

Choose Nebraska Wesleyan Theatre.

NW
you



Put yourself in the spotlight.



Nebraska Wesleyan University Theatre in Lincoln is like no other program on your list. Here's why—in three acts.

Act I: Opportunity

Young actors everywhere are looking for their big chance—their shot. At Nebraska Wesleyan University, “once-in-a-lifetime” theatre opportunities come early and often.

NWU attracts talent from all over the country by providing more opportunities to act, direct, design, sing, manage and build.

- > At NWU, you'll learn theatre by doing theatre. Begin building a breadth of experience right away in your first year. Then take an incredibly full resume with you into the world of professional theatre.
- > OnStage Blog named NWU to its list of top 30 college acting/performing arts programs AND its top 30 musical theatre programs in the U.S.



Fresh Voices



Cover: Fresh Voices

The Bald Soprano

Theatre degree options at NWU

NWU offers theatre degrees in seven areas.

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Acting

Develop your acting skills through experiences in the classroom and the performance laboratory. Gain experience with an annual production schedule that includes 40+ faculty-directed and student-directed productions.

Few programs in the country can match the number of shows NWU produces each year.

Musical Theatre

We're one of the few universities that offer a BFA in musical theatre. Most universities produce a musical once every two or three semesters. We produce three to five each year.

With our rich musical production schedule, the experience you'll build here in two years can match what others may only reach at the graduate level.

Directing

NWU positions you to direct performances as soon as your sophomore year. Work closely with experienced faculty directors as members of the production team and in stage management. Then take the director's chair with the skills and experience you need to bring your vision to the stage.

NWU's directing core equips you with coursework in everything from actor coaching to stage combat.

Theatre Design and Technology

NWU Theatre has the BFA program to develop your technical and design skills through both the classroom and the performance laboratory. Learn how to better design and assemble the sets, lighting, props and costumes that bring the story to life.

Expand your technical and design skills with opportunities in every facet of working shows.

Theatre Studies

Combine multiple areas of interest to craft your individualized course of study. Mix, for example, musical theatre with playwriting, or costume design with stage management. You can even go interdisciplinary and combine theatre design with art history, acting with psychology, or stage management with business administration. Give yourself the skills and experiences you need to reach your career goals in professional theatre.

With theatre studies at NWU, it really is your show. Adapt your experiences to write the ending you're looking for.

Bachelor of Arts

Theatre Arts

Theatre arts is a traditional theatre degree designed to provide you with a broad knowledge of theatre. You can use that base to pursue graduate study or a career in professional theatre. Theatre arts graduates also use their cultural understanding, aesthetic sense and creative skill to pursue work in a variety of fields, including law, ministry and education.

Your interests stretch beyond the stage. The BA in theatre arts is a popular choice for theatre students who wish to double major.

Theatre Arts Education

If you want to gain a broad foundation of knowledge and skills to teach theatre arts in a secondary school, then this BA program is geared for you. This program leads to a supplemental endorsement in secondary theatre education and must be coupled with a primary endorsement in another subject. Work closely with professors and build experience in all the areas you'll supervise as a theatre educator: acting, directing, costuming, scenography, playwriting, theatre history and management.

Your capstone experience will include 14 credit hours of supervised teaching in a secondary school.

A deep lineup

Our volume of productions is the main reason so many talented artists choose NWU Theatre. Compare our performance lineup with any other program on your list. Few schools can match what we do, year in and year out.

Each year, NWU Theatre produces on average:

- > Three to five musicals
- > At least one Shakespeare or Greek production
- > Several colorful dramas, comedies and tragedies ranging from timeless classics to contemporary work by new artists.

Check out past performances at theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu.

Just look at the range of shows NWU Theatre has recently produced.

