Musical Theatre Major

The Forest Roberts Theatre is one of the finest university theatres in the nation, boasting an upgraded computerized lighting control along with an upgraded sound system. Theatre majors put what they learn in performance and technical theatre classes into practice onstage and backstage in five major productions per year. Experimental theatre space in the Black Box Theatre located in the McClintock Building is also home to numerous student-directed productions, as well as, many performance classes.

If you’re interested in pursuing a theatre-related career, and are willing to work hard to gain the necessary experience and skills, then a Theatre and Entertainment Arts degree from NMU may be for you. You will have the opportunity to become involved in all NMU theatrical productions, from acting to directing to working on production and technical crews. These are all occurrences from which you will gain critical experience and acquire marketable skills and competencies. You may even find yourself a part of award-winning productions, like the students involved in the 1994 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival award-winning production of Haywire.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

Musical Theatre Core (27 cr.)

- MUS102 Aural Skills (1 cr.)
- TH131 Entertainment Technology I (4 cr.)
- TH134 Acting for BFA (3 cr.)
- TH141 Fundamentals of Entertainment Art and Design (4 cr.)
- TH360 History of Theatre (4 cr.)
- TH361 Theatre History 2 or TH260 Dramatic Lit (4 cr.)
- TH432 Theatre and Entertainment Careers (1 cr.)
- TH456 Entertainment Arts Management (4 cr.)
- TH480 Capstone (1 cr.)
- TH491 Practicum in Theatre & Entertainment (Repeat 4x)

*Repeat 4x

TH493 Field Studies (1 cr.) or TH 492 Internship (1-8 cr.)

Musical Theatre Foundation (26 cr.)

- MUS103 Class Piano 1 (2 cr.)
- TH245 Voice & Movement (4 cr.)
- TH300 Vocal Performance Lessons (1 cr.)

*Repeat 8x

- TH261 Musical Theatre Studio I (2 cr.)
- TH262 Musical Theatre Studio II (2 cr.)
- TH341 Musical Theatre Studio III (2 cr.)
- TH345 Musical Theatre Studio IV (2 cr.)

Dance Foundation (19 cr.)

- DAN201 Beginning Ballet Technique or DAN301 Intermediate Ballet Technique or DAN401 Advanced Ballet Technique
- DAN202 Beginning Contemporary Technique or DAN302 Intermediate Contemporary Technique or DAN402 Advanced Contemporary Technique (2 cr.)
- DAN203 Beginning Jazz Technique or DAN303 Intermediate Jazz Technique or DAN403 Advanced Jazz Technique (2 cr.)
- DAN204 Beginning Tap Dance or DAN304 Dance Improvisation or DAN404 Dance Management (2 cr.)
- DAN205 Hip Hop (1 cr.)
- DAN208 Conditioning for Performers (1 cr.)
- DAN305 History & Theory of Dance (4 cr.)
- DAN310 Choreography Audition Prep (1 cr.)
- Dance Electives (5 cr.)

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advise- ment Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship and the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society, the more ways you have to develop your professional skills and gain experience. In addition to participating in the various productions and activities offered by the Forest Roberts Theatre, NMU, and beyond, members have the opportunity to be part of a family unlike any other. Of course, your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Involvement in the NMU Theatre and Dance department entails direct hands-on experience in acting, costuming skills, stage management, properties design, lighting design, and even theatre marketing.

Skills and Competencies

Aspiring actors and directors—and anyone interested in careers within the dramatic field—should take part in high school and university theatre, or work with community and nonprofit theatres for experience. Formal theatre training or acting experience is generally necessary, although some people enter the field without it. Most training takes place at colleges and universities throughout the country offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theatre. College theatre curricula usually include courses in acting, directing, stagecraft, design, theatre history and the liberal arts. Northern Michigan University is no exception. In fact, the preparation you’ll receive as a theatre major at NMU will provide you with a solid academic background that will help you whether or not you decide to enter the theatre field. Your ability to write and speak effectively is absolutely critical in today’s workforce. Similarly, your ability to analyze and solve problems is also important. Much of your academic course work—be it in theatre, literature, or philosophy—will help you fine-tune these skills.

Job Outlook

Careers in theatre and dance are expected to grow at a faster than average due to the very diverse collection of professions. Salary can range from very low to as much as top earning Hollywood stars.
Potential Careers

NMU's Musical Theatre Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Actor   Scenic Designer
Advertising Manager   Screenwriter
Booking Agent   Sound Designer
Box Office Manager   Special Effects
Box Office Treasurer   Speech Writer
Campaign Manager   Stage Carpenter
Casting Director   Stage Electrician
Choreographer   Stage Manager
Company Manager   Technical Direction
Costumer   Theatre Management
Critic   Tour Coordinator
Development Specialist   Playwright
Director   Press Agent
Director of Audience Development
Dolly Grip   Producer
Dramaturge   Properties Designer
Fund Raising   Radio/TV Announcer
Gaffer
Librettist
Lighting Designer
Makeup Technician/Designer
Personal Director

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Communication and Performance Studies
203 Thomas Fine Arts
906-227-2045
www.nmu.edu/caps

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.tcg.org - Theatre Communication Group, Inc.