

Theater Model Program

The Theater Department recommends that you plan your program of study around the following sequence. A dash indicates a recommendation that the course not be taken that semester.

Acting

Theater	94
Humanities & Sciences	30
Arts Electives outside the major	6
Total Credits for a BFA	
Degree in Theater	130

First Year	fall	spring
PP 101 Production for Actors *	2	–
TH 101-102 Movement for Actors I-II	2	2
TH 111-112 Acting: Improv to Text	2	2
TH 121-122 Voice and Speech I	2	2
TH 162 Literature of Theater	–	2
TH 171-172 Text Analysis for Actors I-II	3	2
H&S Integrated Studies	6	6
Arts Elective	–	2
Total Credits	17	18

Second Year	fall	spring
TH 201-202 Physical Technique I-II	2	2
TH 211-212 Acting Fundamentals I-II	3	3
TH 221-222 Voice and Speech II	2	2
TH 241 Auto-Cours	1	–
TH 242 Ensemble Creation Project	–	2
TH 245 Stage Management *	1	–
TH 261-262 Theater History	3	3
Arts Elective	2	–
H&S Course Work	3	3
Total Credits	17	16

* Courses may be taken in semesters other than indicated.

Third Year	fall	spring
TH 311-312 Acting Workshop I-II	3	2
TH 321-322 Advanced Vocal Technique I-II	2	2
TH 331-332 Dance for Actors	2	2
TH 343 Rehearsal/Performance	2	–
TH 348 Studio: Text into Performance	–	2
TH 361 Contemporary Theater Studies	3	–
TH 371-372 Acting Classical Texts I-II	3	2
H&S Course Work	3	3
Total Credits	18	13

Fourth Year	fall	spring
TH 401 Stage Combat I	2	–
TH 411 Advanced Acting Workshop	3	–
TH 421 Voice and Speech Skills	2	–
TH 443 Rehearsal/Performance	2	–
TH 451 Audition Techniques	2	–
TH 471 Senior Seminar	1	–
TH 472 Senior Thesis	–	3
TH 485 Intro. to Playwriting & Directing	2	–
Theater Electives	–	6
Arts Elective	–	2
H&S Course Work	3	3
Total Credits	17	14

Performing Arts

Theater	88
Humanities & Sciences	30
Dance/Music Electives	6
Arts Electives outside the major	6
Total Credits for a BFA	
Degree in Theater	130

First Year	fall	spring
PP 101 Production for Actors *	–	2
TH 101-102 Movement for Actors	2	2
TH 111-112 Acting: Improv to Text	2	2
TH 121-122 Voice and Speech I	2	2
TH 132 Introduction to Musical Theater*	2	–
TH 162 Literature of Theater	–	2
TH 171-172 Text Analysis for Actors I-II	3	2
H&S Integrated Studies	6	6
Total Credits	17	18

Second Year	fall	spring
TH 201-202 Physical Techniques I-II	2	2
TH 211-212 Acting Fundamentals I-II	3	3
TH 221-222 Voice and Speech II	2	2
TH 241 Auto-Cours	1	–
TH 244 Audition Workshop	–	1
TH 245 Stage Management *	1	–
TH 246 Ensemble Creation Project	–	2
TH 261-262 Theater History	3	3
MU or DA Elective	–	2
H&S Course Work	3	3
Arts Elective	2	–
Total Credits	17	18

Third Year	fall	spring
TH 311-312 Acting Workshop I-II	3	2
TH 321-322 Advanced Vocal Techniques	2	2
TH 331-332 Dance for Actors	2	2
TH 338 Music Theater	–	2
TH 343 Rehearsal/Performance	2	–
TH 348 Studio: Text into Performance	–	2
TH 361 Contemporary Theater Studies	3	–
TH 371 Acting Classical Texts	3	–
H&S Course Work	3	3
MU or DA Electives	–	2
Arts Elective	–	2
Total Credits	18	15

Fourth Year	fall	spring
TH 411 Adv. Acting Workshop	3	–
TH 439 Music Theater Workshop	2	–
TH 443 Rehearsal/Performance	2	–
TH 471 Senior Seminar	1	–
TH 472 Senior Thesis	–	3
MU or DA Electives	2	–
Theater Electives	2	4
H&S Course Work	3	3
Arts Elective	–	2
Total Credits	15	12

Course Descriptions

Original Works

Students audition for acceptance into the Original Works program at the start of their Junior year of study. The Theater Department recommends that you plan your program of study around the following sequence. A dash indicates a recommendation that the course not be taken that semester. Current students should refer to the model program that was in effect for the year and term of their entrance to the College.

