ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Theatre and Dance is located in the beautiful L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center (building #88), completed in 2004. The Department of Theatre and Dance Office is located in the west wing of the complex, right off Sam Nixon Drive on Bartz Way.

Faculty offices and studios for the Dance program are located in the Red Hill Building (building #40) near the center of campus.

The Department currently has (7) seven tenure track faculty, numerous lecturers, adjunct instructors, and graduate teaching assistants. Biographies can be found on our website (www.isu.edu/sopa).

MISSION STATEMENTS:

THEATRE PROGRAM
The goal of the Theatre program is to help all students obtain a level of achievement appropriate to entry-level professionals in their specialty areas, or to use the skills gained through their theatre and dance studies at ISU to succeed in a diverse range of non-performance related careers.

Students selecting a performance emphasis will focus on their own physical, vocal, and intellectual abilities as well as gain an aesthetic, analytical, social and cultural understanding of theatre and dance. Students focusing on technical theatre may further specialize in costume, lighting, and scenic design. Students pursuing an Education major with Theatre teaching certification should emerge confident in their abilities with all general aspects of theatre. Internships with professional theatre and/or dance companies are strongly encouraged.

In addition to specific knowledge and skills, all ISU theatre and dance students should acquire the communication and interpersonal skills to work collaboratively within an ensemble art.

DANCE PROGRAM
The Dance Program provides a liberal arts based approach to the study of the theatrical art of dance as a unique discipline within a collaborative, interconnected setting. Critical to a liberal arts education are creative and critical thinking skills, communication skills, collaborative working skills, interdisciplinary connections and cross cultural explorations.

Guided by the conviction that the arts are essential to a healthy community the dance program at ISU provides students with the basic tools that are necessary to follow an avocational/vocational calling in the field of dance and other related arts. At ISU, we foster a learning environment where students are encouraged to explore the unfamiliar and to take risks without fear of failure.

DEGREES OFFERED

The Theatre and Dance Department offers four degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Theatre
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Theatre, Film, and Video
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Dance
- Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theatre

The Department of Educational Foundations in the College of Education offers several degree options in Theatre. These include:
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Department of Theatre and Dance offers scholarships and graduate assistantships each academic year. Scholarship auditions/portfolio reviews are held annually during the spring semester.

Most departmental scholarships require that students maintain a departmental 3.0 grade point average.

- To apply and maintain a Theatre scholarship students must:
  - Declare intent to major in theatre
  - Enroll as a full time student
  - Maintain a 3.0 theatre GPA
  - Complete 4 general education objectives yearly until all goals have been fulfilled
  - Work on two ISU Theatre productions in a technical or performance capacity during the scholarship year.

- To apply and maintain a Dance scholarship students must:
  - Declare intent to major in dance (dance minors may be considered, but priority will be given to declared majors)
  - Enroll as a full time student
  - Enroll in at minimum each semester one concert dance technique class: Ballet I/II/III; Modern I/II/III, Jazz I/II/III
  - Maintain a minimum 3.0 dance GPA
  - Complete 4 general education objectives yearly until all goals have been fulfilled
  - Work on at least two productions in a technical, administrative, or performance capacity during the scholarship year.

Other financial aid options include: general scholarships, grants, and loans available through the Idaho State University Financial Aid Office (www.isu.edu/finaid).

HOW TO BECOME A MAJOR AND CHOOSE YOUR ADVISOR:

To declare your major you need to contact the Department of Theatre and Dance main office and inform the administrative assistant of your desire to major.

After you have declared your major you will be assigned an advisor based on your area of interest. You may change your advisor at any time by contacting the Theatre and Dance main office. Once you begin your regular advising sessions, a file will be opened for you in the Department office. This file will be updated each time you meet with your advisor. You should continue your advising sessions each semester before registration.
ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

THEATRE PROGRAM

The primary objectives related to the undergraduate theatre curriculum are to help all students obtain a level of achievement appropriate to entry-level professionals in their specific areas:

- Knowledge of theatre as a social and aesthetic experience.
- Knowledge of the history of the theatre and related dramatic literature
- Competence in basic acting, directing, and technical skills.
- Competence in research & study skills.
- Competence in thinking clearly, logically, and independently.
- Ability to effectively communicate and work within a collaborative art.

