

Master of Arts in Theatre



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY



Master of Arts in Theatre

Villanova's Master's and Certificate Programs in Theatre offer a distinct fusion of both academic work and practical experience. Our flexible, multi-faceted degree program prepares students from a variety of disciplines to succeed on stage, behind-the-scenes and in the classroom.

The comprehensive 30-credit MA can be completed in two years as a full-time student or at your own pace as a part-time student. Funding opportunities in the form of scholarships and assistantships are available in the areas of academic research, technical theatre, production and administration.

INSPIRING | ARTFUL | IMAGINATIVE

- Learn from award-winning theatre artists as you participate in our professionally directed and designed mainstage season.
- Choose from a variety of electives including acting, directing, design, playwriting, solo performance and theatre management.
- Collaborate with your peers on student-produced work ranging from new play development to fully-realized productions.
- Pursue your passion as you design a unique course of study that culminates in a thesis project in the area of your choosing.

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Elevated Artistry

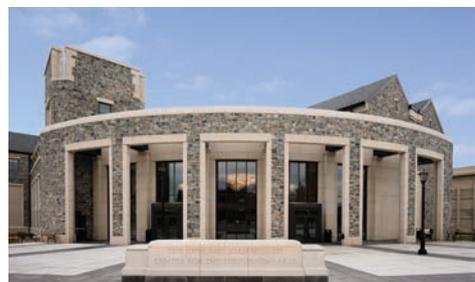


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Villanova Theatre is committed to training theatre practitioners through the production of professional theatre. Our four-show seasons provide exciting opportunities to work on many aspects of our productions — from acting to design, stage management to dramaturgy.

Villanova's state-of-the-art new Joan and John Mullen Center for the Performing Arts is located just a few miles outside of Philadelphia, allowing students the chance to work with professionals in the Philadelphia area both during their time in the graduate program and after graduation. Many of our students work in professional theatres through connections made while working on a Villanova Theatre production.



Rigorous Scholarship



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Courses Offered

CORE COURSES IN

- Script Analysis
- Acting
- Dramaturgy
- Research Methods & Theory

ELECTIVES *

- Directing
- Playwriting
- The Teaching of Theatre
- New Play Development
- Solo Performance
- Musical Theatre
- Characterization
- Scenography
- Acting and Directing Styles
- Voice and Movement
- Modern Irish Drama
- Gender, Politics and Performance
- African-American Women Playwrights
- Collaborative Theatremaking
- Shakespeare on Stage
- Theatre for Social Change
- Staging Gender and Sexuality



*some electives may not be offered every year

Faculty



Peter A. Hilliard,
MFA, Assistant Teaching Professor.

- Composer of 9 Operas and 4 musicals which have been performed by Pittsburgh Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Memphis Opera, Urban Arias, Lyric Opera of the North, The Manhattan School of Music, the Tanglewood Institute, among many others.
- His operas include *Inbox Zero*, *A Christmas Carol & Bob & Ted & Alice*, *The Happy Hour*, and *The Filthy Habit* which have received awards from organizations like The National Opera Association, The National Association of Teachers of Singing.
- Co-founder of the Decameron Opera Coalition, a group of nine opera companies dedicated to commissioning and producing new opera.

Michael Hollinger,
MA Artistic Director

- Award-winning playwright and internationally-produced author of a dozen full-length plays and musicals including *Red Herring*, *Opus*, *Ghost-Writer*, *Incorruptible*, *An Empty Plate in the Cafe du Grand Boeuf*, *Under the Skin*, *Hope and Gravity*, *Cyrano*, *Touchtones*, *A Wonderful Noise*, *Sing the Body Electric* and *Mr. Dickens' Hat*.
- Following its off-Broadway run, Michael's play *Opus* became one of the most-produced plays in America, garnering Barrymore and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding New Play, a Steinberg New Play Citation from the American Drama Critics Circle, and nominations for Lucille Lortel and John Gassner Awards.

James Ijames,
MFA Resident Director

- Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award nominee for his play *Fat Ham* which debuted on Broadway in 2023.
- Author of critically-acclaimed plays *Kill Move Paradise*, *WHITE*, *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington*, *Moon Man Walk*, *The Threshing Floor*, and *Osiris: Redux*.
- Winner of the Whiting Award for Drama, the Kesserling Prize, and multiple Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre.

