

THEATRE



Why Should I Study Theatre at Albright College?

At Albright College, theatre becomes an arena to pull different strands of inquiry together, linking history with design, psychology with technology, and performance with philosophy. That's why Albright College, a national leader in interdisciplinary study, is the perfect fit for a student interested in the theatre.

The Theatre Department often partners with other departments on campus to produce joint projects. Students have worked with the Digital Media Department on producing film adaptations of their stage performances, and with the Music Department on innovative music-theatre works, as well as more traditional musicals. Students also get close, personal attention from professors who help artists develop individual sensibilities, critical faculties, collaborative skills and original points of view.

Albright theatre faculty are professional theatre artists who regularly perform, design and direct in the wider theatrical community. Artist-in-Residence Jeffrey Lentz, also an Albright alumnus, shares his insights into the evolving forms of musical theatre and opera with the current Albright students. His busy performing career includes the leading theatres and opera houses around the U.S. and abroad.

Graduates of Albright's theatre program are truly renaissance men and women. Not only can they create a role and identify a play's central action, chances are they also can focus a light, construct a flat and operate a sound system.

— Nathan Roberts '00

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The lights dim, the curtain opens, a hush falls over the audience. . . whether it's a comedy, tragedy, mystery or drama, theatre transforms us. Theatre reveals the past, imagines the future and reflects the present world to us in new and compelling ways.

At Albright, majoring in theatre will transform you as you develop confidence, collaborate with others and establish your unique, individual voice.

The Program

Albright's theatre program is designed to expose students to the wide variety and broad scope of theatre as an art form, literary heritage and cultural touchstone. The curriculum is based on foundations of theatre history, dramatic literature, stagecraft and performance. Upper-level students explore a selection of more specialized courses to develop their individual interests. Because of Albright's flexibility, many students choose to combine their theatre studies with another major such as art, business administration, education, English, history or music.

A sampling of theatre courses include:

- Great Ages of Theatre
- History of American Musical Theatre
- Designing with Light
- Introduction to Educational Theatre
- Directing Workshop
- The Creative Process

Domino Players Theatre Company

The Domino Players Theatre Company allows students, regardless of major, the opportunity to get involved with theatre productions at any level. Auditions are open to everyone, and first-year students regularly take on major roles and backstage assignments. The group presents several productions each year and regularly participates in the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival. Recent productions include:

- *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*
- *Mother Courage*
- *Alice in Wonderland*
- *Prelude to a Kiss*
- *Art*
- *Fuente Ovejuna*
- *Curse of the Starving Class*

Talent Awards

Albright seeks to attract creative and motivated students through a program of talent awards. The College offers talent awards from \$500 to \$1,500 per year to students interested in sustained participation in theatre. Talent awards are open to students in any major. Auditions for talent awards are held by appointment on Saturdays in February. Audition information is available from Dr. Julia Matthews at jmatthews@alb.edu or 610-921-7660.

Facilities

Recently, aesthetic and technological renovations have been made to Albright's Wachovia Theatre, which seats 280 people. One of the new teaching tools is a state-of-the-art lighting control system. The new system allows student designers to explore their craft in virtual theatre spaces, and then apply their designs directly to the dimmers and instruments hanging in the theatre.

New lighting alcoves, carpeting, seats, video monitoring system and projection screen have also been installed, making the theatre a wonderful laboratory for learning as well as a comfortable space for audiences.

Hands-on Opportunities

At Albright, there are many opportunities for performing, designing and working behind the scenes. Students gain experience through a wide variety of repertoire, and work alongside guest artists.

Many students choose to do internships off-campus as well. Students have worked as stage hands, actors and teachers at the following organizations:

- Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey
- Ephrata Playhouse
- Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire
- Police Athletic League

Albright College is also affiliated with the National Theatre Institute (NTI) at the O'Neill Theatre Center in Waterford, Conn. NTI accepts Albright students each semester into its highly intensive theatre training program. This experience, which includes two weeks abroad, allows students to stretch their acting and directing abilities.

Outcomes

Graduate Schools

Theatre majors at Albright have gained admission to some of the finest master's degree programs:

- Brooklyn College – dramaturgy
- New York University – educational theatre
- Rutgers University – acting
- University of Minnesota – acting
- University of Pittsburgh – scenic design
- University of Washington – acting
- Yale University – vocal performance

They have also gone on to exciting careers in theatre, film, television and arts education with organizations such as:

- Lank Theatre Company – educational programs coordinator
- Minskoff Theatre – wardrobe dresser for *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
- New York City Opera – leading performer in *The Mother of Us All* and *Don Giovanni*
- Saratoga International Theater Institute – actor and acting coach
- Syracuse Stage – literary manager/dramaturg
- Tyrone Guthrie Theater – leading performer in *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* and *Hope & Faith*- actress
- Walt Disney World – entertainment area manager
- Actors' Theatre of Louisville - apprentice actor

For more information on the theatre program, contact Dr. Julia Matthews, chair, at 610-921-7660 or jmatthews@alb.edu.

Faculty

Jeffrey Lentz, M.M. – artist-in-residence; B.A., Albright College; M.M., Yale University School of Music.

Julia Matthews, Ph.D. – chair and associate professor of theatre; B.F.A., North Carolina School of the Arts; M.Phil., University of St. Andrews; Ph.D., University of Warwick.

Wayne E. Vettleson, M.F.A. – technical director; A.A., Olympic Community College; M.F.A., Syracuse University.