Theater	94
Humanities & Sciences	30
Arts Electives outside the major	6
Total Credits for a BFA	
Degree in Theater	130

Third Year	fall	spring
TH 301-302 Clown	2	2
TH 311-312 Acting Workshop I - II	3	2
TH 321-322 Advanced Vocal Technique	2	2
TH 343 Junior Ensemble Performance	2	–
TH 348 Studio: Text into Performance	–	2
TH 361 Contemporary Theater Studies	–	3
TH 371 Acting Classic Texts	3	–
TH 381-382 Original Works I - II	2	4
H&S Course Work	3	3
Total Credits	17	18

Fourth Year	fall	spring
TH 401 Stage Combat/Movement	2	–
TH 411 Advanced Acting Workshop	3	–
TH 443 Rehearsal/Performance	2	–
TH 471 Senior Seminar	1	–
TH 472 Senior Thesis	–	3
TH 481 Original Works Lab	2	–
Theater Electives	2	4
H&S Course Work	3	3
Arts Elective	–	2
Total Credits	15	12

The Schedule of Classes and course descriptions, including new course offerings, are regularly updated on the Cornish Website at www.cornish.edu/academic-programs.

TH 101 & 102 / Movement for Actors

2 credits Fall/Spring

Develop body alignment, articulation, flexibility, and stamina through the understanding and use of kinetic awareness, energy centers, physical improvisation, and the Feldenkrais technique. Work on organizing the body and mind, and making total physical self more available. Open to TH majors only.

TH 111 & 112 / Acting: Improv to Text

2 credits Fall/Spring

Explore improvisational theater techniques that develop both your individual creativity and ensemble acting skills. Learn to apply these techniques to the actor's process in the creation of character based on text, and in the collaborative development of a theater piece based on an assigned theme. Open to TH majors only.

TH 113 & 114 / Acting Fundamentals for Non-Majors

2 credits Fall/Spring

A beginning acting workshop incorporating an introduction to acting skills and techniques, including scene work and in-class performance projects. Open to all majors.

TH 115 / Stage Makeup

1 credit Fall/Spring

Learn techniques of makeup for the stage, including character, corrective, old age, and special effects. Open to all majors.

TH 116 / Advanced Stage Makeup

1 credit Spring

Learn three-dimensional makeup techniques as well as makeup design. Open to all majors. Prerequisite: TH 115.

TH 121 & 122 / Voice & Speech I

2 credits Fall/Spring

Develop an actor's awareness of your own vocal instrument. Explore breath, placement, tone, and resonance using a combination of techniques with emphasis on Cicely Berry's work. Study in-depth the sounds of spoken English using the Skinner Technique and International Phonetic Alphabet. Open to TH majors only.

TH 132 / Introduction to Musical Theater

2 credits Fall/Spring

This course will provide an introduction to the performance skills required for participation in musical theater production. The class will focus on solo and group singing as dramatic action, and introduce the basic dance styles used in musical theater. By audition.

TH 161 & 162 / Literature of Theater

2 credits Fall/Spring

Explore a wide range of classical and modern plays, as well as important writing on acting, performance, design, and direction. Reading from the plays, exploring their dramatic structure, and discussing the relevance of each text will be the focus of class time. Open to all majors.

Note: Students should be prepared to buy anthologies plus supplemental readings each term.

TH 171 & 172 / Text Analysis for Actors

3 credits Fall/2 credits Spring

Examine the structure of dramatic text to find the clues to character and intention. Learn practical methods of analysis of units of action, objectives, tactics, and given circumstances through writing, discussion, and on-your-feet scene work. Open to TH majors only.