Musical theatre from the Golden Age to contemporary

- > American Idiot
- > Footloose
- > In the Heights
- > Kiss Me, Kate
- > Mamma Mia!
- > South Pacific
- > Fun Home

Classic to modern drama

- > Boeing, Boeing
- > The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
- > Death of a Salesman
- > A Doll's House, Part 2
- > Nell Gwynn
- > Noises Off
- > The Wolves

Shakespeare

- > Julius Caesar
- > As You Like It
- > Macbeth



A Christmas Carol



Macbeth

The show goes on

At NWU, we found innovative ways to keep doing the work we love during the pandemic. We turned to outdoor performances, used distanced staging, created virtual learning opportunities and more. The university honored the Theatre Department with its 2021 Roy G. Story Award for our national leadership in finding safe ways to serve students and reach audiences.



newly renovated McDonald Theatre

A perfect setting

Finest facilities

We've renovated McDonald Theatre with a completely updated interior, new lighting, a new stage and wider seats. Our Studio Theatre now features a dance space with a Marley floor. NWU also boasts the Great Plains' largest costume and prop libraries. That means every time you step onstage, to act, sing or dance, you'll do it outfitted and supported by the best facilities and the deepest theatre collections in the region. Our facilities and resources give you the flexibility you need to expand and achieve your vision.



Blanke Costume Library

Right city

Lincoln, Neb., is the Midwest's greatest college town. NWU Theatre's reputation puts you at the heart of this city's supportive arts community.

Lincoln's thriving downtown is just 10 minutes from Nebraska Wesleyan University's campus. NWU and Lincoln connect you to exciting internships, a friendly community atmosphere, and excellent parks and trails. This is a beautiful place for artists to live, study and perform.



Lincoln's Haymarket District

Greater reach

Nebraska Wesleyan's emphasis on internships and study abroad expands your opportunities beyond the campus boundaries. Students have recently interned at Theatre Wichita, Arkansas Shakespeare and the Goodman in Chicago. And they've studied at places like Shakespeare's Globe in London. Professional and global experiences add valuable perspective and deepen your skills.

Act II: Preparation

NWU Theatre does more than simply offer you opportunities. We prepare you to make the most of them.

Our BFA programs are pre-professional by design. They're geared to equip you with the tools you need to enter professional theatre immediately. More than a stepping stone to an MFA program, NWU Theatre is a launching pad to the theatre industry.



stage combat with Professor Ryan Kathman



rehearsal with Professor Jay Chipman

Top professors

NWU Theatre professors look at the stage as your laboratory—an extension of your learning space where you put classroom instruction into action. They're experienced experts who know how to mentor, coach, challenge and motivate you.

Learn more about our faculty at theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu.

"NWU is a pre-professional program. Everything here is designed to give you the skills you need in this exciting and competitive industry. We prepare you to do the work and hit the ground running."

—Joan Korte ('90)
professor of theatre



"NWU Musical Theatre gives students the tools to succeed while encouraging curiosity in all areas of theatre. It's an approach that creates well-rounded, thoughtful theatre artists."

—Anne McAlexander
assistant professor of musical theatre and directing



Broad foundation

NWU connects you to every side of professional theatre, from writing scripts and designing sets to running lights and managing the box office. Your experience in the classroom, onstage and in the audience will expose you to some **200 performance pieces** in your four years here.

Your Nebraska Wesleyan University experience reaches beyond the stage. At NWU, you succeed by weaving an outstanding theatre education together with valuable lessons in the humanities, the social and natural sciences, and more.

Explore your interests beyond the theatre. And use all you learn to deepen your art. Everything you do here plays a part. Your knowledge of history, culture and psychology will give you a richer understanding of the characters you play. Use your knowledge of business to sustain an arts organization. Apply those networking skills to your auditions. It all adds to your strength.



Guest artists

"It's an absolute must that students see the real business of show business. It's not all jazz hands and high notes. NWU students get that great education in a healthy environment where the artists come to them. They learn the right way that dreams can come true, no matter where you're from. Take it from me—a Nebraska girl with big dreams!"



—**Q Smith**
guest artist, Broadway performer,
"Come From Away"

NWU Theatre gives you rare access to successful professionals. We host multiple guest artists on campus to work directly with you.

They give you fresh insights—and valuable practical know-how.

You can use their expertise to prepare your plan for entering the industry. Practice your auditions, seek advice and strengthen your network for future opportunities. You will immediately apply their expertise to your work.

Recent guest artists include:

Emily Kinney ('06), Broadway actor, singer, songwriter, performer

Kila Packett ('98), commercial and stage actor

Jenna Winnett, agent, Bowles, Winnett, and Assoc.

