

## **THEATRE DESIGN**

**Dan Zimmer**, Chair

**Philip Wingerter**, Technical Director

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The Theatre Design program is designed for students who wish to become theatrical designers and stage technicians. Students learn by doing, through hands-on instruction in stage lighting, sound design, costume design and construction, set design and construction, and stage management. Theatre Design students provide resources and support to the conception and execution of the eight NOCCA student productions during the academic year in all the performance arts.

### **Admission**

Admission into the Theatre Design program is based on a successful interview/audition held in the spring of each year. Each prospective student prepare several items for the interview/audition.

### **Interview/Audition Requirements**

1. A printed resume of training and experiences in technical theatre, performances, backstage work, and theatre design. 2. A portfolio (sample of work), digital or hard copy, in theatre design and technical crew work. These may include design renderings, paperwork, photos of completed designs, crew sheets, and program credits. In addition, work samples may include a practice set design, costumes, and/or lighting for a generally recognized play, such as a classic Greek tragedy, Broadway musical or opera. Other samples of visual artwork are encouraged to be part of the portfolio. 3. A brief essay describing why the applicant wants to join the Theatre Design program at NOCCA. 4. Applicants should also be prepared to produce a drawing during interview based on instructions given by the faculty and to discuss their theatrical skills and goals. Applicants must also demonstrate basic math and reading skills.

### **Curriculum/Course Description**

All Theatre Design students at each level take core coursework in three key areas: Scenic Shop and Stagecraft, Costume Design and Construction, and Principles of Design. Most Theatre Design students begin at Level I. Advancement is based upon successful completion of all required material in the previous level as determined by the Theatre Design faculty.

#### **LEVEL I**

Scenic Shop and Stagecraft: students learn basic knowledge and proper usage of tools; shop safety; basic painting techniques and styles; theatrical terminology and functions of the theatre; flat and platform construction techniques.

Costume Design and Construction: students learn basic tool knowledge and proper usage, basic sewing techniques, basic costume research principles, figure and fabric drawing, and costume history.

Principles of Design: students study Beginning Drawing, Model Making, Introduction to Lighting Equipment/Technology, and Prop Making.

## LEVEL II

Scenic Shop and Stagecraft: students acquire advanced tool knowledge, overall construction knowledge with emphasis on theatrical scenery; work on small group design and construction projects, basic furniture design and construction, and basic sound design and production.

Costume Design and Construction: students learn advanced drawing and painting skills, advanced sewing and design techniques, and advanced costume history.

Principles of Design: students study Technical Drawing, Art and Architecture Survey, Intro to Scenic Design, and Research Practices and Principles.

## LEVEL III

Scenic Shop and Stagecraft: students study basic and advanced rigging practices; color mixing, shading, and other advanced painting techniques; large group design and construction projects; advanced operating theatrical systems and supervising small crews; and advanced furniture design and construction.

Costume Design and Construction: students continue with advanced drawing and painting skills; develop a project using skills learned in Levels I and II, and continue to hone skills and techniques as their projects develop.

Principles of Design: students take units in Scenic Design Project, Lighting Design/Lighting Lab, and Scenic Rendering.

## LEVEL IV

Scenic Shop and Stagecraft: students work on independent design and construction projects; study supervising shop crews; construct large scenic elements; assist with budgets, shop calendar, and build layouts; and develop furniture grade construction skills.

Costume Design and Construction: students develop costume portfolios, and work on advanced design projects, including a senior design project in costume

Principles of Design: students study Portfolio Preparation and work on the senior design project in scenery and lighting.

## **Student Guidelines**

Since ours is a comprehensive, demanding program intended for students who wish to seriously explore the art of Theatre Design, professional guidelines have been established.

**DAILY DRESS:** Theatre Design students are expected to wear work clothes daily regardless of where they are working. Work clothes must comply with the following regulations for professional and safety reasons.

All clothes must fit well and not be oversized or baggy; they must be in good condition, without holes or fashionable rips. Shirts must be half, three-quarter, or full-length sleeve, with a neckline that is collared, scoop, or V-neck provided no cleavage is exposed. No exposed undershirts under opened outer shirts unless they are described as above. Shirt must extend past waist to hip line. No skin is to be exposed between shirt and pants. Jeans or long pants must be worn securely at waist at all times. Shorts must extend to the knee. No dresses, skirts, leggings, or yoga/stretch pants. No sheer, lace, or otherwise transparent clothing or parts of the garment.

Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times: athletic shoes, canvas shoes with toe protection, or work boots only. No open-toe or open-heel shoes. No sandals, flip flops, canvas toms, espadrilles, high or platform shoes or boots, or lightweight canvas lace up shoes.

No headwear shall be allowed in indoors except for religious reasons: no hats, caps, headscarves, or hoods. No long chains or necklaces and no loose bracelets may be worn. Your school ID is to be worn at all times unless you are instructed to remove it by one of your teachers. Long hair must be pulled back and secured in a ponytail during class.

Theatre Design students must have one set of “production stage blacks” to be work backstage during performances. Stage blacks consists of solid black jeans or slacks, solid black long-sleeve t-shirt, solid black socks, and solid black shoes that follow the daily dress guidelines above.

**NOCCA PRODUCTIONS:** Students are required to attend all NOCCA Theatre, Dance, and Vocal Music presentations and productions throughout the year. Non-attendance at these performances will result in a loss of credit (in accordance with the Enrollment Contract and the Student Guide).

**EXTRACURRICULAR WORK:** No student may consider or accept any outside theatre work without first gaining permission in writing from the NOCCA Theatre Faculty. This includes any projects that occur prior to start of school, which will be in production after classes have begun. This is in accordance with the Enrollment Contract and the Student Guide.

**REQUIRED SHOWS:** Students are required to see three professional outside theatre, music, or dance productions per semester that are not part of the NOCCA student season. They turn in a program or ticket stub along with a two-page paper describing production elements. The faculty will update the students during each semester on performance opportunities that they can attend throughout the area. All productions must be approved by a NOCCA Theatre Design faculty member prior to attending the performance.

**REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS:** Students are required several times throughout the year to participate in the running of shows. This entails having to remain at school after normal class dismissal and to come to school on several weekends for rehearsal and performances. The faculty will distribute a tentative calendar with required afterhours dates and times during the first full week of school. Excused absences require a written note from their parent explaining the situation as soon as the student finds out about the conflict. Unexcused absences on these dates will result in a loss of grades and repeated absences may result in dismissal from NOCCA.

### **CERTIFICATE LEVELS:**

The Theatre Design Department offers three levels of certification:

*Certificate of Artistry* represents the highest level of artistry by Level IV graduates, demonstrated through course work, comprehensive examination, and design presentation.

*Certificate of Performance* is granted to Level III graduates who have completed and/or worked directly on productions and performances at NOCCA but have not completed the full theatre design curriculum.

*Certificate of Recognition* is granted to graduates who have completed at least one-year of training and requirements for Levels I and II.

***These designations are awarded at the discretion of the Theatre Design faculty based upon the individual achievements of each student at the time of their graduation.***