathman@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:rkathman@nebrwesleyan.edu) or 402.465.2128 to coordinate arrangements.

#### > Visit NWU.

Audition and interview for free on campus between September and April. Please plan your visit two weeks in advance and bring materials with you. If needed, we will provide you an accompanist. Visiting campus is the best way to experience NWU Theatre. We can also arrange a Zoom audition for you. Or attend a **BFA Audition Day on December 9 or February 3.**

> **Join us for Chicago Unified Auditions.** Schedule an audition with one of our faculty members at Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago. Please provide your own musical accompaniment.

#### > Go online.

Go to [getacceptd.com/nebrskawesleyan](http://getacceptd.com/nebrskawesleyan) and upload the necessary materials. Please include an intro video stating your name, the pieces you'll perform, and something you'd like us to know about you that's not on your resume.



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

*Additional material may be requested.*



The Adding Machine

# CONNECT

with NWU Theatre.

[theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu)

Nebraska Wesleyan University Admissions  
5000 Saint Paul Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
402.465.2218  
[admissions@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:admissions@nebrwesleyan.edu)



#NWUtheatre