The theatre curriculum is designed to provide not only a humanistic awareness of our history and civilization through a study of dramatic literature and theatre history, but also to allow the student to pursue courses of study which develop skills and techniques applicable to the production of plays and other theatrical media. A balance between theoretical and practical courses is offered in several degree programs. A theatre degree can lead to careers in such varying areas as theatre, television, film, education, journalism, public relations, personnel work, sales, insurance, government and law.

DANCE PROGRAM

The primary objectives related to the undergraduate dance curriculum are to help all students obtain a level of achievement appropriate to entry-level professionals in their specific areas:

- Empower students to build a lifelong engagement with the art of dance based upon a foundation grounded in sound pedagogical practice;
- Train artists and educators who have strong technical foundations in contemporary and traditional forms of theatrical, educational, recreational and ritual dance;
- Provide a variety of performance venues in traditional theatre settings, experimental theatre, site specific work and community outreach;
- Provide opportunities for students to explore dance as a collaborative element of physical theatre and performance art;
- Provide opportunities to be exposed to guest artists and scholars across arts disciplines, through guest residencies, conferences, festivals and cross disciplinary, intermedia collaborations across campus and the greater community.

A career in dance requires extraordinary discipline, tenacity, dedication and excellent training. Training in Dance from ISU may lead to professional careers in dance and theater performance and choreography.

It may also serve as a basis for graduate study or open up possibilities to job opportunities in fields such as costume and makeup design, light design, set and stage design, sound design, dance history, dance medicine and science, dance and physical therapy, somatic practices, performance studies, dance ethnology, dance arts writing, research and criticism, dance photography and videography. At ISU, we offer coursework in teaching dance in K-12 settings and as well as provide sound pedagogical and entrepreneurial training for those planning to open their own dance studio or those considering incorporating into a not-for-profit arts organization. Related fields, such as arts
administration, arts therapies, production and company management and music also offer positions for the individual trained in dance.

**THEATRE AND DANCE CURRICULUM**

Specific curriculum can be found in the academic catalog at [http://coursecat.isu.edu/](http://coursecat.isu.edu/) Search your catalog year for specific requirements.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Department of Theatre and Dance requires a departmental GPA of 2.5 as a standard for graduation.

Additionally, Theatre and Dance majors/minors must earn no less than a “C-“ grade in each theatre or dance course which is fulfilling a degree program requirement to be considered passing. Furthermore, at least a “C-“grade must be received in any prerequisite course, or to advance to the next level of a continuation course.

Graduation applications **must** be submitted no later than Friday of midterm week of the semester in which the student plans to graduate. (August graduation applications must be submitted by the last day of the spring semester). You will apply online via BengalWeb. Instructions for applying to graduate are available on the Registrar’s website at [http://isu.edu/registrar/graduation-application/](http://isu.edu/registrar/graduation-application/).

**DEPARTMENTAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

The Scenic Studio and Costume Studio both re-evaluate their needs and look to potentially hire new crew members every semester. A student can earn up to 19.5 hours a week in any of the studios. These jobs are competitive and can lead to professional careers once the student has graduated. Listed below are just some of the duties an employee might do in their time as a crew member.

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<th>Duties in the Costume Studio:</th>
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<td>Carpentry</td>
<td>Fabric Modification</td>
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<td>Instrument Maintenance</td>
<td>Hair/Make-up</td>
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Both studios are constantly looking for skilled, enthusiastic, and professional students who may be interested in working in one of the studios. If you are interested please contact:

**Scenic Studio**  
Chad W.A. Gross  
Professor/Technical Director  
(208) 282-3173  
groschad@isu.edu

**Costume Studio**  
Tara Young  
Professor/ Costume Designer  
(208) 282-5616  
johntar2@isu.edu
In addition, the Office of Financial Aid will post any work-study positions our department has available. These positions fluctuate depending on work-study funding.

For Additional Student Employment Opportunities visit [http://www.isu.edu/career/](http://www.isu.edu/career/)

**AUDITION AND CASTING POLICIES: ISU THEATRE/DANCE PRODUCTIONS**

Auditions for ISU Theatre and Dance productions are open to all University students. Theatre majors are expected to audition for every mainstage production in order to remain in good standing as a theatre major. Only Theatre majors in good standing are eligible to audition for theatre scholarships.

