The interdisciplinary theatre studies program prepares M.A. and Ph.D. students to pursue innovative, interdisciplinary research in theatre studies, and to conduct inquiry through scholarly research, practice as research and meaningful teaching experiences. The M.A. can serve as a preparatory degree for the Ph.D., or as a terminal degree for students seeking greater exposure to theatre, drama and performance studies beyond the undergraduate degree. Through rigorous coursework enhanced by the study of, and participation in, various forms of theatre and performance practice, the Ph.D. program prepares graduates for positions as college and university researchers and instructors, as well as public intellectuals and scholar/practitioners. Students with a background in theatre by, with, and for children and youth may apply to specialize in theatre for youth.

The program’s core and affiliate faculty are leaders in theatre and performance studies, whose scholarship, practice and leadership in the profession are recognized nationally and abroad. The core faculty’s strengths include global dramatic literatures, theatre history and historiography, theatre and cultural theory, the theory and practice of theatre for youth, and relational performance. Our affiliate faculty expand the coursework and advising available to students, incorporating related fields of visual cultures, anthropology, art and art history, literary and theatre studies across English and non-English-speaking traditions, music, new media and digital design, gender and women’s studies, and other disciplines.

The program attracts students from across the United States as well as internationally. It creates opportunities for students to engage in teaching and practice as part of their research. It also encourages students to participate in national and international professional meetings, working groups and colloquia; and to share their art and research through practice and publication in their field.

Funding

Financial support available to students in the program includes fellowships, teaching assistantships and project assistantships. Please contact the program chair or graduate coordinator for more information about financial support.

Requirements

Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress

To make progress toward a graduate degree, students must meet the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext) in addition to the requirements of the program.

Doctoral Degrees

Ph.D.
Committee consists of five faculty members—advisor, at least two additional faculty members from interdisciplinary theatre studies, and at least one member from another department.

**ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS**
A preliminary portfolio examination in the areas of literature, history, and theory is required after course work is completed. This examination must be passed before being admitted into Ph.D. candidacy. A dissertation proposal must be submitted and defended after the completion of the preliminary examination.

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**
The Prelim B exam (proposal defense) must be completed before the end of the second regular semester following the Prelim A exam.

Per Graduate School policy, doctoral students have five years from the date of passing preliminary examination to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation. Students may petition for an additional one-year extension.

**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**
Attain research competency in one language approved by the major professor.

**ADMISSIONS**
Applicants to the M.A. and Ph.D. degree programs in interdisciplinary theatre studies need to include in their application a thoughtful statement about their interests in theatre research and the areas in which they might like to study, as well a sample of their writing in the form of an advanced research paper. Applications are judged on the basis of the prospective student’s previous academic record, Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, references, personal statement, and writing sample.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

- Demonstrate understanding of the theory, history, and practice of drama and theatre as collaborative cultural forms across historical periods.
- Master the methods and materials of theatre and performance research and writing in order to produce original scholarly projects that range in complexity from term papers to dissertations.
- Develop methods for theatre and performance practice and theory in order to test the reciprocal relations between research and practice through reflective participation in the production process.
- Identify and distinguish among the diverse global locations of theatre and the intercultural contact among theatre traditions, especially as these multiply in the modern and contemporary periods.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

- Prepare for future careers combining theatre and performance scholarship, teaching, and/or practice.
- Demonstrate professionalization in the discipline of theatre through participation in conferences and submission of work to scholarly journals.

**PEOPLE**

*Faculty:* Professors Dharwadker, Vanden Heuvel, van de Water; Associate Professors Peterson, Trotter (chair). The program also works closely with affiliate faculty from programs across the university.