TH 200 / Yoga

2 credits Fall/Spring

This class provides centering, breathing, and relaxation techniques. Open to all majors.

TH 201 & 202 / Physical Technique

2 credits Fall/Spring

Examine the physical life of the actor and explore patterns, gestures, and forms through the use of mask, movement analysis, and balance techniques. The work will include the dynamics of physical neutrality, point of focus, and psycho-physical connections as they apply to acting concepts covered in TH 211-212. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 211 & 212 / Acting Fundamentals

3 credits Fall/Spring

Continue to lay the groundwork that is the foundation of all acting, regardless of style. Learn through the use of games, improvisation, and scripted work on contemporary American plays. In the second term, comedy and characterization will be emphasized. Open to TH majors only.

TH 221 & 222 / Voice & Speech II

2 credits Fall/Spring

Learn about variety, pitch, melody, stress, and expressiveness as applied to various texts, culminating in Shakespeare. Continue studying Skinner Technique, focusing on speaking in a clear, flexible, and expressive manner. Open to TH majors only.

TH 241 / Auto-Cours

1 credit Fall

Focus on the creative process and ensemble generation of dramatic work through weekly performances based on themes assigned and critiqued by the instructor. The class work will have a direct application to the creation of the Sophomore Ensemble Project (TH 242). Open to TH majors only.

TH 242 / Ensemble Creation Project

Variable credits Spring

Create and perform an original theater piece under the guidance of a professional director and dramaturg. Open to TH majors only.

TH 244 / Audition Workshop

1 credit Spring (Pass/Fail)

An audition-specific workshop designed to introduce basic skills needed for transition into the casting process. Open to TH majors only.

TH 245 / Stage Management

1 credit Fall (Pass/Fail)

Stage-manage a Theater Department production, typically a Studio or Black Box show. With approval from the department chair, students may stage-manage a Theater Department Senior Project. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 261 & 262 / Theater History

3 credits Fall/Spring

Study the evolution of the art and crafts of theater through the ages. Consider the relationship of drama, acting styles, playing space, social conditions, methods of production, and aesthetic values within their historical contexts, in selected eras from the Greeks to the twentieth century. Open to all majors.

Note: This course will satisfy H&S Humanities or Elective requirements for non-Theater and non-Performance Production students.

TH 264 / Film History

3 credits Spring

Western, gangster, romance, horror: where do genre pictures come from, and why do we like them so much? Explore the range of American genre cinema, from the classical Hollywood era to the present, focusing on transformations in the historical, social, and aesthetic meanings of cinematic genres over time. Open to all majors.

TH 301 & 302 / Clown

2 credits Fall/Spring

Explore the nature and creative possibilities of a personal clown, while continuing the physical training of sophomore year. The improvisational format of this year-long class challenges personal and artistic boundaries through commitment to action in exaggerated form, and investigates the interrelationship of the actor and audience through the lens of presentational theater. The class concludes with the construction and rehearsal of a year-end presentation. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 311 & 312 / Acting Workshop I & II

3 credits Fall/2 credits Spring

Explore the tools for making deep, specific, personal connections to the essential human dilemmas that drive world theater. Clarify the actor's contribution to the professional rehearsal process: homework, research, analysis, and bringing active choices to the collaboration. Through exercises, improvisation, and scene work, you will address the following actor essentials: availability, action, reality of doing, personalization and justification, and inhabiting a character organically and fully. Open to TH majors only.

TH 321 & 322 / Advanced Vocal Technique

2 credits Fall/Spring

Expand your vocal range and power in preparation for performance in a variety of indoor and outdoor venues, while you continue working with Skinner Speech Techniques. Open to TH majors only.

TH 331 & 322 / Dance for Actors

2 credits Fall/Spring

Develop muscular strength and control, coordination, stretch, balance, spatial awareness, and the carriage needed for period work through rigorous dance exercises. This work is comprised of floor warm-ups, work at the ballet barre, isolations, center work, and combinations across the floor, as well as some basic partnering. Open to all majors.

TH 338 / Music Theater

2 credits/Spring

Develop the combination of acting, singing, and movement skills necessary to perform musical theater. This class focuses on scene and solo work from modern American musicals. Open to non-majors with permission from instructor.