The Department of Theatre and Dance maintains an active production schedule. Students, faculty/staff, and members of the community are encouraged to audition for Department of Theatre and Dance productions. *Theatre and Dance students receive casting priority.*

**STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0.

- Since rehearsals for Department of Theatre and Dance productions are chiefly in the evenings, students with multiple night courses or commitments to outside work, theatre productions, etc., may be eliminated from consideration due to these conflicts. Each Department of Theatre and Dance audition form contains the following statement, requiring the signature of each auditionee:

  “Since classes and Department of Theatre and Dance productions require so much time, attention, and effort, I understand that I cannot be involved in any other outside production or take more than one night class without the consent of the director or technical supervisor for this production.”

- The Department of Theatre and Dance reserves the right to cast faculty/staff members and community members where appropriate. Implicit in the casting process is the understanding that any cast member may be removed from the cast at the discretion of the director or choreographer.

**Production Crew and Run Crew Policies**

Throughout the year the Department of Theatre and Dance mounts 5-6 productions. Each of these productions present many opportunities backstage. Each position is different in nature and has its own respective skills. There are two types of positions behind the scenes: Production Crew and Run Crew. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact either the Technical Director or Costume Designer early in the semester.

The following pages list production crew and run crew opportunities. These positions must be obtained by permission of the Technical Director and/or Costume Designer.

**Production Crew:**

As noted earlier, all production crew positions must be approved by the Technical Director and/or Costume Design faculty. Prerequisite courses are required for most of the following positions.

| Stage Manager | Assistant Stage Manager |
Run Crew:
As noted earlier, all run crew positions must be approved by the Technical Director and/or Costume Design faculty. All run crew positions are taught during technical rehearsal. No advanced knowledge is needed. Crew positions are as follows:

- Lightboard Operator
- Soundboard Operator
- Props
- Crew
- Special FX
- Dresser
- Stage Operator
- Follow Spot Operator
- Usher
- Hair/Make-up

PRODUCTION CREDITS
Undergraduate Theatre and Dance majors are allowed up to 8 production credits that count toward graduation (THEA 1191, THEA 3391, DANC 1191, DANC 3391).

To obtain credit for your production work you should enroll for a production credit each semester. Production credits are available to all students who participate in a mainstage production including cast, crew, student designers, stage managers and assistant directors. Each faculty member is given production sections each semester. Students should register for production credits with the faculty member with whom they work most closely.

As with all ISU courses, students must obey the deadlines for adding or withdrawing from the course. For production credits you must talk to your instructor and provide your Bengal number for an override. Once registered, you are responsible for completing your duties in order to achieve a passing grade.

PRACTICUM AND INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES
The Theatre Program frequently offers practicum courses (THEA 3390 And THEA 4490). Most typically, these courses are scheduled for long blocks on Friday afternoons. Students may apply up to 4 credits of THEA 3390 and 4 credits of THEA 4490 with different titles towards graduation.

Performance Based Practicum:
The early weeks of the semester are devoted to rehearsals; the later weeks to touring, generally to area schools.

Technical Based Practicum:
Dates are set early in the semester for the class to go to local high schools and provide construction help and/or workshops on various technical topics.

Independent Studies (THEA 3393, THEA 4491, DANC 4485) must be arranged between the student and the faculty member directing the independent study. It is expected that the student and professor will meet on a regular basis. As with all ISU courses, students must obey the deadlines for adding or withdrawing from the course. For Independent Study you must talk to your instructor and provide your Bengal number for an override.

REGISTRATION
Many Theatre and Dance courses require instructor approval before you can register. This policy assures
that our majors and minors receive priority registration for courses required for their degrees.

If you are at credit load and want to add another class you must see your major advisor to discuss a credit override. Final approval for an override is dependent upon student’s GPA and authorization from the College of Arts and Letters Dean’s office.