Valerie Joyce,
PhD Department Chair

- Author of *I Will Speak for Myself*, which mixes performance texts and primary historical artifacts to illuminate the lives of African American women from the Colonial period through the Civil War.
- Her second book project, *My Fair Ladies: Gender, Ideology, and Audience in Post-War American Musical Theatre* examines the ways in which musical theatre creates meaning, interprets history, and establishes social expectations for popular audiences.

Chelsea Phillips,
MFA, PhD Resident Dramaturg

- Author of *Carrying All Before Her: Celebrity Pregnancy and the London Stage, 1689-1800* from Rutgers University Press
- As a dramaturg, she has worked with Pulitzer Prize winner Michael R. Jackson, New Dramatist resident writer C. Julian Jimenez, Manhattan Shakespeare Project, the for/word company, Uncut Pages Theatre, and artists from the Royal Shakespeare Company, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, and the American Shakespeare Center.

Bess Rowen,
PhD Assistant Professor

- Author of *The Lines Between the Lines: How Stage Directions Affect Embodiment* from University of Michigan Press
- Co-editor of *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, one of the two official peer-reviewed journals of the American Drama & Theatre Society. Bess also serves as the Performance Review Editor for *The Eugene O'Neill Review*.
- Intimacy Choreographer with training from Theatrical Intimacy Education. She also led the workshop "Intimate Stage Directions and Embodiment" for Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, merging her scholarship about stage directions with her intimacy training.

Edward Sobel,
MFA Resident Director

- As Associate Artistic Director at the Arden Theatre Company and Director of New Play Development at Steppenwolf Theater Company, Sobel oversaw the development of more than 40 new plays including Tracy Letts' Pulitzer and Tony Award-winner *August: Osage County* and Pulitzer finalists *Red Light Winter* and *Man from Nebraska*.
- Broadway credits as dramaturg include *The Minutes*, *August: Osage County*, and *Superior Donuts*.
- Directing credits include world premieres of James Ijames' *Moon Man Walk* and *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington* and Nimisha Ladva's *Uninvited*; along with productions at Steppenwolf Theatre and Arden Theatre Company.



“ I love this program because it introduced me to aspects of theatre that I would have never been able to experience. ”

—Sisi Wright, '18
Director of Membership & Engagement,
Director's Gathering



Scan to learn more about our alumni

villanovatheatre.org/alumni



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“ The diversity provided by the faculty and my classmates has helped me to grow as both an artist and a human being. ”

—CJ Miller, '17
Theatre Teacher & Director,
Abington Friends School



MA in Theatre with MPA Certificate in NonProfit Management

Villanova University offers students the opportunity to combine their interest in theatre with a Certificate in Nonprofit Management through a collaboration between the Theatre Department and the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. This combined program is aimed at educating theatre practitioners and scholars while providing students with the professional skills to work as managers and administrators in nonprofit organizations.

Our MPA students take 24 credits from the Theatre Department and 12 in nonprofit management through the Master of Public Administration program.

In addition to traditional courses, the MPA program offers a variety of one-credit courses that are offered on three consecutive Saturday

mornings each semester. These offerings, which range from arts marketing to social innovation, sharpen arts management skills and prepare students to enter the cultural sector.

Great theatres need great leaders.



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Degree/Curriculum Information



MA Degree Requirements

Students need a total of 30 credits to complete the MA in Theatre program. Aside from traditional coursework, you will also meet the following requirements:

- Complete three practicums by working on our mainstage production season.
- Pass the Comprehensive Exam at the end of the first year.
- Be mentored through a thesis project culminating in a presentation before a faculty committee.

Traditionally, all degree requirements are completed within two years, although you are permitted up to six years to complete your degree.

To finish in two years, students generally take two or three courses per semester. Part-time students may take one or two classes per semester.

Scheduling

Classes are typically offered Monday-Thursday from 4:30-7:30pm.

- All classes meet once a week.
- MPA Program courses may vary from these times.