TH 341 & 342 / Junior Ensemble

Performance

1 credit Fall/Spring

Expand your interpretive skills in a variety of rehearsal and performance situations, ranging from fully-produced mainstage productions to process-oriented developmental work. In the third year, the emphasis is on classical and heightened text. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 343 & 344 / Junior Ensemble

Performance

2 credits Fall/Spring

Expand your interpretive skills in a variety of rehearsal and performance situations, ranging from fully-produced mainstage productions to process-oriented developmental work. In the third year, the emphasis is on heightened, poetic text and classical performance. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 345 & 346 / Rehearsal/Performance

3 credits Fall/Spring

This class is an arts elective class for students in other departments who participate in Theater Department productions. For instance, if you are a Music student who composes or performs in a departmental production, or a Dance student who contributes choreography, you may receive arts elective credit for that work.

TH 348 / Studio: Text into Performance

2 credits Spring

Work as an ensemble on a project that is generative in nature, either an adaptation based on a found text or a new work based on classical or poetic themes. The project will incorporate heightened form, literate and highly demanding text, and extraordinary physical staging. An integrated team of a director, vocal coach, movement coach, text coach, and an acting coach will lead this project from conception through completion. Open to TH majors only.

TH 361 / Contemporary Theater Studies

3 credits Fall/Spring

Continued examination of the theory and practice of theater in the modern era. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 371 / Acting Classical Texts

3 credits Fall

Learn to combine intensive, practical analysis of heightened language with the performance skills needed to bring classics to life. You will examine and interpret a wide range of classical texts and sonnets with a major emphasis on Shakespeare's plays. Open to TH majors only.

TH 372 / Acting Classical Texts II

2 credits Spring

Through work on Restoration, late eighteenth century, and other texts, you will focus on acting skills in the manners and the language of these periods. Open to TH majors only.

TH 375 & 376 / Global Arts Encounters I & II

1 credit Fall/1 credit Spring

Travel to London, New York, and other cities. Each trip will feature visits to museums, theaters, and other cultural institutions and locations. Travel happens outside of the regular academic calendar. Trips would be coordinated through EF Tours for international travel and Smithsonian student travel for national travel. By permission.

TH 381 & 382 / Original Works I & II

2 credits Fall/4 credits Spring

Investigate the meaning and process of generating original works for the stage. Explore the disciplines of playwriting, directing, solo performance, and ensemble creation. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 385 / Cross Discipline: New Perf Workshop

2 credits Fall/Spring

Investigate a wide variety of collective and interdisciplinary methods for creating performances. Recommended for students in every major, particularly choreography majors, composer/librettists, and Performance Production majors - all designers and stage managers. Open to all majors.

TH 396-397 / Independent Study

1-4 credits Fall/Spring

Applied to a student's program only under extraordinary circumstances in consultation with the department chair. Open to all majors.

TH 401 & 402 / Stage Combat/Movement

2 credits Fall/Spring

Develop character movement in the context of a specific physical form: stage combat (armed and unarmed). Learn the safe use of rapier, dagger, broadsword, and quarterstaff. Develop specificity of movement, clarity of physical choices, and balance of one's own energy with that of a partner. In the spring students will have the opportunity to perform for certification as Actor/Combatants. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 411 / Advanced Acting Workshop

3 credits Fall

Immerse yourself in intensive scene work, focusing on exploration of mystery, ambiguity, and subtext. Use and synthesize all techniques taught in the curriculum. Open to TH majors only.

TH 414 / Acting for the Camera

2 credits Spring

This workshop will prepare the student for the challenges of performing on-camera. Material from a variety of film and television sources will be used to explore the range of expressiveness needed to communicate with the camera, as well as the technical issues of hitting marks, camera placement, etc. Open to TH majors only.

TH 415 & 416 / Special Topics: Acting

2 credits Fall/Spring

This course will change year-to-year, depending on the interest of students and faculty. Potential topics include: Comedy Techniques, the Expressive Mask, Acting with Dialects, and Ensemble Performance. The focus will be on specific topics that will orient students toward a strong area of post-graduation interest. Open to TH majors only.