Q Smith, Broadway performer (Come From Away)

Lawrence Stallings, Broadway performer (Book of Mormon)

Nick Coleman, film and stage actor and specialist in artist marketing

Jason O'Connell, actor, regional theatre director

Aaron Phillips, actor, voice-over actor

Sheri Sanders, vocal coach (Rock the Audition)

Kathy Perkins, lighting designer



While many university theatres went dark during the pandemic, NWU looked for new opportunities. Our NYC@NWU series virtually connected students to more than 25 actors, directors, designers and other guest artists from New York City.

Act III: Success

We're proud of our alumni's success across the industry—on Broadway, in film and TV and comedy venues, on centerstage and behind the scenes, on cruise ships and in schools across the country.

They leave NWU Theatre with the tools they need to immediately begin work in the performing arts industry.



Merrily We Roll Along

I THROW A PARADE

Commissioned by NWU



Fresh Voices

Culture of success

NWU will equip you with the knowledge, experience, versatility and grit you'll need to thrive in the performing arts industry.

"When I visited NWU, they told me, 'We prepare you to make a living in theatre.' That's all I wanted—to make my living doing what I love. Now I'm a working singer and actress based in New York. I'm doing what I was well trained to do and seeing the world in the process."

—Julia Wilkinson ('17)
cruise ship actor

"Nebraska Wesleyan Theatre has prepared me for the real (and sometimes ruthless) world of theatre. I have learned to get up and dust myself off from all the rejections that auditions have to offer. And once I get that yes, my training in both acting technique and professionalism have made my career fulfilling and worthwhile."

—Chase Knueven ('18)
actor

"Nebraska Wesleyan's Theatre Department prepared me to make the big move to the city, find a full-time job in the music business, and grow from every experience, audition and performance. All of the skills I learned at NWU apply to my work every day here in New York. I gained so much confidence due to all the support NWU gives each student."

—Brooke Bosworth ('17)
singer and actor

"My experience at NWU gave me the training, confidence and skills I needed to make my transition into the professional world. In my first year alone, I was getting jobs all over the country. While there's no set path to success in this business, NWU gave me the best beginning and setup that I could have asked for!"

—Joe Hanson ('18)
actor





A Doll's House, Part 2



Fun Home



Macbeth

BFA Audition and Interview Process

Your talent, academic ability and potential for success are the keys to your admission to Nebraska Wesleyan University's theatre program. We're selective so you can work alongside the best talent in small classes and have maximum opportunities to perform.

Prospective students interested in these programs need to apply, prepare and share materials to be considered for admission. NWU Theatre distributes scholarship offers by April 15.

Act now: Pursue NWU Theatre in 3 steps.

1 Apply to Nebraska Wesleyan for free at nebrwesleyan.edu/apply.

2 Prepare Materials.



BFA in Acting

- > A resume
- > A photograph (We prefer headshots, but will accept any close-up.)
- > Two contrasting one-minute monologues from modern plays. (You may replace one modern monologue with 20–30 lines of verse monologue or soliloquy from Shakespeare.)



BFA in Musical Theatre

- > A resume
- > A photograph (We prefer headshots, but will accept any close-up.)
- > A one-minute monologue from a modern play
- > Two contrasting selections from Broadway musicals of 16–32 memorized bars



BFA in Design and Technology, Directing, or Theatre Studies

- > A resume
- > Examples of your work in photographs, prompt-scripts, slides or drawings of productions
- > Examples of related skills (e.g. painting, drawing, sewing, handwork, woodworking, etc.)
- > Directors might want to include a 1-2 page essay describing a directorial concept for a prospective or realized production

3 Share your materials with us by one of these three methods.

> Visit NWU.

We hold individual auditions and interviews on campus between September and April. Please plan your visit two weeks in advance and bring materials with you to campus. If needed, we'll provide you an accompanist. Visiting campus is the best way to experience NWU Theatre.

> Share your materials in Chicago (UNIFIEDS) or at select regional thespian festivals. Musical theatre students should provide recorded musical accompaniment.

> Go online.

Go to getaccepted.com/nebraskawesleyan and upload the necessary materials. Please include a video stating your name, hometown, and the pieces you'll perform.

Contact Ryan Kathman, assistant professor of theatre, at rkathman@nebrwesleyan.edu or 402.465.2128 to coordinate arrangements.



Students “star” in every aspect of NWU productions.

As You Like It

Join NWU Theatre.

Apply for free today at nebrwesleyan.edu/apply
Learn more at theatre.nebrwesleyan.edu

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