Weekday rehearsals are generally scheduled to take place after classes for a duration of up to three hours. On weekends, rehearsals last for six to eight hours per day. All rehearsal processes will have at least one day off per week.

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The greater Philadelphia area is home to a bustling theatre scene that employs thousands of artists year-round.

- Villanova alumni are employed by nearly every major theatre company in the region, including the Walnut Street Theatre, Arden Theatre Company, People's Light, Delaware Theatre Company and The Wilma Theater.
- Boasting a robust creative economy, the region features the work of hundreds of performing arts organizations and festivals throughout the year including the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and the internationally-renowned Philadelphia Fringe Festival.

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“ My MA in Theatre at Villanova was an essential step on my career path. ”

—Rachel O'Hanlon Rodriguez, MA '17
Operations Director, Spiral Q
Actor, playwright, organizer, trauma-informed teaching artist and facilitator

Total cost of Villanova
MA in Theatre degree:

\$26,700

Median cost of MA in
Theatre degree:

\$60,090

Financing *Your Graduate Education*

Villanova's tuition rates and fees in graduate arts and sciences are affordable and competitively priced. Current teachers are eligible for reduced tuition rates. Villanova also offers two forms of merit-based fellowships for full-time students: tuition scholarships and graduate assistantships, which provide a stipend as well as tuition remission. Assistance with applications for student loans and a convenient payment plan are also available via the Office of Financial Assistance.

Graduate Program Tuition Rates, 2023-2024

\$890 Per Credit Rate

\$50 General Fee

Financial assistance is available to all matriculated, degree-seeking students in a graduate-level program. In order to receive assistance, you must be enrolled in at least three credit hours in the summer, fall or spring semester. More information is available on the Financial Assistance website.

Teachers, educators and administrators in public and private schools receive a tuition reduction of 20%, and those in Catholic schools receive a tuition reduction of 40%.

Looking to enhance
your theatrical skillset
while increasing your
earning potential through
continuing education?

Villanova University Benefits for Educators

- 40% tuition reduction for teachers and administrators at Catholic schools
- 20% tuition reduction for teachers and administrators at public or private non-Catholic schools
- Scholarships and Assistantships
- Part-time Evening Coursework and Rolling Admission
- Summer Courses and Study Abroad Opportunities
- Application Fee Waiver

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Scholarship-Based Financial Aid

There are two types of competitive scholarships available in the Theatre Department. The first is the graduate assistantship, which includes a stipend and tuition remission. Graduate assistants are considered “full-time” or “part-time,” as reflected by the stipend awarded and the time commitment required. Full-time assistantships come with tuition remission and a stipend per academic year and require 300 hours/semester. Part-time assistantships come with tuition remission and a stipend per academic year and require 200 hours/semester. The second is a tuition scholarship, which includes tuition remission and requires 100 hours/semester.

Funding opportunities also exist outside of the Theatre Department. Graduate Assistantships are available in other university offices.

To learn more about these opportunities, visit gradartsci.villanova.edu.

Work-Study Opportunities

Graduate students who do not receive an assistantship or scholarship are encouraged to apply for work-study opportunities within the Theatre Department. Work-study positions are available in set construction, costume construction, properties construction, public relations, box office, business and production. There are also work-study positions available in several other university departments.

To apply, please visit the Villanova University Jobs page at jobs.villanova.edu.

Graduate Assistantships

Full-time	Part-time
100% Tuition Remission +\$19,440 stipend	100% Tuition Remission +\$9720 stipend

Tuition Scholarships

100% Tuition Remission

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Additional Student Loan Information

Graduate students seeking additional financial assistance must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well as the current VU Graduate Application for Financial Aid. To receive financial aid, you must be matriculated and enrolled in at least three credit hours in the summer, fall or spring semester.

Alternative Loans or Private Educational Loans are administered by private lenders. Typically, one would first take advantage of the Direct Loan and then if additional funding is needed, apply for one of these loans. However, if you are non-matriculated or in a certificate program, the private educational loans provide a viable financing option.

For more information, email finaid@villanova.edu or call 610-519-4010.





“The MA allows you to get a broader range of skills to use rather than honing in on just one area. The MPA classes taught me some of the essential skills I use at my workplace.”