TH 421 / Voice and Speech Skills

2 credits Fall

Use the vocal and speech techniques you have learned to master regional dialects and foreign accents. Explore the range and depth of your voice as a tool in creating character. Continue to work with Skinner Speech. Open to TH majors only.

TH 422 / Voice-Over & Commercial Voice Skills

1 credit Spring

This two-month course explores the demands of the commercial voice profession, and prepares you with instruction in commercial script analysis, cold reading, microphone techniques, and self-marketing. Some class time will be spent in Seattle area recording

studios, and guest professionals will share tips and techniques with the students. Open to TH majors only.

TH 439 / Music Theater Workshop

2 credits Fall

Continue to explore a range of music-theater material, with the objective of creating a musical revue for performance in a cabaret setting at the end of the term. Open to non-majors with permission from instructor.

TH 441 & 442 / Senior Ensemble Performance

1 credit Fall/Spring

Rehearsal and performance in departmental productions under the guidance of faculty and guest directors. Senior ensemble productions range from fully-mounted works by contemporary authors to modern classics and new and ensemble-generated theater works. Open to TH majors only.

TH 443 & 444 / Senior Ensemble Performance

2 credits Fall/Spring

Rehearsal and performance in departmental productions under the guidance of faculty and guest directors. Senior ensemble productions range from fully-mounted works by contemporary authors to modern classics and new and ensemble-generated theater works. Open to TH majors only.

TH 445 & 446 / Senior Ensemble Performance

3 credits Fall/Spring

Rehearsal and performance in departmental productions under the guidance of faculty and guest directors. Open to TH majors only.

TH 451 / Audition Techniques

2 credits Fall

Acquire practical techniques to select, prepare, and perform audition pieces, musical and dance auditions, and commercial auditions. Learn about cold reading, professional résumés, headshots, and professional etiquette, as well as how to create relationships with agents and unions. Open to TH majors only.

TH 452 / Auditioning for Musical Theater

1 credit Spring

Learn the essential skills necessary to audition with music for any musical or play. You will emerge with at least one appropriately chosen, edited, and well-rehearsed song to accompany your audition monologues. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 454 / Auditioning for the Camera

1 credit

This class is designed to give the actor specific instruction on preparation and execution of commercial and film scripts for camera auditions. The goals of the course are to demystify the camera audition process and to give the actors techniques to break down scripts, make appropriate choices, and to take direction. It will also prepare the actor for the broadcast market, including advice on pictures, résumés, agents, and other business aspects of the actor's career. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 476 / Global Arts Encounters III

2 credits Spring

Travel to London, New York, and other cities. Each trip will feature visits to museums, theaters, and other cultural institutions and locations. Travel happens outside of the regular academic calendar. Trips would be coordinated through EF Tours for international travel and Smithsonian student travel for national travel. By permission.

TH 457 & 458 / Internship

Variable credits Fall/Spring

Participate in rehearsal and performance of one or more shows with a professional theater company. By audition and permission of Theater Department faculty. Open to TH majors only.

TH 471 / Senior Seminar

1 credit Fall

Senior Seminar will cover a range of topics including preparations for Senior Thesis Project, as well as other issues of concern to the graduating Theater major, including mission statements, fundraising, taxes for artists, etc. Open to TH majors only.

TH 472 / Senior Thesis

3 credits Fall/Spring

This class involves the creation and presentation of the senior thesis project, under the supervision of designated Theater faculty. Open to TH majors only.

Note: By permission of the department chair, this project may be undertaken in the fall.

TH 481 / Original Works Laboratory

2 credits Fall

Continue to explore the processes of creating original works for the stage and working with instructors and guest artists. Complete the composition of a substantial theater piece during the senior year.

TH 485 / Intro to Playwriting/Directing

2 credits Fall

Explore the relationships between the different functions of actor, director, and playwright. Create original dramatic scenes and short plays; direct scenes from original and established texts. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 486 / Playwriting Workshop

1 credit Spring

An eight-week workshop in which you can explore playwriting techniques and write one or more original scripts. Open to non-majors with permission of instructor.