Also be sure you know the add/drop dates. See the online academic calendar for all dates. http://www.isu.edu/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar/

FACILITIES

The Department of Theatre and Dance within the School of Performing Arts enjoys world class production facilities such as the:

- Beverly Bistline Theater
- Rogers Black Box Theater
- Red Hill Dance Studios
- Jensen Grand Concert Hall
- Chick and Diane Bilyeu Theater (Frazier Hall)

DRESSING AND MAKEUP ROOM POLICIES

Theatre is a communal art, so if you’re involved in a production you are expected to respect the space/privacy of others in a professional manner backstage. The backstage area is for cast and crew only - friends, spouses, partners, and children are allowed the briefest of visits in the hallway, but should not be hanging out in the backstage areas. Family and friends should wait in the lobby following productions.

Be courteous and polite to all sharing backstage areas. Respect the privacy and the private possessions of your colleagues. Understand that different artists prepare in different ways. If your favorite warm-up technique involves playing heavy metal, use headphones as your neighbor’s technique may involve quiet concentration.

Personal hygiene becomes a matter of major concern in dressing and makeup rooms. The dressing rooms in the Stephens Center all feature showers - often a good idea even before a performance. Some body odor is inevitable during the performance process - but make sure your body and clothes are as clean as possible in advance of the show.

Leaving costumes in a heap on the floor or in an off stage area is an affront to professionalism and disrespectful to costume staff and fellow cast mates. Likewise, wherever you use make up, be sure to put your materials away.

Be considerate of the people around you. If you are an actor in a production, make sure you check all costume and hand props before the show. You are responsible for returning these items to their proper tables or cabinets, unless you have made other arrangements with the properties crew. If you are a crew member, be respectful of the actors’ preparation and concentration, as well as fellow technicians and their efforts on the production.

PARKING REGULATIONS

The ISU Office of Public Safety monitors all parking lots during weekdays, and it is advisable for all students to obtain a general (yellow) parking permit through Public Safety.
Traffic and parking regulations are in effect during the entire year, including the summer. Reserved lot permit regulations are effective from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, without exception. General lot permit regulations are effective from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, without exception.

Reserved lot permits are available for sale to faculty and staff on May 1 of each year. "Faculty and staff" is defined as any person whose name appears on an employee list provided by the ISU Human Resources Office and who has a valid faculty/staff card. Reserved lot permits are available for sale to students 10 days after the semester begins.

Reserved lot signs bearing the lot designation, such as "R-1", and the letters "PERMIT REQUIRED" are for holders of that reserved permit only.

General lot signs bearing letters "CAMPUS PERMIT REQUIRED" are for holders of general permits except for spaces and areas posted otherwise.

Campus Housing lot signs bearing the campus housing complex name and the letters "PERMIT REQUIRED" are for holders of campus housing permits only.

**Stephens Performing Arts Center:**
The large lot at the Stephens Center is a free lot. The small lot near the Department of Theatre and Dance offices is a reserved (red) lot. Students may park in the large lot anytime and the reserved lot after 4 p.m. on weekdays. The loading zone off the reserved lot is NOT available for parking. Students without parking permits may find parking on Bartz Way or in the large lot. Students must obey all municipal parking laws (i.e., yellow curbs, handicap zones, no-parking zones, etc.). “Visitor” parking spaces are NOT for student use.

**The Red Hill Building:**
The small lot above the Red Hill Building is a reserved (red) lot. The larger lot above the reserved lot is a general (yellow) lot. Students may park in any lot after 4 p.m. on weekdays. Students without parking permits may find parking on Bartz Way.

**Frazier Hall:**
The home of the Chick and Diane Bilyeu Theatre is surrounded by a reserved lot. Limited paid parking meters are available in the Frazier parking lot. All parking is strictly enforced between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., without exception.

**General Information:**
Campus officers are authorized to stop vehicles on campus for moving violations such as running a stop sign or speeding. All moving traffic violations on campus property are subject to a $30.00 fine. No vehicle may be driven on campus at a speed of more than 15 miles per hour or as posted.

Students residing in campus housing will be issued permits in the campus housing lot nearest their residence. A housing overflow lot will also be designated.

Exceptions: Requests for waivers of any of the above regulations must be submitted in writing to the Public Safety Management Assistant. The written request must contain full justification for the need for such waiver and must be approved in writing before the regulation may be regarded by the applicant as waived or altered.

Violation Fines: For each violation incurred during each semester or summer session, fines will be charged. (See public safety for specifics. [http://www.isu.edu/pubsafe/](http://www.isu.edu/pubsafe/))