—Emily Poworoznek, '14
Associate Director, Assembly Global

Deadlines

The deadlines for our Master's programs are as follows:

- Fall – March 1st, but applications may be considered until August 1st
- Spring – November 15th, but applications may be considered until December 1st
- Summer – May 1st

The deadline to submit Scholarship and Assistantship applications is February 1st. All application materials, including those materials for your application to the graduate program, must be submitted by this date as well.

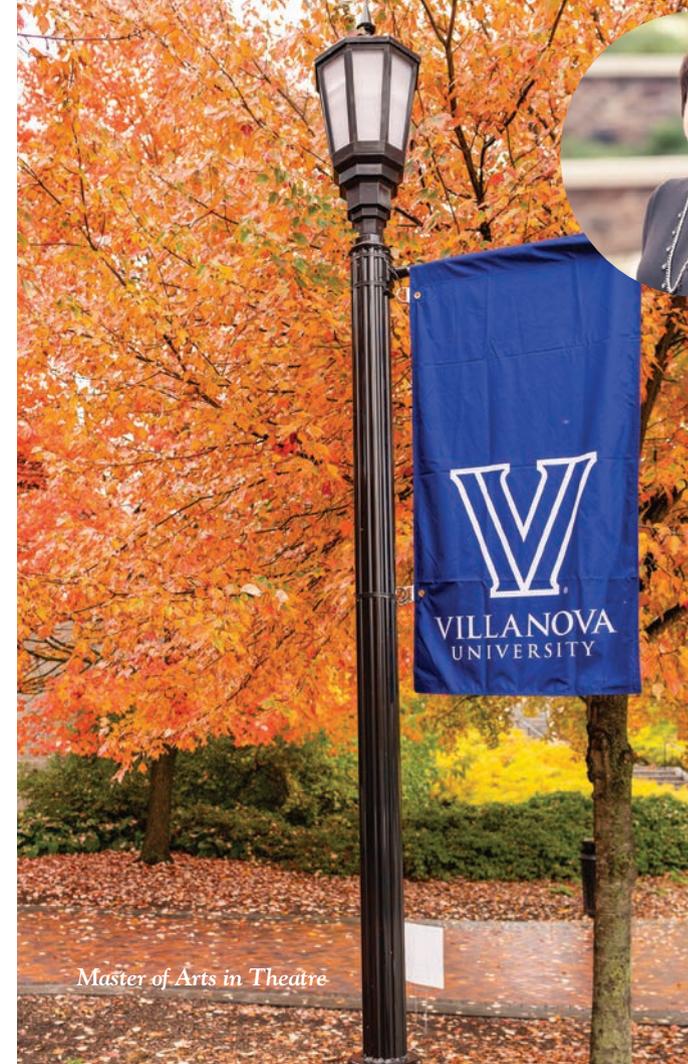
Please note that early applications are always encouraged since space in the program is limited.

Diversity Mission Statement

Villanova Theatre Department is committed to creating a culture of inclusion that is driven by a curiosity about different perspectives and respect for the variety of human experiences. This culture is both mindfully and deliberately accomplished through an ardently receptive, engaged and accessible learning environment for all.

For more information email us: kevin.esmond@villanova.edu

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“Having that breadth of experience has been an enormous asset and allowed me to fill many different positions in the theatre world, from designer to actor to educator. The family dynamic in the MA Theatre program is extraordinary, and it doesn't end when you graduate. I feel that I always have a network, no matter where I am in the world.”

—Kristi Good, PhD, '07
Assistant Professor of Dramaturgy, Carnegie Mellon University

Join Our Community.



Villanova University's Master's in Theatre Program specializes in developing artist-scholars. By placing equal value on the study and practice of theatre, together we create a powerful laboratory where productions ignite scholarship, and scholarship nourishes practice. That spirit of collaboration, of constant inquiry, helps us to aspire to greater heights of achievement and inspiration. Our graduates are great artists, great thinkers, and great collaborators. They're ready to enter a theatre world that asks for fresh ideas and thrilling artistry. They're ready to create the future of theatre.



Apply Today.
theatre.villanova.edu

