

# Theatre

## Learning Goals

1. To demonstrate knowledge of seminal and diverse theatrical traditions in their respective historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts.
2. To demonstrate the ability to analyze theatrical literature from dramaturgical, performative, and visual perspectives.
3. To demonstrate a high level of skill in at least one of the following theatre-making areas: acting, directing, design, playwriting, or production.
4. To demonstrate the ability to draw on diverse resources, including the self and others, to generate solutions to abstract and material problems.
5. To demonstrate the ability to collaborate effectively in a manner that translates into the professional arena.

## About the major

Theatre is a serious, intensive, and integrated major with classroom work realized through an active production program including four to five faculty-directed productions and 12 to 16 student productions annually.

Classes are offered in dramatic literature, visual creativity, the creative process, playwriting, acting (improvisation, scene study, acting styles), directing, and set, lighting, and costume design.

Our affiliation with a professional theatre company, the Potomac Theatre Project, affords opportunities to act, stage manage, and work in production and administration during the summers in New York City.

The Theatre Department offers a 12-course major designed to provide a balance of study between history, literature, and criticism of the arts, and skills of performance and production. Approximately 60 students elect a major in theatre, and more than 300 students enroll in department courses each year. Alumni are increasingly active in the profession and often return to Middlebury to teach, act, and direct for the program.

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**“The Middlebury Theatre Department provided me with tools to step into a role and make it my own, while also constantly wanting to go deeper into the work intellectually and emotionally. I learned to keep asking questions.”**

—Caitlin Duffy '15  
*Actress*

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## Reasons you might choose this major

- You are interested in exploring through the collaborative process the many complexities of theatre, from performance to playwriting to design.
- You wish to learn in ways both empirical and theoretical.
- You desire to find your voice as an artist, a scholar, a teacher.
- You want to strengthen your ability to communicate in multiple ways.
- You are passionate about exploring the relationship between art, politics, and culture, both past and present.



## Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

**Critical Thinking:** Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

**Oral/Written Communications:** Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

**Teamwork/Collaboration:** Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

**Leadership:** Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

**Professionalism/Work Ethic:** Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

**Global/Intercultural Fluency:** Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

**Digital Technology:** Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

**Career Management:** Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

## Where theater majors go

### Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Attagirl Pictures LLC

Big Yellow Dog Music

Town Hall Theater

Chinese Film Crew

Double Edge Theatre

Fringe Festival

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival

One Year Lease Theater Company

Potomac Theatre Program

The San Francisco Mime Troupe

Revels, Inc.

Dance Theatre Workshop

Arpeggio Cultural Association

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Bread and Puppet Theater

The Theatre Lab

NYU Tisch Summer Intensive Program

Movement Intensive in Compositional Improvisation

Heart to Hearth LLC

Literary Review

Core Company at the Orchard Project

Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill

Actors Bridge Ensemble

### . . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. **go/midd2midd**

The Daily Show with Trevor Noah,  
*Supervising Producer*

Project Y Theatre Company, *Cofounder and Artistic Director*

Stage Directors & Choreographers Society,  
*Contract Affairs Representative*

Glamour, *Contributing Editor, Books*

Magnet Media Inc., *Creative Director*

Walt Disney Company, *Vice President, Corporate Communications*

Playwrights Horizons, *Director of Marketing*

Sony Pictures Entertainment, *Director of Programs*

Comedy Central, *Writer*

Advertising Research Foundation, *Director of Digital and Social Media*

NBC Universal, *Director of Technical Operations*

The Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU,  
*Executive Director*

Esquire Network, *Executive Director, Development*

AD LUCEM Entertainment, *Executive Producer, Actor*

The Hollywood Report, *Head of Production—Video*

Charles River Associates, *Media and Presentation Designer*

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts,  
*Producer and Director, Lincoln Center International*

Amazon, *Senior Business Development Manager*

Genzyme, *Senior End User Technologist*

iN Demand, *Senior Vice President, Movies and Original Programming*

Arena Stage, *Artistic Associate and Casting Director*

Many of our Theatre majors are self-employed as actors, designers, screen/playwrights, and directors.