TH 488 / Directing Workshop

1 credit Spring

An eight-week workshop in which you can explore directing techniques and direct one or more projects. Open to non-majors with permission.

TH 496–499 / Independent Study

1–4 credits Fall/Spring

Applied to a student's program only under extraordinary circumstances in consultation with the department chair. Open to non-majors with permission.

Theater Faculty

Richard E.T. White, *Department Chair*
Original Works/Directing, Senior Seminar
BA · University of Washington

John Abramson, *Adjunct Instructor*
Acting Fundamentals
MFA · University of Washington PATP
BS · University of Kansas

Geoff Alm, *Adjunct Instructor*
Stage Combat
BA · Evergreen Stage College
Drama Studio London
Fight Director/Fight Master/Certified Teacher · Society of American Fight Directors

Karen Armand, *Adjunct Instructor*
Stage Makeup
BA · Sonoma State University

Ellen Boyle, *Associate Professor*
Voice, Yoga
MFA · University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee
BFA · University of Michigan

Bonnie Cohen, *Professor*
Acting Fundamentals
MFA · Cornell University
MA · University of Missouri
BFA · University of Texas
Certificate · Seattle University

Kathleen Collins, *Adjunct Instructor*
Directing, Audition Techniques
MFA · University of Washington
MA · University of Washington
BA · State University of New York at Albany

Tinka Gutrick-Dailey, *Adjunct Instructor*
Dance for Actors
American Dance Machine

Gretta Harley, *Adjunct Instructor*
Musical Theater, Cross-Disciplinary New Performance Workshop, Resident Composer and Music Director
BM · Cornish College of the Arts
Dalcroze Teacher Certificate

Bill Johns, *Adjunct Instructor*
Acting Fundamentals for Non-Majors
MA · University of Georgia
BA · University of Georgia
AA · Emory University

Marya Sea Kaminski, *Adjunct Instructor*
Acting

MFA · University of Washington
BA · University of Pennsylvania

Alyssa Keene, *Adjunct Instructor*
Voice and Speech, Voice Skills and Dialects
BFA · Cornish College of the Arts

Carys Kresny, *Adjunct Instructor*
Directing
MFA · University of Washington

Robert MacDougall, *Professor*
Movement for Actors, Stage Combat
BS · Humboldt University
Certified Feldenkrais Therapist
Fight Director/Certified Teacher—Society of American Fight Directors

Rick MacKenzie, *Adjunct Instructor*
Stage Management
BFA · Cornish College of the Arts

Keira McDonald, *Adjunct Instructor*
Physical Technique
MFA · Naropa University
BFA · Texas Tech University

Kathryn Mesney, *Professor*
Acting, Directing, Internship, Senior Thesis Advisor
MA · State University of New York at Binghamton
BS · State University College of New York at Brockport

Kate Myre, *Associate Professor*
Voice, Voiceover & Commercial Voice Skills, Audition, Senior Seminar
MFA · Brandeis University
BA · Willamette University

Lisa Norman, *Adjunct Instructor*
Voice and Speech
MFA · University of Tennessee
BA · University of Tennessee

Timothy McCuen Piggee, *Associate Professor*
Text Analysis, Musical Theater
MFA · National Theatre Conservatory at the Denver Center
BFA · University of Utah

Jodi Rothfield, *Adjunct Instructor*
Audition for the Camera
BA · University of California at Berkeley
Casting Society of America

Hal Ryder, *Professor*
Acting Classical Texts
BA · University of Washington
Drama Studio London

Robin Lynn Smith, *Associate Professor*
Acting, Studio: Text into Performance
MFA · New York University, Tisch School of the Arts
BFA · Boston University

David Taft, *Associate Professor*
Auto-Cours, Physical Techniques, Clown
MIT · Seattle University
Dell'Arte School

Amy Thone, *Adjunct Instructor*
Acting
MFA · National Theatre Conservatory at the Denver Center

Jeanmarie Williams, *Adjunct Instructor*
Theater History
PhD Candidate · University of Washington
MFA · University of Virginia
BA · Drew University

John Kendall Wilson, *Professor*
Auto-Cours, Dramaturgy, Theater History
MFA · University of Georgia
BA · LaGrange College